

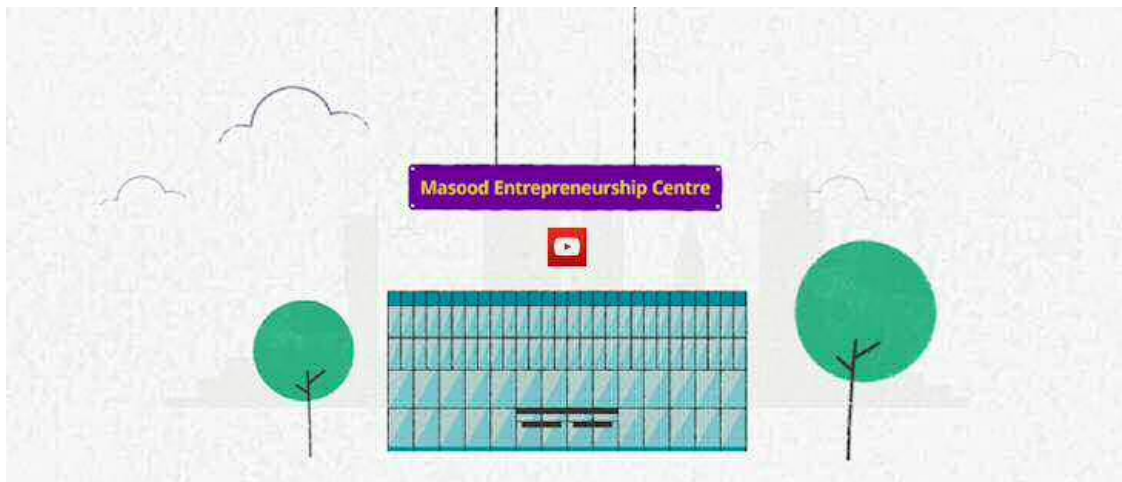
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Masood  
Entrepreneurship  
Centre

MEC Update

Issue 22 | 28 June 2022



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

MEC Showcase



## Inaugural Masood Entrepreneurship Centre Showcase celebrates innovation and enterprise at The University of Manchester

MEC held the inaugural Showcase to highlight its work and many of the amazing start-up businesses and innovations being developed by students, graduates and staff at The University of Manchester, as well as demonstrate the range of entrepreneurship programmes offered across the University.

More than 80 entrepreneurs, colleagues from The University of Manchester, investors and wider support partners gathered to learn how entrepreneurial individuals have benefitted from the support provided by MEC over the last 20 years and network amongst exhibiting start-ups.

Professor Vikas Shah MBE DL, a CEO of the Swiscot Group and Honorary Professor at the Alliance Manchester Business School, spoke at the event. Chairing a panel of five MEC alumni from the last 20 years, Vikas explored their entrepreneurial journeys and the advice they would give to those starting out.

MEC's core mission, to deliver 'Entrepreneurship for All' on campus, aligns around three core pillars of Learn, Develop and Launch. Demonstrating some of these, the Showcase featured talks on the ISIKLE (Increasing and Evaluating Student Impact in Knowledge and Learning Exchange) project in partnership with UCL and the ARC (Aspect Research Commercialisation) Accelerator in partnership with The University of Oxford. It also

highlighted the Researcher to Innovator programme, focussing on the development of research ideas stemming from the Faculty of Science and Engineering researchers.

Alliance Manchester Business School Honorary Professor Dr. Daria Tataj, author of *Innovation and Entrepreneurship. A Growth Model for Europe beyond the Crisis* also gave her inaugural lecture 'An Insight into Network Intelligence. How to Make Innovation and Entrepreneurship Thrive'.

The ASK@MCR quick fire pitching session featured nine MEC start-ups who pitched their 'ask' to the panel of investors and business leaders, be that investment or essential connections. The start-ups ranged from a social enterprise fighting food poverty on multiple front's, to a biotech company developing high quality diagnostics products for early cancer detection. Audience members were given a QR code so that they could get involved in supporting the entrepreneurs.

[Read More](#)

## MEC News

### Winners announced: Researcher to Innovator (R2I) Programme 2022



Ten early career researchers and their teams were the second cohort completing the Innovation Academy Researcher to Innovator (R2I) programme, an exciting new entrepreneurship training programme for early career researchers with ambitions to develop commercial ventures from their academic studies.

The programme was originally launched in October 2021 by Professor Martin Schroeder, Vice-President and Dean, Faculty of Science and Engineering, and has been supported with funding from the Faculty's EPSRC Impact Acceleration Account (IAA). For the semester two cohort, the IAA funding supported participants from all three Faculties of the University.

