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Masood
Entrepreneurship
Centre

MEC Update

Issue 32 | 13 April 2023

Welcome to the latest Masood Entrepreneurship Centre newsletter...

Empowering the next generation of entrepreneurs. This month
our Faculty in Focus is Biology, Medicine and Health.



MEC News

Social Enterprise Discovery Bootcamp (21-22 June 2023)

Hosted by the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre and social entrepreneur Peter Ptashko FRSA, this 1.5 day Social Enterprise Discovery Bootcamp will present 25 students with the unmissable opportunity to learn how to turn their ideas into impact and build their confidence to bring positive change on a local and global level.



Taking place in the MEC Enterprise Zone (second floor, Alliance Manchester Business School), this bootcamp will provide you with essential entrepreneurial skills, increasing your knowledge and confidence around business doing good. It will also provide useful tools and resources that you can then apply into your further studies, your own enterprise development and of course your future careers, all in an environment where you will work and learn together in teams.

[Find out more](#)

Entrepreneurial Advisor Network

The Entrepreneurial Advisor Network is back and relaunching with a fresh focus on mentoring. Our network of experienced local and global contacts is dedicated to helping students activate and grow their start-ups in Manchester and beyond.

There will be a launch lunch on Friday 12 May where Paul Argyle and his previous mentee Sid Sethi will be sharing their story of teaming up to help the growth and development of Specscart. In attendance will be other Entrepreneurial Advisors who will become mentors for some of our VFA finalists and winners, empowering them on their exciting journey ahead.

[Find out more](#)

Tony Ford

Tony Ford from the Ford Family Foundation, who is one of our generous alumni supporters, will be visiting MEC on Tuesday 18 April for a 'Show and Tell' session, to meet with a select few of our student and graduate NFP ventures and to hear about their social impact missions.



The Eli and Britt Harari Graphene Enterprise Award 2023

The Masood Entrepreneurship Centre's annual Eli and Britt Harari Graphene Enterprise Award competition, for novel ideas involving graphene and other 2D materials that have the potential to be commercialised, is open for expressions of interest. This enables potential entrants to connect with the MEC team to discuss potential ideas, and most importantly secure development support, advice, and guidance ahead of the application deadline.



There will also be an [online information session](#) coming up on the 9 May, where applicants will hear from Tony Walker and Freddy Guemeni on how to make a successful application, and will hear from Aled Deakin Jones who won last years competition.

[Find out more](#)

Educate North Awards



MEC are sponsoring this years [Educate North Awards](#) on Thursday 27 April, an annual event celebrating enterprise education and the achievements of our colleagues and students across the HE sector in the North of England.

The event continues to attract over 400 education professionals from Further and Higher Education institutions from across the North, together with a range of suppliers to the sector including financial institutions, professional services providers, IT and infrastructure providers and construction and property firms.

[Find out more](#)

Spotlight on



North West Startup Awards

Dr. Na Yu (Cherry) Chia, founder of medtech start up Averywell, has been shortlisted for the Medtech and Healthtech StartUp of the year categories at the North West Startup Awards.

Dr. Chia was one of the winners of the 2021 [Venture Further](#) Business Start-up Competition and has been working with the world's best doctors to develop a groundbreaking early detection test for lung cancer.

The North West Startup Awards will be taking place on 25 May in Liverpool. The evening will celebrate the amazing contribution made by regional entrepreneurs and their impact on the economy, society, and local communities.

[Read more](#)



Manchester graphene firm signs \$1 billion UAE deal

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](#), has formed an international partnership that will spearhead an unprecedented scale-up of graphene-based technologies intended "to make a substantial impact on global CO2 emissions".

This new venture will develop and produce premium, environmentally-friendly products using advanced 2D materials, including breakthrough graphene-enhanced concrete that does not need cement or water and can be made using recycled materials.

[Read more](#)



Specscart at The House of Commons

Sid Sethi of [Specscart](#) recently visited the UK Parliament as part of a discussion on innovation in retail, representing North-West Retail Businesses.

Sid is the Founder and Managing Director of Specscart, one of the fastest-growing eyewear startups in the UK. Sid started Specscart whilst he was studying at The University of Manchester and was a winner in the Business category of MECs [Venture Further](#) competition in 2018.

