

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester



Masood
Entrepreneurship
Centre



VENTURE FURTHER **AWARDS 23**

 #VFAwards

@EntrepMCR 



Welcome from the Director of the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre

The Masood Entrepreneurship Centre is the focal point for entrepreneurship at The University of Manchester and the annual Venture Further Awards event is the showcase that allows us to celebrate the amazing entrepreneurial talent of our students and recent graduates.

Launched in 2003, the Venture Further Awards have helped to launch many successful new ventures and this brochure serves as a record of the hard work and creativity of the young minds who have participated in the competition this year.

The competition is an excellent platform for students to display their entrepreneurial skills, innovative ideas, and problem-solving abilities and there are now five categories of award – environment, healthcare, services, social enterprise and technology.

I would like to congratulate all the finalists, who have made it to the final round through their hard work and perseverance. Your ideas have the potential to make a real difference, and I am excited to see how they shape the future. This year's winners will receive prize money totalling £100,000 with additional support offered by groups across the University and its wider networks, enabling the winners to take their ventures forward.

As we uncover real talent for business, we hope you will agree that here at Manchester we are developing the next generation of entrepreneurial graduates with the skills and confidence to identify and act upon new opportunities.

I hope this brochure will serve as an inspiration to other students who aspire to be entrepreneurs and problem-solvers. The journey to success is not easy, but it is worth the effort. I encourage all the participants to continue pursuing their dreams and to use this competition as a stepping-stone towards a brighter future.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the judges, our alumni and our colleagues from across the University who have supported this event and made it possible. Your contributions have been instrumental in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship among students, and we appreciate your support.

Once again, I extend a warm welcome to all of you, and I hope you enjoy the brochure and the evening.

Lynn Sheppard
Director, Masood Entrepreneurship Centre



“

**I am delighted
to welcome you
all to this year's
student start-up
competition
awards brochure.**

”





Awards Host

Professor Luke Georgiou

Deputy President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor

As well as general leadership duties, Luke is responsible for innovation in the University, including business engagement and commercialisation of intellectual property. He is active in research and policy advice to governments and business.

Luke is currently a Non-Executive Director of Northern Gritstone and of the Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of Manchester Science Partnerships. From 2016 - 2022 he chaired the Steering Committee of the European Universities Association Council for Doctoral Education and has now joined the EUA's Expert Group on Innovation.

He was elected to the Academia Europaea in 2011. He has published extensively on research and innovation policy and management in leading outlets. He holds a PhD (1982) and BSc from The Victoria University of Manchester.

“ I have been involved with Venture Further for over a decade – as a judge, presenting the awards and meeting the winners and guests at the Venture Further dinner. It gives me both pride and pleasure to see so many of the businesses going on to succeed in the market. As the University approaches its Bicentenary we are reminded that innovation and enterprise have always been core to our University's strategy. For our students, entrepreneurship is a defining feature of the Manchester experience. ”

Venue

Whitworth Hall
The University of Manchester

Programme

18:00
Drinks reception

18:45
Welcome and Guest Speaker
Scott Martin

19:00
Dinner


20:45
Awards Presentation
Environment
Healthcare
Services
Social
Technology


21:45
Close




“ **Modern day healthcare is under immense pressures and traditional methods are struggling to cope. But great challenges require great solutions, and we’re confident that Re:course AI is providing exactly that.** ”

Re:course

 **recourseai.com**

 **contact@recourseai.com**
scott@recourseai.com

 **recourseai**
dr-scott-martin

 **@recourseai**

Guest Speaker

Dr Scott Martin

Re:course AI

Scott is founder and CEO of Re:course AI, a qualified doctor, and a fellow of the NHS England Clinical Entrepreneur Programme. Scott studied at Alliance Manchester Business School in 2018 and applied to the Venture Further Awards with Re:course AI - at the time named AI Patient. He went on to win the Digital category, securing £10k to start the business, alongside co-founder Maksim Belousov, who has a PhD in Artificial Intelligence at the University.

The success in the VFA competition led Scott to secure private investment for the company during his final year of medical school, going on to raise £450k+ in funding. The team went on to secure Innovate UK’s highly competitive “Business-led innovation in response to global disruption”, to support the NHS in their response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

More recently, Scott and the team received £3.5m from Northern Gritstone and other northwest funders. Already integrated into healthcare institutions in the US and UK with proven effectiveness, Re:course AI will develop the skills of doctors and nurses at scale by offering on-demand clinical assessments and automatic feedback using their propriety AI system, which gives digital human patients and virtual tutors the ability to hold natural conversations with healthcare professionals.

Scott identified the need for a “healthcare flight simulator” during his medical training, leading Re:course to develop Virtual Human training technology powered by artificial intelligence. The platform simulates conversational role-play with virtual humans, accelerating learning for critical communication skills, making learners more confident, and increasing knowledge retention. As a result, medical, nursing and healthcare students can now gain clinical experience remotely through voice-based consultations with virtual patients, and receive instant feedback on their performance, from diagnostic reasoning to bedside manner.

In this time of uncertainty and with growing concern around the healthcare workforce shortage, Re:course are on a mission to provide a co-pilot to every healthcare student, university tutor, and professional, so that you can be prepared to have that lifesaving conversation.



