

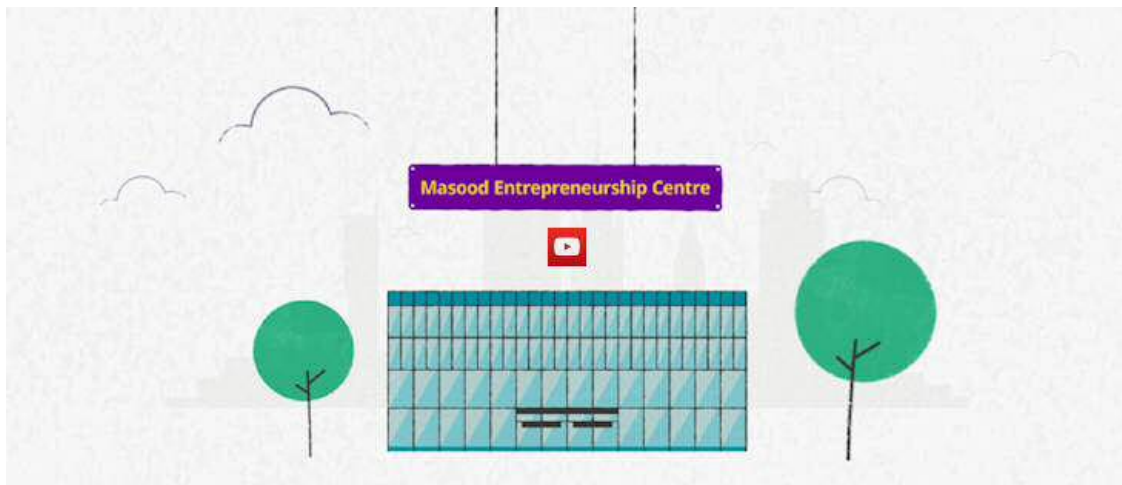
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Masood  
Entrepreneurship  
Centre

MEC Update

Issue 7 | 11 May 2021



Welcome to the latest [Masood Entrepreneurship Centre](#) newsletter...

MEC News



## Entrepreneurs share £75,000 prize money at Venture Further Awards

The winners of the 2021 Venture Further business start-up competition have been announced during this year's exceptional online awards ceremony. Hosted by serial-entrepreneur and philanthropist Vikas Shah M.B.E., fifteen teams of entrepreneurs have been awarded a share of a £75,000 cash prize fund to help take their start-ups to the next level.

Joined by Deputy President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Luke Georghiou and previous Venture Further winner Beenish Siddique, Founder and CEO of AEH Innovative Hydrogel, the evening was a celebration of innovation and entrepreneurship at The University of Manchester.

The Masood Entrepreneurship Centre's annual Venture Further competition invites students and recent graduates from across The University of Manchester to submit their business proposals to an expert judging panel of enterprise and business professionals. The competition offers an exclusive opportunity to win a significant cash injection to help realise their business goals.

From a healthy number of entries, twenty-five teams reached the final round. In each of the five categories –Environmental, Healthcare, Services, Social and Technology – five teams competed for the top cash prize of £10,000. Second place winners were awarded £3,500 and third place £1,500.

This year's winners are:

Environmental

**IGOLO: Sophia Major and Florence Quinn**

An online hub promoting sustainability in the home construction industry by making the know-how, materials and expertise more accessible to homeowners.

## Healthcare

### **Simplex Molecular: Maribel Montufar Martinez and Karen M. Garcia Rodriguez**

A biotech start-up developing a new diagnostic system to detect antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Its innovative system will allow users to perform the test without laboratory equipment or complex training.

## Services

### **What's Fresh: Ross Neilson**

A platform enabling customers to order high quality fresh local produce, by modernising the 'shop local' experience and giving local farmers a competitive advantage.

## Social

### **Arkisites: Elijah Ajuwon**

Improving racial diversity and inclusion in the technical sector, acting in a strategic consulting role to support diversity and inclusion agendas.

## Technology

### **Bright Biotech Limited: Mohammad El Hajj and Tariq Ali**

Bright Biotech Limited are developing high quality and affordable recombinant proteins in plants for research and the therapeutic market.

Director of the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre, Lynn Sheppard said: *"We are now in the 16th year of the competition, and we received entries from a number of Schools from every Faculty in the University, demonstrating that the appetite for entrepreneurship is increasing here at The University of Manchester. "*

*"The standard and quality of business proposals submitted were impeccable, with candidates spotting prevalent problems and conducting thorough market research to submit both credible and viable business plans".*

*"The competition has been a phenomenal success culminating in a fantastic online awards event which aired not only regionally and nationally but also internationally with audience members watching in Singapore, Zambia, Canada and Japan. "We look forward to support all the winners in furthering their start-ups and making them a success."*

[Watch a recording of the Venture Further 2021 Online Awards >>](#)

## Lecturer or Senior Lecturer Enterprise and Entrepreneurship



MEC are currently recruiting for a new post, Lecturer or Senior Lecturer Enterprise and Entrepreneurship. The main requirement of the post is to undertake teaching activities (both on- and co-curricular) in the area of enterprise and entrepreneurship to students at all levels in Schools across the University of Manchester.