The programme aims to inspire and accelerate the translation of the knowledge created through academic research into products, services or processes to deliver tangible benefit through a series of bespoke workshops and mentoring opportunities. The workshops helped researchers articulate their science and ideas by taking them through a lean start-up technology pathway to explore the potential of their ideas.

To complete the programme, participating researchers then made their final pitches in a *Dragons' Den* style event to a panel of entrepreneurs with experience across the science and commercial development landscape.

Aline Miller, Professor of Biomolecular Engineering and Associate Dean for Business Engagement and Innovation, presented the Innovation Enabling Awards to the six winning projects.

The prize winners will also receive expert support and onward access to places on regional and national accelerator programmes and all the participants on the programme may receive mentorship and guidance from FSE Innovation Champions and internal professional support teams, including the opportunity to build relationships with the Innovation Factory and the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre.

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## Innovation and Commercialisation of Research (MCEL60091/2)

This programme is for Ph.D. research students in their third or fourth year. It addresses the research commercialisation process and the value of innovation for all organisations through a series of lectures and individual tutorials.



In the 10-week programme, you will develop a commercialisation idea based on your own area of research and prepare a 5-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. Developing the ability and confidence to transfer knowledge from the research phase to the market.

Places are limited and the deadline for applications is **Friday 15 July 2022**.

[Find out more >>](#)

## Jonathan Styles

MEC's Jonathan Styles, Senior Lecturer in Enterprise, has been appointed Director of Undergraduate Programmes at the Alliance Manchester Business School, from September 2022. This role was previously held by Anna Goatman.



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

## Spotlight on



## Finalist - Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program of the Year Award

MEC's Eli Harari Award is a finalist in the [Triple E Awards](#) - a global recognition of efforts towards the quest for entrepreneurship and engagement in higher education.

The [Eli Harari Award](#) empowers students, postdoctoral researchers, and graduates at The University of Manchester to establish new companies involving graphene and 2D materials. Significant prizes are awarded to individuals or teams who can best demonstrate how their technology relating to graphene could be applied to a viable commercial opportunity.

Over nine years it has evolved to bring together the synergies of the university entrepreneurship education and technology transfer offices, graphene experts, senior alumni, the city region, Nobel researchers, students, and graduates as well as government, UK and EU and private funding sources, angel and VC and intellectual property lawyers.

Martin Henery, Lecturer in Enterprise, will be making a presentation and representing the programme at the award ceremony.

[Find out more and vote >>](#)

The winners of this year's Eli and Britt Harari Graphene Enterprise competition will be announced by Professor Luke Georghiou, Deputy-President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, The University of Manchester, in the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre on Friday 8 July.

Two cash prizes of £50,000 and £20,000 will be awarded after five teams from across the University of Manchester have pitched their promising proposals to a panel of professionals in bid to secure this funding to drive their novel ideas forward.

This year will also see the inclusion of an additional prize that celebrates the University's position leading the world on sustainable development.

We would also like to congratulate [QV Bioelectronics](#), winners of the Eli Harari Award in 2018, on being selected as one of Europe's most promising health startups as [semifinalists of EIT Health Catapult 2022-23](#).



## Honing your entrepreneurship skills at University - how to kick start your journey

MEC Senior Lecturer Robert Phillips has written an article for the GradJobs website with tips for students on how to take advantage of what's on offer at university to kick start their entrepreneurial journey.

[Read More](#)



## Testing next generation cybersecurity technologies

Praeferre, winners in the technology category of the Venture Further Awards, are collaborating with Digital Catapult, University of Cambridge, Digital Security by Design (DSbD) and Arm to trial and experiment with potentially game-changing prototype cybersecurity technology of the future.

Praeferre help people and businesses to address concerns around data privacy and data sharing and help them to gain financial benefit if they have given permission for commercial use of their data.

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[Resource Centre](#)



## Sales and marketing

Our [Resource Centre](#) is a vital hub of information for students, staff and recent graduates who aspire to start a business.

[Marketing](#) matters. It drives sales and helps promote your brand and products. Discover how to market your business and reach your target customers, with advice on:

- Research your market;
- Create a brand;
- Your marketing strategy;
- Promote your business;
- Sales techniques;
- Looking after your customers;
- Creating and optimising a website;
- Trading internationally.

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## Competitions

### TiE Women 2022 Global Pitch Competition



The application deadline for the TiE Women 2022 Global Pitch Competition has been extended until **30 June 2022**.

Female-founded or co-founded startups that have been in business for less than seven years (date of registration of company not earlier than 1 January 2015) are eligible to apply.



The winner of the TiE UK North Women Pitch Competition will have an opportunity to travel to Dubai in October to pitch in the TiE Global finals, with a chance to win \$75K equity-free cash prize, plus more!

Competitors will be provided with mentoring, which will be offered throughout the pitch process by the TiE UK North entrepreneurial community.

[Find out More](#)



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