

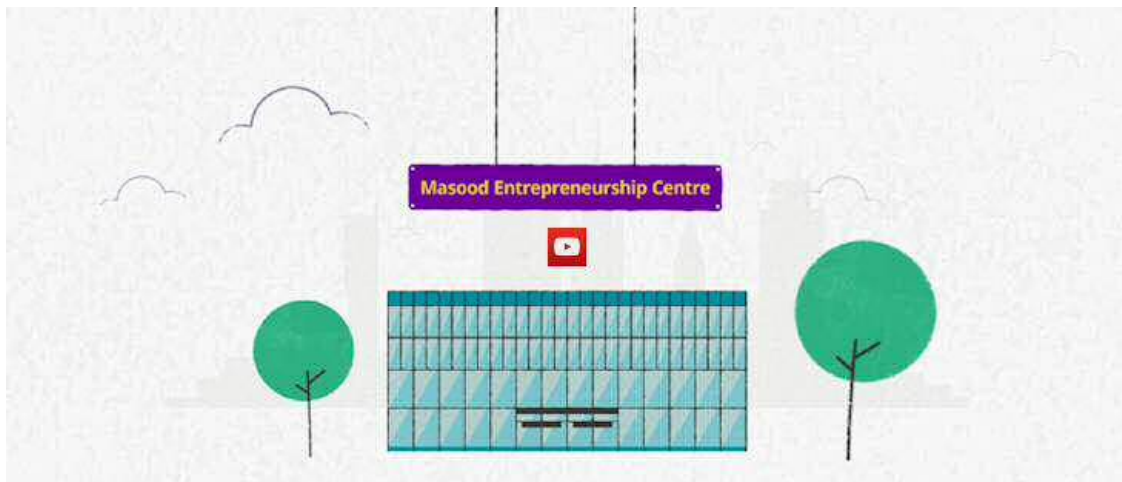
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Masood
Entrepreneurship
Centre

MEC Update

Issue 8 | 27 May 2021



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

MEC News

The Eli and Britt Harari Graphene Enterprise Award 2021

Eli and Britt Harari Enterprise Award

The call is still open for business ideas involving graphene or other 2D materials. The [Eli and Britt Harari Enterprise Award](#) competition, in association with Professor Sir Andre Geim, is open to all students, postdoctoral researchers, and recent graduates of The University of Manchester.

Graphene, a two dimensional carbon material, is a gamechanging UK discovery and its properties make it one of the most important breakthroughs in recent memory. Graphene is a wonder material, with incredible electrical, with incredible electrical, mechanical and thermal properties.

Prizes of £50,000 and £20,000 will be awarded to the individuals or teams who can best demonstrate how their technology relating to graphene or other 2D materials could potentially be applied to a viable commercial opportunity.

There is another chance to see the recent [webinar](#) with Tony Walker, Deputy Director of the [Masood Entrepreneurship Centre](#) giving an overview of the competition, sharing hints and tips as to what the judges will be looking for in applications and details of the support available to support applications and how to access this.

[Eli and Britt Harari Enterprise Award >>](#)

Enterprise School 2021

An update on the previous issue of the MEC newsletter: this year's Enterprise School has been postponed until later in the year.



The Enterprise School is an opportunity for 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 Enterprise School will now take place in the autumn, to coincide with the build up to the MECs annual Bright Ideas competition, offering students an opportunity to compete for cash prizes to help take their ideas forward.

Students who have already expressed an interest in participating will be contacted again when the new dates for the Enterprise School are confirmed.

New MEC Website

We have been working on a new-look Masood Entrepreneurship Centre website, which will be going live soon. The new site is designed to reflect and enhance engagement with our activities across the University, also to be easier to navigate, and more user-friendly.

None of the current website content will be lost when the new site launches and current links and web browser 'bookmarked' pages will be redirected to the new site.



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

Spotlight on



Graphene Hackathon 2021

MEC are proud to be one of the sponsors of the second [Graphene Hackathon](#), organised by Ph.D. students from The University of Manchester, last month that delivered a wealth of creativity as teams battled it out to win prizes for the best business idea using graphene.

Thirty-five teams from around the world, including participants from Argentina, India and Indonesia, worked throughout the week on their ideas before pitching to a panel of industry experts.

Attendees also took part in question and answer sessions with experts in graphene research and development, including pioneer and Nobel laureate Professor Sir Kostya Novoselov.

Scott Dean, founder of [Graphene Trace](#), winners of last year's [Eli Harari Award](#), was a member of the Hackathon organising team of researchers and commented: *"Hosting the Graphene Hackathon virtually this year gave us the opportunity to reach further than ever before."*



"We were amazed at the quality of the teams' ideas, from energy harvesting systems to next-gen wireless chargers and remote health monitoring solutions. Each idea was very different from the next and each enabled by the same material – graphene."

The [Graphene Council](#) hub for graphene research and commercial application news and intelligence featured details of the Hackathon winners and the series of short sci-comms and outreach videos that were produced, detailing the uses and deployment of graphene in different fields, from water desalination to computing and space applications.

[Read more](#)



Pandemic Tours: Discover the world at your own pace

A new worldwide app, which allows you to experience virtual free walking tours around cities and attractions through your smartphone, is piloting in Manchester.

Pandemic Tours offers virtual tours, from real guides, so people can stroll around cities and attractions for free.

Pandemic Tours is the brainchild of University of Manchester graduate and entrepreneur Joaquin Contreras who saw a gap in the tourism market; given the lack of flexibility in the free tour industry and the pandemic restrictions around the world, it was the perfect time for a virtual free tour community to thrive.

Joaquin commented, *"I always believed that my idea was solid enough to get funding, so I contacted MEC to see what they thought about it. Fortunately, they also believed in me and my idea. I didn't only receive a MEC Kickstarter fund for testing the idea but even got their help by getting the chance to participate in a lot of training sessions and their sponsorship on getting my start-up visa. With all this help, I was able to create my own company, build the Pandemic Tours app and uploaded it to Google Play and the App Store."*

[Find out more](#)



Unleashing the Entrepreneurial Potential of Doctoral Students

Tuesday 29 June 2021 10:00 am.- 1:00 pm. GMT



The Masood Enterprise Centre have been collaborating with University College London on a two-year project which aims to demonstrate and evaluate effective practices in student engagement in knowledge exchange activities.

This collaborative online workshop, also supported by Enterprise Educators UK, focuses on innovative practices in identifying, recruiting and nurturing entrepreneurial mindsets with doctoral students.

[Find out more and Register](#)



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