

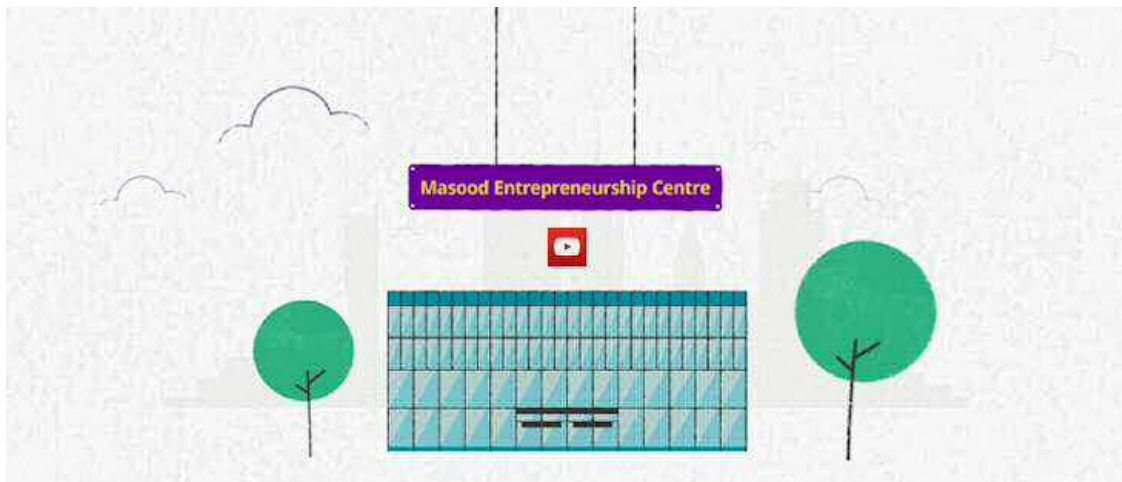
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Masood
Entrepreneurship
Centre

MEC Update

Issue 24 | 11 August 2022



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

MEC News

Calling all aspiring entrepreneurs and innovators!

We're excited to announce the second year of the FSE Innovation Academy - Researcher to Innovator (R2I) programme.



This training programme is open to all current research students and early career research staff who may be interested in developing the knowledge created through their research into products, services or processes and exploring the commercial viability of their ideas.

R2I offers an introduction to commercialisation and aims to strengthen the entrepreneurial mindset of Early Career Researchers, develop their innovative thinking, as well as enhance their understanding of the commercialisation process.

From the previous R2I programme cohort we awarded **£35k** to researchers to further their ideas. [Find out more](#) about the winning projects.



R2I Bootcamp

Our R2I bootcamp comprises of a series of interactive and informative, personal, and professional development sessions, and introduces planning tools for those with ideas that may have the potential to be taken forward. The outcome of the bootcamp could be:

- A completed researcher canvas outlining a plan to further their research;
- A completed lean canvas outlining market discovery activities and the key conversations needed to quickly validate any initial assumptions;
- Funding to take your research ideas further.

R2I Boot-camp topics include:

- The importance of your 'three brains';
- Effectuation;
- The entrepreneurial mind-set;
- IP and you;
- Communication;
- Emotional intelligence;
- Self-efficacy;
- Your resource profile.

Register for R2I Introductory Sessions

Why not take your spark and your ambition and come along to one of the three R2I Introductory Sessions in October. The sessions are repeated, so please choose the most convenient time for you:

How to develop and translate your research into a commercial proposition:

- Tuesday 18 October 2022 10:00 am.-1:00 pm.
- Wednesday 19 October 2022 2:00-5:00 pm.
- Thursday 20 October 2022 6:00-9:00 pm.

[Register for an R2I Introductory Session >>](#)

Masood Entrepreneurship Centre Events 2022-3

Our events are a great way for you to gain valuable insights, tips, tricks, recommendations, and advice to inspire you to take the next step on your entrepreneurial journey. These events are the backbone of the start-up ecosystem where speakers and participants share their experiences, and where you begin to build your networks.



[View the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre Events Plan 2022/23 >>](#)

Spotlight on



The Black Excellence Network

Elevate. Motivate. Educate.

Inspiring the Black leaders of tomorrow

Manchester University medical student George Obolo, founder of The Black Excellence Network, second prize winner in the social category of this year's [Venture Further Awards](#) is featured in the current issue of the of *The University of Manchester Magazine*.

The article is an interview with George, describing his motivations for founding the network, which offers mentorship to Black sixth form students applying for a place at Russell Group universities and a professional consultancy service for students preparing to graduate and enter the jobs market.

[Read More](#)

IGOLO

IGOLO is now live!

Sophia Major, Founder of Igolo, first prize winner in the Environmental category in the 2021 [Venture Further Awards](#), has now launched a newsletter.

IGOLO are a one-stop-shop for sustainable home renovation and design and the newsletter will feature new brand partners and products, with an offer of a free print to new subscribers.

