

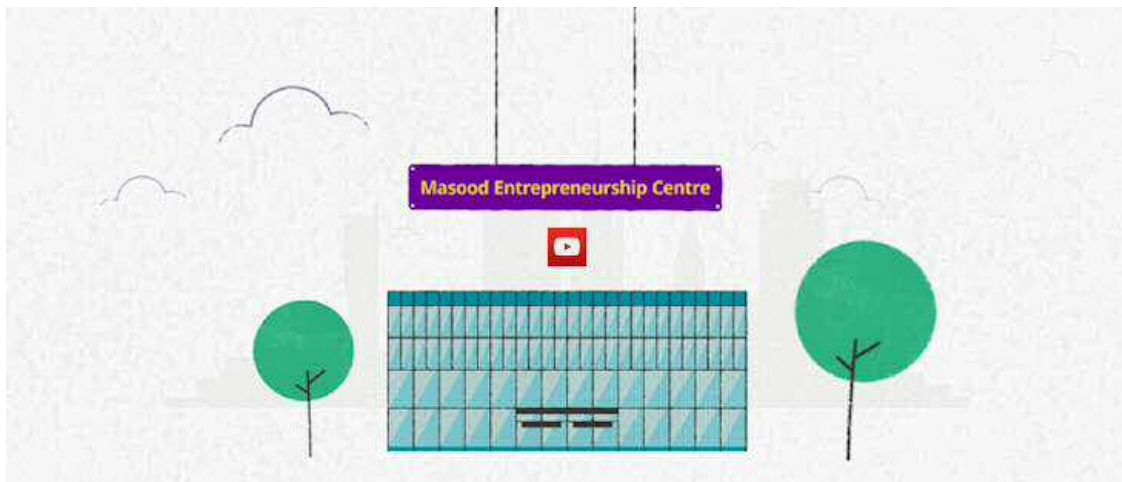
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Masood
Entrepreneurship
Centre

MEC Update

Issue 13 | 25 October 2021



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

MEC News

Introducing the online part-time Postgraduate Certificate in Entrepreneurship



A recent online event introduced the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre's new part-time, online Postgraduate Certificate in Entrepreneurship course.

Programme Director Dr. Lynn Sheppard and Course Advisor Hazel Craven presented an overview of the course, discussed what students will learn and how the course would benefit their career.

The new online Postgraduate Certificate in Entrepreneurship allows you to study part-time alongside your working life and learn how to take your business ideas into practice.

Whether you already have your business idea and are looking for support in getting it up and running, you are an existing entrepreneur or you are looking to pitch your ideas within your current company, this course will develop your skills with support from industry leading academics.

[Watch a Recording >>](#)

Celebrating Manchester's pioneering graphene entrepreneurs



With the lifting of campus access restrictions for semester one, we had the first opportunity earlier this month to present trophies to the winning teams from both the 2020 and 2021 Eli and Britt Harari Graphene Enterprise competitions. The trophies were presented by Tony Walker, the Deputy Director of the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre, and Ray Gibbs, Commercialisation Director at The University of Manchester's Graphene Engineering Innovation Centre (GEIC).

University physics alumnus, Dr. Eli Harari, the founder of Sandisk, funded the competition prize at Manchester with the aim of developing scientific entrepreneurs who are breaking new ground by developing the commercial prospects of graphene and related 2D materials.

The award winners then continue to be assisted in developing their ventures by the University, supported by the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre and GEIC, providing technical advice and facilities, business guidance and mentoring and support with securing additional funding.

Two winning teams have recently been supported in securing funding from InnovateUK's Innovation-to-Commercialisation of University Research (ICURe) programme. Graphene Green Concrete Limited, founded by Robert Ataria and Niting Zeng and the team from CATALight 2D Technologies both secured £30,000 of funding to 'get out of the lab' and validate their commercially-promising ideas in the marketplace.

[Find out more](#)

Venture Further 2022 - Are you ready to go on a journey?



The University of Manchester's flagship start-up competition is now open to register an interest. Students and recent graduates from across The University of Manchester are now able to indicate if they would like to take part in this year's exciting Venture Further Awards.

This start-up competition gives entrepreneurial students and graduates across the University the chance to turn their ideas into reality and win significant early stage funding to start their own business. A huge £75,000 prize fund is available across five categories, which will allow winning teams to get their businesses off to a flying start.

It's not just about the cash though. We are going bigger and bolder than ever before with some exciting new partners and support sessions, fresh for 2022. By registering an interest early, students and graduates can connect with the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre at the start of their journey, discuss potential ideas, and most importantly secure development support, advice and guidance to submit the best application possible.

