Dear XXX My name is XXX and I am currently in my final year of a degree in XX. I am hoping to obtain some experience in or outside the UK related to the field of XXX and was wondering whether you would be able to provide me with any advice or information that I might find useful in order to secure a relevant placement. Kind regards XX

Dear XXX, I found your details on the UCL alumni mentoring database and hope you don't mind me contacting you. I am currently completing an MSc in XX here at UCL with a strong interest in pursuing a career within the X sector and wondered whether I could ask you a few questions by way of advice. The specific questions I have are as follows:

What would you say are the most likely entry level points in the industry for someone with a relevant postgraduate qualification? Would it be possible to learn more about how you first gained entry to the sector?

Are there any specific publications, websites or agencies through which organisations in the sector typically use to publicise vacancies. In your experience are most vacancies publically advertised or obtained through other channels e.g. personal referrals, internships etc.?

I appreciate that writing email responses can be time-consuming so if you feel it would be easier to discuss these points over the phone, then I can be contacted on X at any time.

Warmest regards (Your name)