

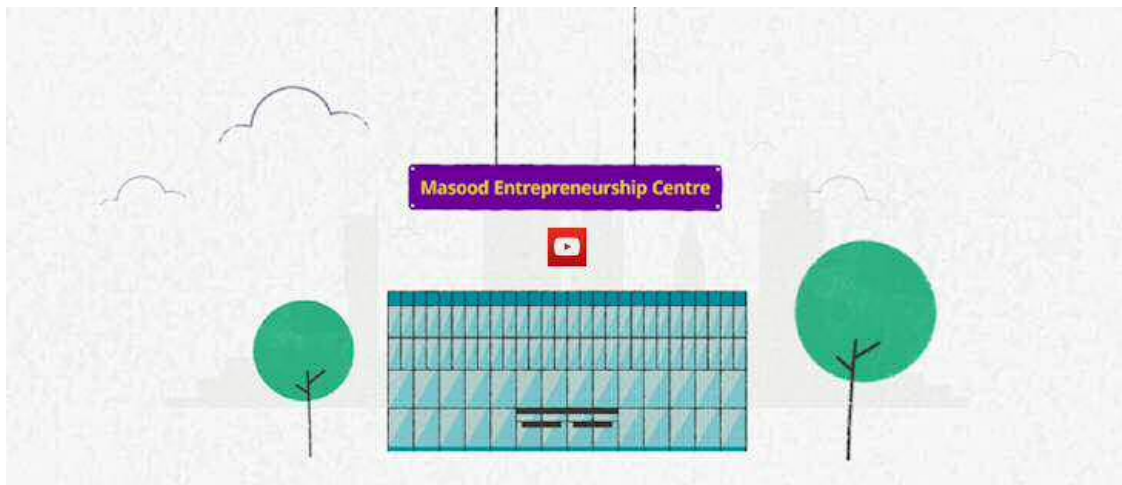
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Masood
Entrepreneurship
Centre

MEC Update

Issue 16 | 25 January 2022



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

MEC News

Venture Further Competition 2022 Information Sessions



Whether you're unsure if your idea is suitable to enter the Venture Further Awards start-up competition, or you need advice on how to tackle a certain section of the application, the MEC team are here to answer all your queries and provide some guidance.

Join Ellie Buckley (competition organiser) and Jess Lewis-Tatton for one of the brief online information sessions which will answer all your questions about this year's competition.

Venture Further Awards Information Sessions

- **Tuesday 1 February at 1:00 pm.**
- **Wednesday 9 February at 1:00 pm.**
- **Tuesday 15 February at 1:00 pm.**

We look forward to seeing you there.

Don't forget, the competition deadline is **midday on 24 February 2022**. Apply now.

[Find out more](#)

New Student Role - MEC Entrepreneurship Champions



Calling all Students! Are you passionate about entrepreneurship? Are you interested in how being entrepreneurial can benefit everyone? Do you want to create student-led initiatives at the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre (MEC)? Then our brand-new Entrepreneurship Champion role is perfect for you!

This brand new HEAR and STELLIFY accredited role is looking to recruit at least ten highly motivated students to support us in

cultivating and nurturing the entrepreneurial environment at The University of Manchester.

As an Entrepreneurship Champion, you would become the face of MEC on campus. You will take the reins and put together a range of activities every semester to showcase the usefulness of entrepreneurial skills, whilst learning industry-needed skills and knowledge!

For any enquiries, please contact Mariam Hussein (mariam.hussein@manchester.ac.uk).

[Apply now >>](#)

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

Spotlight on

The logo for Stockbook, featuring the word "STOCKBOOK" in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font. The letter "O" is stylized to resemble a magnifying glass with a yellow handle and a circular lens.

Stockbook selected for the NatWest FinTech Accelerator Programme

Stockbook, a recent start-up venture supported by MEC's Kickstarter funding, has been selected to participate in the NatWest FinTech Accelerator Programme.

Stockbook is a tool that empowers users to view equities from multiple angles, employing reliable data. It helps to reduce costs and time spent on research, thus aiding in uncovering and creating more investment ideas.

For the annual Accelerator program, NatWest assesses promising start-ups that have demonstrated significant growth potential and selects companies to receive support. The selected companies are provided with assistance to obtain technology investments locally in the UK (with a focus on FinTech) as well as global networking support. Stockbook

founder Gunel Mammadova told us: *"I hope NatWest FinTech Accelerator Programme will help to move my business to the next stage by improving the business figures such as investments, team, profit."*

[Find out more](#)



Connecting BAME social entrepreneurs

A partnership project between GMCVO and the Greater Manchester BAME Network is underway to build a Greater Manchester BAME Social Enterprise Network and help deliver business support to BAME social entrepreneurs.