Simply register via [SurveyMonkey](#) and outline the business idea. Upon completion of this survey, individuals will be added to the Venture Further mailing list ensuring all interested applicants are made aware of any key information, guidance, resources and workshops that are relevant to the development of their entries and business proposals.

The competition will open formally for applications on **Monday 15 November 2021** at 09:00, with the deadline for entries closing at midday on **Thursday 24 February 2022**.

Be your own boss, venture further...

[Register your interest today >>](#)

Bright Ideas Student ideas competition – closing soon!

The Masood Entrepreneurship Centre's annual student ideas competition will close for entries on **Thursday 28 October 2021**.

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



Call for Proposals - Researcher to Innovator (R2I) Programme

The FSE Innovation Academy – Researcher to Innovator is an exciting new entrepreneurship training programme for aspiring entrepreneurs and FSE 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 research into products, services or processes to deliver tangible benefit. The workshops will help you articulate your science and ideas and take you through a lean start-up technology route, enabling you to explore the potential of your idea and validate who would want it and why. The programme will culminate with pitching your idea, Dragons' Den style, for the opportunity to win for the opportunity to win a **£5k or £10k FSE Innovation Award**.

This initiative is open to all **individual, or teams, of PGR students and ECRs (less than five years after graduation)** who are working within the **Faculty of Science and Engineering on novel research**. It's ideal for anyone wishing to explore the commercial viability of their ideas.

The programme is comprised of a blend of online and face-to-face practical teaching sessions, expert clinics, mentor sessions and experienced advice and support from leading entrepreneurs and innovators.

There is no better time to take your spark and your ambition and learn how to turn a research idea and innovation into a reality from leading experts and identify the best commercial model for your venture.

Don't miss this opportunity...submit your Lean Canvas Proposal (i.e. outline of your commercial opportunity) by 3 November 2021.

[Send your Lean Canvas Proposal >>](#)



Black History Month: The Black changemakers and unsung heroes making an impact across Manchester

Christina Taylor, a former Manchester University MEnt. student, was recently featured in the Manchester Evening News celebrating the changemakers, the unsung heroes and the sheer talent that represents what it's like to be Black in Manchester in 2021.

Christina founded a dance company [Aim Sky High](#) in 2013 to help socially mobilise children and young people and address social issues through the medium of dance. Aim Sky High has gone from 23 children initially to over 200 in the performing arts school and the company works with an average of 500 school children a week. Students from ASH won the UK Hip Hop Championships and will represent the UK at the World Championships in the USA next year.

[Find out more](#)

Research Highlights

The latest research from MEC's academic team

Dr. Rob Phillips, Senior Lecturer at the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre, has published an article in the [Startup Observer](#) discussing how crowdfunding can potentially play a vital role in driving the economic recovery from COVID-19.

Dr. Kassandra Papadopoulou presented a paper, co-authored with Prof. Jyoti Sinha, "[Smart Online Monitoring of Industrial Pipeline Defects](#)" at the Industrial AI Conference 2021. The paper is proposing a smart online monitoring system using an Acoustic Wave Reflection approach, together with the modern instrumentation and IoT features to integrated wireless sensor node, input acoustic wave signal optimisation and then remote collection of the AWR signal to determine a pipeline defect location, for example in the oil and gas industry, using the piping layout with the geographical positioning system (GPS).

Events

Entrepreneurs@Manchester
with Matthew Scullion, Matillion

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

Our next guest for the
Entrepreneurs@Manchester speaker
series is Matthew Scullion, CEO of
Matillion.

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.

Matthew is founder and CEO of Matillion. Before starting Matillion in 2011 he worked in commercial IT and software development for 15 years at a number of British and European SIs - this after co-founding his first startup aged 18! He's a native of Altrincham, near Manchester, though now spends half his time in the US (Covid-permitting!) - particularly in Denver, Matillion's US HQ, in New York, their other US location, and in the Bay Area, at the beating heart of the enterprise software industry.

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.

[Find out more and register](#)

MEC Market Research Training Sessions Part 1 and 2



Accurate market research is needed for two key reasons; firstly to inform the business model and route to market, and secondly to convince potential investors and other partners that the market opportunity is attractive and relevant.

The aim of this course is to provide entrepreneurs with the skills needed to both prepare and analyse market data that accurately profiles the scale of a given business opportunity.

This one day online course will run across two half day sessions on:

Session 1: Monday 15 November 09:30 - 12:30 BST

Session 2: Tuesday 23 November 09:30 - 12:30 BST

[Find out more and register](#)



[Masood Entrepreneurship Centre](#)

entrepreneurship@manchester.ac.uk

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