Qualified candidates with experience in any area of enterprise/entrepreneurship teaching are encouraged to apply. Particular attention will be given to candidates with an expertise and an interest in contributing to programme and teaching development at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

[Find out more](#)

[Keep up-to-date with the latest MEC news here](#)

Spotlight on



THE's Digital Universities Week - Generation Purple

Riddi Viswanathan, Founder of Generation Purple has been selected by the Times Higher Education (THE) to speak about the venture at their World series summit taking place later this month.



Founded in 2019 and initially supported by the Nick Sanders Kickstarter Fund, Generation Purple is a graduate recruitment start-up which aims to enhance diversity in graduate recruitment, by leveraging technology. Generation Purple will use alternative digital initiatives including gaming technology to replace the conventional psychometric tests used by recruitment platforms, ensuring that employers are matched with the correct skills and qualifications required for the vacancies.

The start-up has a huge list of plans, starting with the imminent launch of the portal. A marketing and social media campaign will accompany the launch, to promote the portal to students and further increase engagement with employers.

[Read more](#)



## Educating the new generation on risk management

The Masood Enterpreneurship Centre has offered thirty-two additional CGE Risk Certificates “Introduction in the Bowtie Methodology” to our postgraduate students. This is part of our elective *Essential Risk Management for Business*.

The blended learning unit (due to campus restrictions delivered fully online this year) encompasses theoretical aspects and practical tools for managing risk in a pragmatic way; with particular emphasis on effective risk communication methodology via the Bowtie method. The Bowtie method is a risk evaluation method that can be used to analyse and demonstrate causal relationships in high risk scenarios. The method takes its name from

the shape of the diagram created, which looks like a men's bowtie and makes risk understandable to stakeholders.

One of the innovative aspects of the elective is the use of the BowTieXP software by CGE Risk Management Solutions which provides a state-of-the-art risk management solution; this enables students to understand the use of the methodology as a visual communication tool for the risk management of a business in a dynamic environment.

[Read More](#)



## Contribution of social enterprises to Manchester's leading position in world rankings

MEC's Dr. Rob Phillips, Senior Lecturer in Enterprise, has contributed to an article in [Pioneers Post](#) discussing how social enterprises have contributed to the University of Manchester being rated no1 in the world for the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The article also features one of our previous [Venture Further](#) winners, [Invisible Manchester](#), a Manchester-based social enterprise that trains people who have experienced homelessness to become walking tour guides.

[Read more](#)

Events

Eli Harari Graphene Enterprise  
Award 2021: introduction &  
overview

**Wednesday 12 May 2021 10:00 – 10:45  
BST**

Join us on Wednesday, 12 May and hear from Tony Walker, Deputy Director of the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre, who will give an overview of the competition, and share with you hints and tips as to what the judges will be looking for in your application.

The Eli and Britt Harari Enterprise Award, in association with Professor Sir Andre Geim, is an annual award to help both research staff and students at The University of Manchester establish new companies involving graphene or other 2D materials.

You will learn of the support available to support you with your application and how to access this.

We're also pleased to welcome and introduce you to a previous winner of the competition, who can share with you their experience and how they have progressed with their idea since being involved with the Harari programme.

[Find out more and Register](#)

MEC Momentum Finance Session 5: Funding and  
Company Valuation



**Thursday 27 May 10:00–11:45 BST**

We recently launched a MEC Momentum Finance Series of five online sessions throughout Semester 2.

These sessions, hosted by the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre and Sempas Accountants Limited, are designed to support University of Manchester start-up entrepreneurs navigate the world of finance.

The final session on Funding and Company Valuation takes place later this month.

[Find out more and Register](#)

## Accelerate ME Demo Day 2021

**Wednesday 12 May 2021 17:30 – 20:45  
BST**

Accelerate ME is the biggest student-led accelerator in the North West, helping university students and alumni from the four leading Greater Manchester universities build, develop and grow their businesses through an intensive four-month programme.

The Demo Day showcases Accelerate ME student and graduate start-ups, along with the achievements and progress they've made through the intensive programme, grant funding and mentorship.

[Find out more and Register](#)





## Enterprise School 2021

Register your interest now for the opportunity to participate in this year's Enterprise School, which will develop your enterprising skills and mind-set whilst enabling you to work on real-life problems facing the community in Manchester.

This interactive Enterprise School is open for all current students at The University of Manchester who are new to enterprise and entrepreneurship, and have an interest and desire to learn more and develop their skill-set.

The activity will be spread out throughout July, with a combination of compulsory online sessions and distance learning.



[Learn more](#)



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To opt-out of future communications [click here](#)