[Find out more](#)



The Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list is published by Diversity UK

Dr. Somayeh Taheri, founder and CEO of Manchester based company [UrbanChain](#), has been included in the [Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech](#) list that has been published by Diversity UK.

UrbanChain, a winner in the 2018 [Venture Further](#) competition, is a commercialised peer-to-peer energy exchange, using blockchain and AI to predict the behaviour of renewables, linking it directly to the consumer to reduce the volatility of prices.

UrbanChain is also undergoing a Series A fundraising campaign and [moving](#) to the new tech and advanced materials green hub Base at Manchester Science Park.

[Read More](#)

Research Highlights



The latest research from MEC's academic team

A new paper on *Development of a Data Warehouse for the Assessment of Entrepreneurship Education and Venture Creation* (Dr. Papadopoulou, K.A., Dr. Phillips, R.A., Dr. Salder, J., and Dr. Salehi, F.) will be presented at the [British Academy of Management Conference](#) on **Reimagining business and management as a force for good**, hosted by the [Alliance Manchester Business School](#) (31 August - 2 September 2022).

The paper proposes that measuring the success of entrepreneurship education is complex with several issues. Firstly, metrics used are varied, for example using self-efficacy and business creation. In addition, students may be from any school of the university and had varying interaction with entrepreneurship education making any meaningful tracking difficult. Following the careers of alumni having left the university also presents challenges. A data warehouse is proposed to collate information from a variety of internal and external sources in an organised manner to allow educators to identify effectiveness in different circumstances and therefore how entrepreneurship education may be measured.

Resource Centre



Start up business ideas

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

For a successful business, you need a viable business idea, the skills to make it work and the funding. Discover whether your idea has what it takes, with information and advice on:

- Is running a business really for you?
- Testing business ideas;
- Founder profiles.

[Read More](#)

Events - Researcher Training Programme

Developing an Entrepreneurial Mindset

Tuesday 11 October 2022

10:00 – 12:00 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 online session, hosted by 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.

[Register >>](#)



Developing a Business Idea for the Creative Industries

Tuesday 1 November 2022

09:30 – 16:00 GMT

Alliance Manchester Business School

The University of Manchester

At this workshop, aimed at Ph.D. researchers, you will learn how to help creative organisations use their assets to create new opportunities.

Everyone loves the arts and creative industries – yet many cultural sector organisations struggle to make ends meet. To succeed, creative organisations must create products and services that strongly appeal to their audiences. At this one-day workshop, you'll learn how to help creative organisations do this.



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

[Register >>](#)

Generating and Shaping Ideas Workshop

Thursday 24 November 2022

09:30 – 13:00 GMT

In research as well as in a start-up, social enterprise or corporate environment, creative thinking and problem solving skills are critical to achieving any goal.

This workshop will give you an insight into how to create innovative ideas to tackle a particular challenge. It will help you to define a problem before thinking creatively about how to solve it. These processes can also be adapted for your own research.

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

[Register >>](#)

Exploring Enterprise Creation

Thursday 20 April 2023

09:30 – 16:00 BST

Alliance Manchester Business School

The University of Manchester

This one-day workshop will give you an insight into how to spot an opportunity for an enterprise from a given research idea. Using case study based scenarios, the workshop is designed for you to learn the basics of developing a research-led business idea . These processes can also be adapted for your own research.



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

[Register >>](#)

Competitions

Tata Varsity Pitch Competition 2022



Are you a university student or did you graduate in 2017 or later?
Are you running a business, starting a business or do you have a business idea that could be the next BIG thing?

Applications are now open for Tata Varsity Pitch 2022, your opportunity to compete for the prize pot of £15,000 equity free cash, with an array of fantastic opportunities to enhance you and your business.

Tata Varsity Pitch 2022, powered by NACUE, is an annual, national early-stage business pitching competition open to any current students at a UK university or college or anyone who graduated after 2017.

Applications close at **noon on Friday 9 September 2022!**

[Find out more](#)

Young Entrepreneurs Scheme (YES) - rethinking the future



Here at the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre (MEC) we are proud to support the Young Entrepreneurs Scheme (YES), an innovative global competition raising awareness amongst early career researchers of the process of commercialisation of ideas.

MEC actively encourages and supports entrepreneurs from across the campus to engage with external entrepreneurial activities. This in parallel with the Centre's programme of in-house enterprise teaching, learning, business start-up support and acceleration helps entrepreneurs to capitalise on turning their real ideas into successful market opportunities.

YES22, open to all postgraduate, postdoctoral researchers and early career academics, knowledge exchange and technicians, is a fantastic opportunity to develop complementary skills. Join one of the 30-minute awareness sessions throughout the summer to find out what is involved in #YES22 and how you can develop enterprise skills; think creatively to produce innovative solutions to major challenges; discover how to communicate research with impact and work in a team.

Challenge yourself and pitch for a share of the £10k prize fund - [Book your place now!](#)

Application deadline: **Sunday 25 September 2022.**

[Find out more](#)



[Masood Entrepreneurship Centre](#)

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