

Kickstarter Fund 2024-25

Terms and Conditions

Please read these Terms and Conditions in full before submitting your application. By submitting an entry to the Kickstarter Fund you are agreeing to accept these the terms and conditions. We reserve the right to amend these terms and conditions at any time.

The **Kickstarter Fund** is open to all University of Manchester **Students**, recent **Graduates** and **Staff** that have a new business idea they wish to develop and they meet the entry and eligibility criteria set out below.

Eligibility

1. Any current student (UG, Master's/PGT, PhD/PGR) excluding exchange students spending time at The University away from their home institution.
2. Graduates from The University within the last 2 years (on or after 1st December 2022).
3. Staff members including but not limited to Postdoctoral researchers, Research Associates, Knowledge transfer/exchange fellows, KTP associates and Technicians.
4. Entries received from entrants who have an outstanding debt for tuition fees will be null and void.
5. Teams may contain up to a maximum of four people, but at least 50% of the team must have The University of Manchester status or be a recent Graduate (see point 2 above).
6. External individuals can enter as part of a team, but are not eligible to enter individually.
7. Employees of MEC and anyone else professionally connected to the Kickstarter Fund are excluded and do not qualify to enter.
8. International students are eligible to participate in this competition but must ensure that they do not breach any visa restrictions on engaging in business activity.
9. Registered businesses applying to the Kickstarter Fund must not have been trading earlier than 1st December 2022.
10. Previous winners or winning ideas of Venture Further and Eli and Britt Harari Graphene Enterprise Awards cannot apply to the Kickstarter Fund.
11. Previous recipients of a Kickstarter Award are eligible to apply to the Kickstarter Fund for a second time if they can demonstrate the application is a completely new idea and not connected to their successful entry.
12. All applications must be ideas for a new business. Entries for which you are simply running a business as a franchisee or as an acquisition/management buy-out, will not be accepted.
13. All entrants must be committed to pursuing their venture as a business, demonstrated *via* a credible action plan and engagement in support workshops and 1-2-1 sessions.
14. MEC reserves the right to disqualify entries, including but not limited to disqualification on moral, ethical or legal grounds. Disqualification of applications is at the sole discretion of MEC whose decision is final.
15. MEC may at its sole discretion, without notice or reason cancel the Kickstarter Fund.

Successful Applicants

16. All correspondence will be with the lead entrant listed in the application form using the email supplied in the entry. The Lead Entrant must be a University of Manchester Student, recent Graduate or Staff member.
17. Award money will be paid to the Lead Entrant as outlined in the competition documentation.
18. It is anticipated that the payments made to prize winners shall not be regarded as consideration for any supply, and therefore, will be outside the scope of VAT.
19. No award is transferable without written consent from MEC.
20. MEC reserves the right to request regular reports on the progress of the idea, together with an award audit. If you fail to provide this, MEC may withdraw your award and seek to recover the money given to you.

Intellectual Property

21. All IP will be managed according to the University's policy/code of conduct related to research. This is set out in The University of Manchester Intellectual Property Policy: (<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=24420>).
22. If any University linked IP is identified, the applicant should discuss their IP with a representative from the University's technology transfer office - The University of Manchester Innovation Factory - **prior to submitting an application**. The outcomes of this meeting should be summarised within the IP section of the application.
23. Any personal data submitted as part of an entry will be held securely and used only for the purposes of participating in, administrating and reporting by the MEC.

For information about the **Kickstarter Fund** administration, clarification of rules and general enquires, contact the award organisers at entrepreneurship@manchester.ac.uk.