

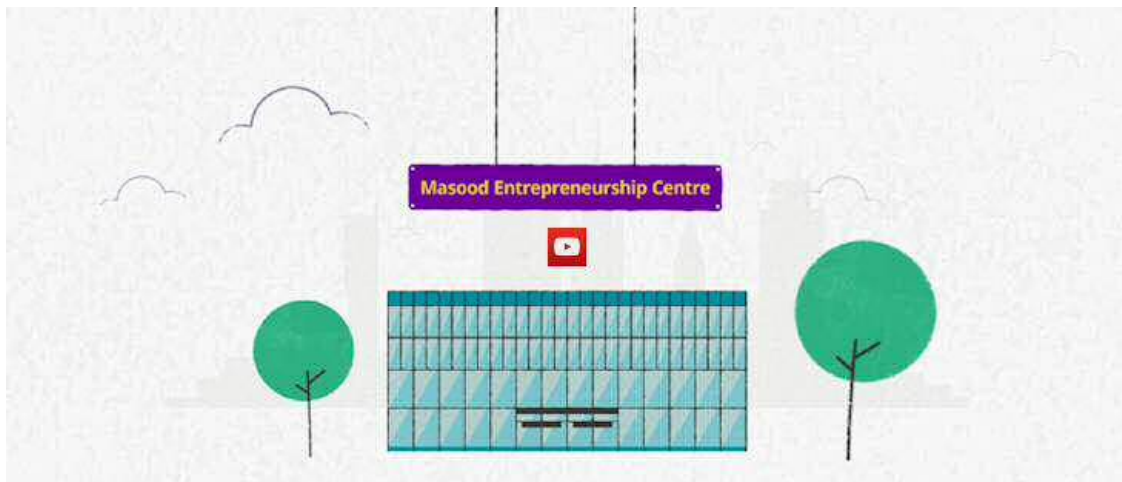
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Masood
Entrepreneurship
Centre

MEC Update

Issue 12 | 29 September 2021



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

MEC News

Unlock Your Potential - Welcome Week 2021



As part of our collaborative partnership with The University of Manchester Students' Union (UMSU), a joint virtual event for Welcome Week featured MEC Director Lynn Sheppard in conversation with the former MUSU General Secretary Kwame Kwarteng and current General Secretary Melody Stephen, discussing what entrepreneurship is and its benefits to students and graduates. The event also then showcased the entrepreneurial journeys of three of MEC's student ambassadors: Chrisoula Chappell, Mohammad El Hajj (Bright Biotech Ltd.) and Riddi Viswanathan (Generation Purple).

[Watch a Recording of Unlock Your Potential >>](#)

Launch of FSE Innovation Academy - Researcher to Innovator (R2I) Programme



Wednesday 13 October 2021 13:00–14:00 BST

Calling all FSE aspiring entrepreneurs and innovators!

You're invited to join an exciting new training programme for aspiring entrepreneurs and innovators to trial and prepare business ideas for the commercial environment.

The programme aims to inspire and accelerate the translation of the knowledge created through your research into products, services or processes to deliver tangible benefit through a series of bespoke workshops and mentoring opportunities. The workshops will help you articulate your science and ideas by taking you through a lean start-up technology pathway to explore the potential of your idea, culminating in you pitching your idea in Dragons Den style for the opportunity to win £10k and £5k FSE Innovation Awards plus expert mentor support and onward

access to places on regional and national accelerator programmes.

[Find out more and register](#)

Bright Ideas Student ideas competition now open for entries



The Masood Entrepreneurship Centre's annual student ideas competition is now open!

Bright Ideas is a competition aimed at students in all three Faculties new to enterprise and entrepreneurship who are interested in learning more about spotting opportunities and generating new ideas.

Anyone can have a bright idea and bright ideas can come from anywhere. If you're an undergraduate or postgraduate student here at The University of Manchester and have an idea - no matter how big or small - you could win £200 to help move it forward.

[Find out more and enter online](#)

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

Spotlight on



Entrepreneurship for researchers

MEC's [Researcher Training Programmes](#) and timetable for 2021/22 are now available.

The programmes and workshops encourage and support researchers to develop entrepreneurial mind-sets, enabling them to apply entrepreneurial thinking to their research and to gain more confidence in the commercialisation space.

A series of [workshops](#) during the academic year are open to all Ph.D. students focusing on the practical skills needed to develop an entrepreneurial mind-set and approaches to starting a research driven enterprise.

Innovation and Commercialisation of Research

This programme is for third and fourth Year Ph.D. students and is focused on developing the ability and confidence to transfer knowledge from the research phase to the market. During the eight-week ICR programme, you will develop a commercialisation idea based on your own area of research, prepare a five-minute pitch and an outline business proposal canvas that outlines the opportunity. There are also follow-on sessions to support you if you would like to take the idea forward.

FSE Innovation Academy - Researcher to Innovator (R2I) Bootcamp

This is an exciting new entrepreneurship training programme for aspiring entrepreneurs and innovators to trial and prepare business ideas for the commercial environment.

