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Masood  
Entrepreneurship  
Centre

MEC Update

Issue 29 | 12 January 2023

Welcome to the latest Masood Entrepreneurship Centre newsletter...

Empowering the next generation of entrepreneurs. This month  
our Faculty in Focus is Science and Engineering..



## MEC News

### MEC Events Calendar

Welcome back to all returning students!

This semester we're delivering a variety of different events, workshops and more! Catch up on the latest events on our [Semester 2 Events Calendar](#).

For more information and to book onto our events, head over to <https://www.entrepreneurship.manchester.ac.uk/events/>

[Find out more](#)



### Winners announced for Bright Ideas student ideas competition

Bright Ideas is The University of Manchester's annual student ideas competition and is open to students from across the whole institution. Hosted by the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre, the



competition is for students new to enterprise and entrepreneurship who are interested in learning more about spotting opportunities and generating new ideas, with the opportunity to win a cash prize to help take their idea forward.

Ten students and teams with bright ideas received prize money to take the first steps in exploring their own business.

[Find out more](#)

## Applications for Start Up Visa endorsement opening soon

Are you an international student graduating on or before September 2023, looking to start your own business in the UK?

You could be eligible to apply for Start Up Visa endorsement!

The University of Manchester is an endorsing body for the Start-up Visa, endorsing recent graduates in their entrepreneurial pursuits at the end of their Tier 4 visa.

Applications for Start Up Visa endorsement will open on **Monday 16 January** and close at 12:00 pm. (midday) on **Friday 10 February**.

The new businesses will need to be innovative, with a clear sustainable competitive advantage over existing provision. They will need to be scalable, with potential to create substantial jobs and growth not just in the UK but abroad as well. Applicants will also need to be able to demonstrate that they have the necessary skills and competencies to run the business.

If you're interested in applying for endorsement for the Start-up Visa, please contact [startupvisa@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:startupvisa@manchester.ac.uk) for an application form.



## Venture Further Support Sessions



The annual Venture Further Awards start-up competition for all current students and recent graduates at The University of Manchester offers a £100,000 prize fund. Entries to the competition will be accepted until **MIDDAY on 23 February 2023**.

Our Venture Further Awards support sessions have been designed to help strengthen your application to the VFA competition. Covering everything from developing your business model canvas to understanding your finances, these sessions will ensure your application has the best chance of winning that prize money.



Measuring Social Impact with Leigh Wharton,  
Director of Bubble Enterprises CIC

**Wednesday 1 February 2023**

**13:00 – 15:00**

There are many businesses which encourage giving back to their local community, donate to those in need, work on preserving the environment, and so much more. But how do businesses measure their social impact?

Whether the purpose of your business is solely for social benefit, or you are interested in starting a socially-conscious enterprise, this workshop will offer great insights to ensure you achieve your social goals.

[Register >>](#)



## Know your finances, with Dan Thomas

Thursday 9 February 2023

13:00 - 15:00

Do you have questions about the financial section of the application? We are offering 121 sessions with Dan to give you the opportunity to ask any key questions you may have.

[Register >>](#)

## Spotlight on



### MEC Eli and Britt Harari Enterprise Award winner secures significant investment

Congratulations to Dr. Christopher Bullock and Dr. Richard Fu and the team at [QV Bioelectronics](#) who recently secured significant investment to further develop their cutting-edge technology with the aim of delivering transformative outcomes for glioblastoma patients.

In 2018 the company, then known as Honeycomb Biotechnology, was awarded the prestigious £50,000 [Eli and Britt Harari Enterprise award](#).

This annual competition, managed by the [Masood Entrepreneurship Centre \(MEC\)](#), encourages new ideas for enterprises involving graphene and other 2D based materials.

The investment marks another successful outcome for the Northern Gritstone fund.

[Read more](#)



UK Res  
and Inn

## Start-up News

Recent grant successes for University of Manchester ventures that have been supported by the [Masood Entrepreneurship Centre](#) include:

- [Graphene Innovations Manchester](#), 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, received a £49.9k grant from UKRI as part of the FLAWLESS project. The project aims to develop a new manufacturing technique based on a multi-nozzle, traversing winding head for filament winding enabling production of composite high-pressure vessels with significantly reduced weight and production speeds. This technology is aimed at meeting the rapidly increasing demand for hydrogen storage tanks, acting as an enabling technology for the UK to meet its ambition is to gain a 5GW of low carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030.
- [KOKU Health](#), founded by Dr. Emma K Stanmore (Reader, Healthy Ageing Research Group , The University of Manchester), is a digital health system which is helping older adults to age well, reduce their risks of falling and take control of their health. UKRI awarded a £50.0k grant to enhance and develop the platform.
- [Fotenix](#), founded by engineering graduate Charles Veys, received a £228k grant as part of a project developing a combined imaging, spore sensing and robotic application platform, to improve the precision application of fungicides and biopesticides.



## The price of stability: what challenges and opportunities await SMEs in 2023?

MEC Senior Lecturer Robert Phillips has contributed an article to *Startup Observer* on the opportunities and challenges for entrepreneurs in 2023.

[Read more](#)

## 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.

[Find out more](#)

## Events

## Researcher Training: Exploring Enterprise Creation

Thursday 20 April 2023

09:30 - 16:00

Alliance Manchester Business School, The University of Manchester, Booth Street West, Manchester. M15 6PB



Want to explore enterprise creation?

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.

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

- Identify the skills required for a leadership team;
- Recognise enterprise challenges and work with others to find innovative ways to solve those challenges;
- Understand market influences;
- Develop and communicate a business proposition.

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

[Register >>](#)

## Competitions

### Rice Business Plan Competition 2023



Applications are now open for the Rice Business Plan Competition.



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](#)



[Masood Entrepreneurship Centre](#)

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