

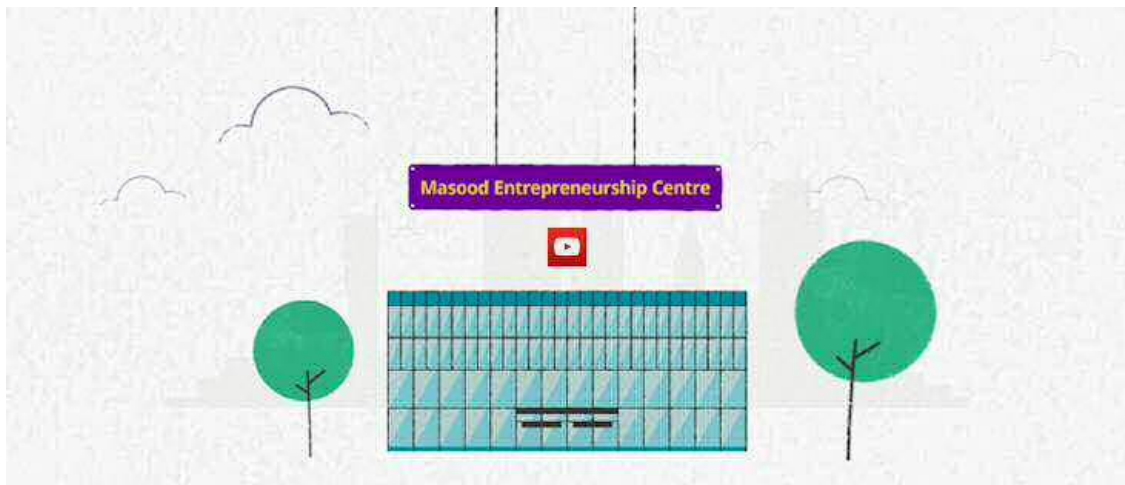
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Masood
Entrepreneurship
Centre

MEC Update

Issue 5 | 30 March 2021



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

MEC News

Finalists announced for UK's top University-led student start-up competition

Entrepreneurial students and recent graduates from across The University of Manchester took part in the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre's annual business start-up competition and applied to win a slice of the Venture Further 2021 £75,000 prize fund to turn their innovative business ideas into reality. The initial shortlisting of finalists across each of the five competition categories - Environment, Healthcare, Services, Social, and Technology - has been completed.

In a bid to show that they have a viable business start-up with a credible implementation plan, the finalists were invited to pitch their idea to a panel of judges consisting of senior staff from The University of Manchester, distinguished alumni, competition partners and a selection of industry experts.

Winners and runners-up will be announced on Wednesday 5 May at the annual celebratory event that will be streamed online.



[Read more about the Venture Further Finalists](#)

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

Spotlight on



ClickMechanic

ClickMechanic is an online marketplace where consumers can book a mechanic to fix or service their car, either at a garage or at home. It has been a record breaking year for the company, generating over £8M of gross revenue and 44,820 completed customer bookings, despite the pandemic, highlighting again the ways that technology is increasingly transforming the way that businesses can provide services to customers.

Founder, Andrew Jervis, was supported through MEC and launched this venture in 2012 after completing the MEnt. Programme.

Andrew spoke to the advice hub Growing Business Intelligence about inspiration for the business, how the business has developed and recently responded to the pandemic.

[Read more](#)



Relax My Dog

The MEC supported company, MusicforPets founded by Amman Ahmed in 2011, has now reached an estimated 20 million pets around the world.

Amman sends videographers all over the world to track down delightful content, some of which features locations in the North of England. Combined with music, this all makes for a relaxing pleasant viewing experience for pets.

The business operates on a subscription model, with two brands [RelaxMyDog](#) and [RelaxMyCat](#). The [RelaxMyDog](#) channel has recently had excellent national press coverage recently in *The Sunday Times* and broadcast media.

[Watch Relax My Dog Feature on ITV This Morning](#)



Bounceback Food CIC

Manchester based [Bounceback Food CIC](#), founded by Duncan Swainsbury, winner of the [Venture Further](#) competition in 2017, have used a crowdfunding campaign to support the publication of their third charity fundraising cookbook [Secret Dishes From Around the World 3](#) later this year.

[Bounceback Food CIC](#) is a community cookery school that, pre COVID-19, predominantly supported people living in food poverty in Greater Manchester, Cheshire and North Wales. Since the pandemic hit, they have been busy mobilising delivery teams in the UK's largest towns and cities in order to teach people how to cook, donate food to foodbanks and provide catering services in disadvantaged communities.

Their version of the one-for-one business model recognises the need to donate good quality food across the UK and help people to learn how to cook and save money. The company run a mixture of market trading events, cookery and budgeting workshops and sell online. They are keen to ensure that we donate food in the most efficient way and this is something they are prioritising as they aim to scale up.

Future fund raising for the community cookery school aims to continue to scale up impact across the UK. The team in central Manchester is currently focusing on developing the successful model to be replicated in large towns and cities nationwide.

[Find out more](#)

Competitions, awards and events

Entrepreneurs@Manchester
with Steve Westgarth, Boots
UK

**Wednesday 31 March 2021, 4:00–
5:00pm.**

Our next guest for the
Entrepreneurs@Manchester speaker
series is Steve Westgarth, tech start-up
founder and Head of Engineering at
Boots UK.

Join the Masood Entrepreneurship
Centre's Director, Lynn Sheppard, as she
goes in-conversation with Steve to gain
insights into how he's transferred his
entrepreneurial skills and mind-set to be
intrapreneurial within UK healthcare giant,
Boots UK.



[More Information and to Register](#)

Graphene Hackathon

The Graphene Hackathon - a student-led initiative - is a free
virtual event that offers you an initial opportunity to discover what
the graphene hype is all about, develop an idea and then pitch
your idea for cash prizes. The event aims to unlock your inner-
entrepreneur by providing a dynamic space for rapid learning,
failure and innovation, allowing you a chance to rethink the
traditional product development process.



The Graphene Hackathon takes places in the week of **26 - 30 April 2021**. Places are limited, so register now before the final deadline of **Friday, 9 April 2021**.

[Register](#)

MEC Momentum Finance Session 2: Profit and budgeting



Thursday 8 April 2021, 10:00–11:45am.

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.

Registration is now open for Session 2 focusing on profit and budgeting covering, but not limited to, the following aspects:

Pricing for Profit

- Considerations;
- How to price when selling many products.

Budgeting and forecasting

- Revenues;
- Costs;
- Techniques to adopt for good budgeting.

[Register](#)

RSE Enterprise Fellowships are open for applications



Do you have an innovative science-or-tech-based business idea, but need help accelerating your project?

Enterprise Fellowships offer a leading business development and training programme for the higher education sector with an equity-free support package of funding and training support worth up to £100,000!

[Find out More](#)

MEN Business Awards 2021



The MEN Business Awards highlight outstanding achievements in the North West.

There are categories for different types of business, from start-up ventures and smaller SMEs to larger blue chip companies. To be eligible your business must either be registered and have an operating head office in Greater Manchester, or have a substantial operation in the area.

To be in with a chance of winning, all you have to do is enter your business into the MEN Business Awards by **30 April 2021**.

[Find out More](#)



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