This is open to all individuals, or teams, of PGR students and ECRs (less than 5 years after graduation) who are working within the Faculty of Science and Engineering on novel research and is ideal for anyone wishing to explore the commercial viability of their ideas. The programme is a blend of online and face to face practical teaching sessions, expert

clinics and mentor sessions that will provide experienced advice and support from leading entrepreneurs and innovators. It will run over ~ 10 weeks and you would need to dedicate ~ half a day per week to get the most out of the programme. You and your research team will benefit by gaining the tools, contacts and confidence to transform your idea into a successful business project or venture and bolster commercial development and deliver impact.

[Find out more](#)



Holiferm to bring eco-friendly biosurfactants to the mass market following \$7M investment boost

Holiferm, a MEC supported startup company, has received a \$7 million (£5.1 million) investment boost.

Holiferm was developed from research within The University of Manchester, with current CEAS academic James Winterburn and former Ph.D. researcher Ben Dolman working to invent the technology involved in its continual fermentation processes for the manufacture of biosurfactants – a greener alternative to surfactants for use in environmentally-friendly home and personal care products that will reduce the global market’s dependency on petrochemicals.

The recent \$7M investment boost will enable Holiferm to build a world-leading biosurfactant manufacturing facility and fully commercialise its sustainable manufacturing process. The new manufacturing facility is earmarked for location in Wallasey. It is anticipated that the investment programme will create over thirty new jobs in total.

[Read more](#)



Venture Further award winner reaching new heights

A winner in the Business category of MECs Venture Further competition in 2018, Specscart recently inaugurated a flagship retail outlet in Walkden.

Lecturer in Enterprise Dr. Martin Henery, who has been a mentor for Specscart since the very beginning, was the Chief Guest at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Specscart Managing Director Sid Sethi commented on the impact of the Venture Further Award *“After winning, we invested the cash injection to open our in- house lab in Bury. Today, it helps us to make all the frames in Manchester itself and achieve the fastest delivery of prescription glasses in the UK.”*



Born with a mission to change how glasses are perceived, Specscart now plans to expand it's stores all over the UK. It is one of the fastest growing eyewear startups in the UK today.

[Read more](#)

Events

MEC Momentum Finance Series Session 1: Starting up



Thursday 14 October 2021 10:00–11:45 BST

The first in a series of five online sessions from Thursday 14 October to Thursday 2 December 2021.

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 1 focusing on Starting up covering, but not limited to, the following aspects:

- Pre-start (i.e. test trading, funding position);
- Structuring your business (Sole Trader, Limited Company, Partnership, Social Enterprise);
- Registering the business;
- Filing, other responsibilities and obligations (i.e. legal and tax).

[Find out more and register](#)

Developing an Entrepreneurial Mindset

Monday 18 October 2021 14:00–16:00 BST

An entrepreneurial mindset is the tendency to discover, evaluate and develop opportunities.

Cultivating an entrepreneurial mindset can help you achieve personal fulfilment and professional growth in various career paths.



The aim of this interactive session, hosted by Dr. Fatemeh Salehi, Lecturer in Enterprise and Dr. Laura Etchells, Enterprise Business Development Manager from the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre, is to introduce you to some of the practical skills needed to develop an entrepreneurial mindset including the concepts of opportunity recognition, creativity and innovation, initiative and self-reliance, and problem solving.

[Find out more and register](#)

Value Proposition Training

Monday 25 October 2021 09:30–12:30 BST

Understanding the Value Proposition of your product is essential to make sure you are developing a product that is needed by the customer/end user and to convince your potential business development partners that the market opportunity is attractive and relevant.

The aim of this course is to provide you with the skills needed to identify and understand the key value proposition of the product you are using as the basis for a new business.

[Find out more and register](#)

Entrepreneurs@Manchester with Matthew Scullion, Matillion

Wednesday 27 October 2021 17:00–18:00 BST

Entrepreneurs@Manchester invites the UK's leading entrepreneurs to The University of Manchester to share their



insights and talk candidly about their highs, lows, and lessons learnt. Our next guest for the speaker series is Matthew Scullion, CEO of Matillion.

Matillion are a Manchester-headquartered enterprise software firm produce software systems for cloud data warehousing, now one of the most successful enterprise software companies in the UK.

Matthew Scullion and Ed Thompson originally established Matillion in 2011 with the belief that businesses need to compete using data. From a team of 18 people in 2015 and a turnover of £1m, the company has grown to more than 270-strong working between dual head offices in Denver and Manchester, and offices in New York.

Join the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre's Director, Lynn Sheppard, as she goes in-conversation with Matthew to gain insights into his inspiring entrepreneurial journey and discusses leveraging funding for business scale up and growth.

[Find out more and register](#)

TiE Pioneering Womens Event with Naomi Timperley



Monday 1 November 2021 12:00 pm.-12:45pm. BST

Naomi Timperley is a Co-Founder of Tech North Advocates and GSI a Growth Strategy and Innovation Agency. She is proud to be in the top 50 Computer Weekly Most Influential Women in UK IT 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Naomi is an experienced growth and innovation consultant with established relationships across the UK. She has extensive

experience working with start-ups and growth businesses particularly in the tech, digital and creative sectors.

Naomi has been a mentor for 8 years and has mentored several hundred businesses. She is an Honorary Industry Fellow at the University of Salford Business School and chair of the Industry Advisory Board. Naomi also sits on the board of charity Digital Inc and social Enterprise PIE. Naomi was previously Chair of Future Everything. She is Project Director of FreelanceHER100 a programme for female founders & freelancers.

[Find out more and register](#)



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