The network aims to give BAME social entrepreneurs the opportunity to network with their peers, learn from experts and develop their skills in key aspects of running and growing a social enterprise.

[Find out more](#)



RoguePsych's Brain Camp Event

"[RoguePsych](#), a digital mental health start-up, one of the winners in the Healthcare category of [Venture Further 2021](#), have launched their first ever live mental health bootcamp!

[Braincamp](#) is a six-week evening bootcamp aimed at 18 - 25 years olds seeking a real-world foundation in Psychology. It covers "Mental Health 101" topics such as handling stress, better relationships, tapping into workplace creativity, and more for application in daily life. The first session begins on February 23 at 6pm. Current University of Manchester students are eligible for discounts.

[Find out more](#)



Graphene Innovations Inc. Manchester (GIIM) joins GEIC as new Tier 1 partner

[Graphene@Manchester](#) has signed a new Tier 1 partner - Graphene Innovations Inc. Manchester (GIIM) – a company spun out from The University of Manchester led by alumnus and entrepreneur Dr. Vivek Koncherry, winner of the 2021 [Eli Harari Graphene Enterprise Award](#).

The partnership with the GEIC enables GIIM to equip a private lab in the facility, with access to highly specialised applications labs and equipment, plus the unique academic and engineering expertise of the world-leading graphene and 2D materials community at the University.

Vivek has recently also exhibited the small demonstration graphene composite space habitat model developed from his Eli Harari funding at [Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week](#).

[Read more](#)



Blockchainers Society

Manchester's Blockchainers Society promotes blockchain technology among entrepreneurs, developers, researchers and enthusiasts from all levels. They organise regular workshops and networking sessions with industry leaders, provide the space to meet and create for developers and entrepreneurs, cooperate on real-life projects and organise weekly discussion sessions for everyone interested in learning more about blockchain technology, business and cryptocurrencies.

If you want to learn more about blockchain (technical or non-technical), discuss and network with people interested in blockchain, you can also connect with the Blockchainers Society on the group-chatting app Discord at: <https://discord.gg/kecWZb5bhX>

MEC supports the annual Blockchainers Competition that aims to inspire entrepreneurship and fund the blockchain-based ideas of students, staff and recent graduates building on the spirit of enterprise and innovation within one of the hottest areas of tech right now. Watch out for the latest information about the competition on the MEC website and in our next newsletter.

[Find out more](#)



GEIC partner AEH secures £3.5m for agri-tech manufacturing in Manchester

[AEH Innovative Hydrogel Ltd.](#), the agri-tech firm founded and led by Dr. Beenish Siddique, winner in the [Venture Further](#) and [Eli Harari](#) competitions, has secured a funding

agreement worth £3.5 million with Canada-based biotech investor Terra Sana Holdings, with a view to scaling up AEH's manufacturing capability in Greater Manchester.

This new investment recognises AEH's breakthrough contribution to a more sustainable future by using a unique hydrogel - branded GelPonic a developed in the Graphene Engineering Innovation Centre (GEIC) - as a growing medium that is biodegradable and fully sustainable.

The pioneering technology will reduce the use of fresh water in agriculture and therefore enable nations like the UK to grow a wider range of indigenous foods – so reducing “food miles” – while enabling better yields for farmers in developing nations, where poor quality soils and limited rainfall put pressure on water supply and productivity.

[Read more](#)

Events

Meet the ultimate entrepreneurs



Tuesday 25 January 2022 17:30–18:30 GMT

Get inspired for your next career move.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to meet leading entrepreneurs in the fields of innovation, fashion and real estate.

The University of Manchester will be talking to founders of [BrandLab 360](#), Jennifer Drury and Dan O'Connell, who are entrepreneurs with a passion for applying technology to existing business models. They have clients in many sectors, including fashion and real estate.

[Register](#)

Entrepreneurs@Manchester Series: Andrew Jervis, Founder of ClickMechanic



Wednesday 16 February 2022 17:00–18:00 GMT

We are pleased to announce our first Entrepreneurs@Manchester event of 2022, featuring the Winner of Small Business Entrepreneur of the Year (London and East of England) awarded by Great British Entrepreneur Awards; Andrew Jervis of [ClickMechanic!](#)

Andrew Jervis, an alumnus of the Master of Enterprise (MEnt.) course, co-founded ClickMechanic in 2012, an online marketplace for car repair that connects car owners who need repairs, servicing and inspections to the UK's best mechanics. Following an 85,000-word research thesis on the Automotive Repair Industry at the University of Manchester, Andrew, along with his co-founder Felix Kenton built a disruptive, industry-first solution that now has over half a million registered users and over 1000 mechanics on the network.

Join us and listen to Andrew's journey from University of Manchester student to Award winning Entrepreneur!