Sid has created a video which is on his LinkedIn profile to share the story.

[Watch on LinkedIn >>>](#)



Funding to open door to proptech's growth plans

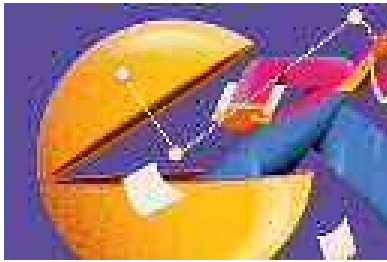
A Manchester-based property technology start-up has secured £620,000 in funding to support its growth plans.

Manchester University graduate and former MEC [Kickstarter](#) awardee Harry Panter developed a property management portal for student housing.

The Housr app uses AI to eliminate the administrative hurdles that can accompany the process of securing a rental property. It operates similarly to a dating app – students can swipe through properties and secure viewings, while landlords and letting agents can use it as a management portal.

The six figure seed funding will allow Housr to bring development in-house ahead of the launch of the updated version of the app. It will also help the start-up scale across the UK, and extend its reach to young professionals that have graduated.

[Read more](#)



How venture competitions can kickstart your entrepreneurial career

MEC Senior Lecturer Robert Phillips has recently written about the potential of student venture competitions, for [MBA students](#), [business graduates](#) and [chemistry students](#).

Events

From scientist to entrepreneur in the Biotechnology and HealthTech sector

Tuesday 18 Apr 2023

13:00 - 14:00

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



This guest lecture by Bhavika Patel (Global Business Development Director at Yourgene Health) showcases the entrepreneurial journey from converting possibilities into opportunities, evaluating risk, forming partnerships and exiting via buy-outs and acquisitions, and highlights how key learnings at each stage were implemented for the next. It seeks to enlighten aspiring entrepreneurs, innovators, researchers and managers, the steep learning curve and complexities of the sector.

The talk will highlight the fundamental importance of timing for entrepreneurial ventures, coupled with mobilising and motivating teams when riddled with challenges, obstacles and hurdles.

[Register >>](#)

Communicating your Ideas; Understanding your Value Proposition

Wednesday 19 April 2023

09:30 - 12:30



Hosted by the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre and Cath Whitaker from Team Services this workshop will provide you with the skills needed to identify your key message and to understand the value proposition of an idea.

We all know that clear communication is key to articulating your ideas effectively.

This half day workshop will help you to develop your commercial awareness, critical thinking, and creative communication skills.

[Register >>](#)

Exploring Enterprise Creation

Thursday 20 April 2023

09:30 - 13:00



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.

Key learning 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 >>](#)

Business Finance Series- Session 4 -Knowing the Score

Thursday 27 April 2023

10:00 - 11:45



Hosted by the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre and Paul Suchoparek, ex Finance Director of Adidas UK and founder of Sempas Accountants Limited, these sessions, running throughout Semester 2, are designed to provide a good understanding of key financial metrics to start and grow a business successfully.

This five event series of 90 minute sessions is an opportunity to learn more about trading, profits, bookkeeping, cash flow and securing further funding.

Whether you are already a start-up entrepreneur or interested in starting your own business in the future these sessions are for you.

This session will focus on Keeping the business under good financial control and important tax matters to be aware of covering, but not limited to, the following aspects:

- How to keep up to date with the business' financial position efficiently;
- Understanding a basic Profit and Loss report and how to produce one;
- Claiming expenses;
- Some tax points including what taxes you could pay and when, what costs are allowable, tax advantages of costs incl. R&D expenditure.

[Register >>](#)

Eli Harari Graphene Enterprise Award 2023: introduction and overview

Tuesday 9 May 2023

13:00 – 14:00



Join us on Tuesday 9 May and hear from Tony Walker, Deputy Director of the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre, who will give an overview of the competition, and share with you hints and tips as to what the judges will be looking for in your application.

You will learn about the support available to support you with your application and how to access this.

We're also pleased to welcome and introduce you to a previous winner of the competition, who can share with you their experience and how they have progressed with their idea since being involved with the Harari programme.

[Register >>](#)



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