[Register](#)

Developing Solutions for Enterprise Creation

MAZAMO

Thursday 17 March 2022 10:00–15:00 GMT

Ever considered how you might start a research driven enterprise?

In this one-day workshop, aimed at Ph.D. researchers, you will learn the basics of setting up an enterprise. Participants will work as a team on a business simulation to develop an idea for a product and pitch for funding.

This workshop hosted by the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre will give you an insight into how to spot an opportunity for an enterprise from a research idea. The workshop is designed for you to learn the basics of developing a research-led business whilst role playing in a given team scenario. These processes can also be adapted for your own research.

After taking part in this workshop, you will be better able to:

- Recognise enterprise challenges and work as a team to find innovative ways to solve those challenges;
- Develop a business proposition;
- Understand the basic elements needed to create a new business enterprise.

This workshop will be interactive and will involve working on activities in small groups.

[Register](#)

Entrepreneurs@Manchester Series: Joseph Foster, Founder of Reebok

Monday 24 March 2022 17:00–18:00 GMT

We are very pleased to welcome Joseph William Foster, Founder of Reebok!

Joseph William Foster (Joe Foster) was born in 1935 in Bolton England with the same birthday 18 May, as his grandfather, also Joseph William Foster who had died 18 months earlier. Joe's grandfather was the founder of J W Foster & Sons (Athletic Shoes) Ltd. and the inventor of the Spiked Running Shoe and the Trainer (Sneaker).



Joe and his late brother Jeff were born into the J W Foster & Sons family business, but on their return after 2 years away from home on National Service, they asked questions. The year was 1955 and the brothers saw a business still rooted in the 1930's.

Their Father and Uncle were now operating the business and very much like another Sports Shoe company, spent more time feuding than collaborating. The result was that in 1958 Joe and Jeff left the Foster business to set up a new Sports Shoe company.

The brothers founded Mercury Sports Footwear, which after 18 months they changed its name to REEBOK. Joe had been advised to protect their company's name by registering it.

By 1965, Joe was on his way to the NSGA (National Sporting Goods of America) Show in Chicago, which was the start of many Global adventures and experiences that after 15 years brought him together with Paul Fireman and later many Stars of film and television.

As the surviving Founder of Reebok, Joe still welcomes the opportunity to travel and recount those early stories from start-up to taking the company to a \$4 billion business, overtaking Adidas and Nike to become the World's No. 1 sports brand. Joe has written his book Shoemaker to share his story and help inspire the next generation of budding entrepreneurs.

[Register](#)

Enterprise Competitions

£62.5k Funding Opportunity for Researchers
Interested in Healthy Ageing



Do you have an innovative idea that could help people live healthier, longer lives? The Healthy Ageing Catalyst Awards are now open, with funding and support to turn research-based ideas into products and services for healthy ageing.

Researchers from the arts, humanities and social sciences are encouraged to apply for this £62,500 (fEC) grant from UKRI and 9-month structured programme of support from Zinc, to translate their research into impactful and scalable products, services, and interventions that help people live healthy lives for longer.

The Awards are open to researchers who:

- Have completed their Ph.D. or have equivalent professional experience (for more info about what level/type of professional experience qualifies, please contact the Catalyst team);
- Will be affiliated with a UK-based institution for the duration of the Awards;
- Are at any postdoctoral career stage, whether you are beginning your entrepreneurial journey or accelerating your innovation.

The Expression of Interest submission period runs for 3 weeks from **1-22 February 2022**.

[Find out more](#)

Rice Business Plan Competition 2022

Applications will be closing soon for the Rice Business Plan Competition - the application deadline is **31 January 2022**.



For student founders, the competition offers real-world opportunities to learn what's required to successfully launch a new business. In addition to the substantial cash, investment and in-kind prizes, the heart of the competition is the mentoring from investors and experience entrepreneurs. Before, during and after

competing founders and start up teams receive personalized, individual feedback.

During the event, start-ups network with potential VCs, other investors and high-calibre, experienced judges—the majority of whom are senior level investors, entrepreneurs and industry leaders.

[Find out more](#)

IGHI's Health Innovation Prize - win £10,000

Do you have a unique idea for a new product or research project in global health? Apply for the Institute of Global Health Innovation's Health Innovation Prize (formerly known as the Student Challenges Competition) for the chance to turn that idea into a reality.



This exciting competition offers you the opportunity to showcase your idea and win £10,000 to fund it. Winners will be decided in a Dragon's Den-style virtual event featuring a panel of experts in health innovation.

The competition is open to all UK university students. Projects can cover any aspect of global health innovation; find examples of last year's finalists [here](#).

Entries open will close on **6 February, 11:59pm**. The final will take place in March (date TBC).

[Find out more](#)



[Masood Entrepreneurship Centre](#)

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