The judging panel

Competition Organiser

Ellie Buckley
Enterprise Business Development Executive,
Masood Entrepreneurship Centre,
Alliance Manchester Business School

Chair

Lynn Sheppard
Director,
Masood Entrepreneurship Centre,
Alliance Manchester Business School

Environment

Mike Ashburn
Director,
ClearWorld Energy Limited

Jayne Lawton
Founder,
GroBox

Sophia Major
Founder,
Igolo Ltd

Professor Philip Martin
Head of Department &
Professor of Chemical Engineering,
The University of Manchester

Healthcare

Anastassia Bolotkova
Business Development Lead (Life Sciences),
Bruntwood SciTech

Cherry Chia
Founder & CEO,
ErleaDx

Dr Uzma Choudry
Early-stage Investor,
Octopus Ventures

Emilios Markou
Co-founder & Executive Director,
Hellas Direct

Services

Sarah Ayton
Strategic Relationships Manager,
GC Angels

John Darbyshire
Founder & Managing Partner,
The Beneficial Beverage Company LLC

Sid Sethi
Managing Director,
Specscart

Heather Waters
Regional Eco-System Manager,
NatWest

Social

Siobhan Clarke
Operating Partner, BP Launchpad

Laura Pulleyn
CEO, Ford Family Foundation

Dr Leigh Wharton
Director,
Bubble Partnership Ltd
Lecturer in Entrepreneurship and
Innovation Management,
The University of Manchester

Technology

Peter Bulkley
Director of Projects,
Science and Engineering,
The University of Manchester
Innovation Factory

Delyth Edwards
Senior Network Manager,
British Business Bank

Nick Sanders
Chairman,
Sertec Corporation Ltd

Dr Beenish Siddique
Founder & CEO,
AEH Innovative Hydrogel



Environment

Haon Carbon Ltd

Haon Earth. Sustainability. Gamified. Haon is a platform where users can track, offset, and compare their carbon footprint to their friends' and be rewarded, often financially, for making more sustainable and planet friendly choices.

Lead Entrant:



Joe Fogg
MSc Innovation Management
Alliance Manchester Business School
Alumni Class of 2021

Naxca LTD

Naxca LTD is on a mission to optimise and electrify space heating systems. Using technology and data-driven strategies to unlock the potential for lower running costs and reduced carbon emissions.

Lead Entrant:



Marco Antonio Rodriguez Frias
PhD Electrical and Electronic Engineering
School of Engineering
Alumni Class of 2020

Jorge Ricardo Salas Avila
PhD Electrical and Electronic Engineering
School of Engineering
Alumni Class of 2020

Wenqi Han & Xinyi Ouyang
MSc Advanced Computer Science and
Artificial Intelligence School of Engineering
Alumni Class of 2022

Sustainable Change Studio Ltd

We are a climate action consultancy using storytelling to empower start-ups & charities to engage, educate & mobilise against the climate crisis. We create a thriving ecosystem of climate responsible collaborators, working together to ensure a fair, just and sustainable world for all.

Lead Entrant:



Hannah Ballard
MSc International Development:
Environment & Climate Change

Imaan Alvi-Bennett
MSc International Development:
Environment & Climate Change
Alumni Class of 2022

Terrazorg Ltd

Terrazorg, a smart energy technology firm, aims to reduce business costs & improve ROI, benchmark standardised CO2e metrics against industries, and improve their triple bottom line. Terrazorg empowers businesses to monitor and act on energy reduction to improve environmental credentials in line with governmental rules.

Lead Entrant:



Philip Soltani-Pari
Global MBA
Alliance Manchester Business School
Alumni Class of 2022

Healthcare

Abhaya Food Industries

We are a future focused company involved in the manufacturing of functional foods and nutraceuticals to cater to the needs of people with life-style disorders, especially Diabetes. We manufacture foods which could be a potential preventive medical treatment and point to a new medicine for diabetes and other chronic conditions, through effective application of Ayurveda.

Lead Entrant:



Rinta Mathew
PhD Gastroenterology
School of Medical Sciences

Dosewolf Limited

Dosewolf is a gamified medication management app utilising artificial intelligence and pharmaceutical data to optimise drug-timing. The innovative MVP of the app, launched nine months ago, has won multiple accolades from Apple, including "App of the Day". Our mission is to change how patients take medication by offering a revolutionary approach to dosing, tailored to everyone's unique biology.

Lead Entrant:



Malik Ahmed
MPharm Pharmacy
School of Health Sciences
Alumni Class of 2021

GermIrrad

Disinfection made green and simple. To face the urgent problem of antimicrobial resistant infections, GermIrrad is an integrated, eco-friendly, hybrid and modular disinfection system which mitigates pathogens and optimises people's health, in an environmentally friendly way.

Lead Entrant:



Liliana Correia
PhD Cell Biology
School of Biological Sciences

Daniel Braga
Co-applicant

NanoGraft Limited

NanoGraft is a health tech start-up focused on helping restore sensation to lower limb amputees. We are developing a wearable device that provides sensory stimulus to the user and allows them to feel the ground when walking. This addresses the issue of sensory feedback absence from current prosthetic legs. It also mitigates phantom limb pain and lets the user improve their gait and stability to make prosthesis use easier and more comfortable without the fear of falling.

Lead Entrant:



Gergana Ivanova
MEng Material Science and Engineering
School of Natural Science

Omar Haroun
MEng Material Science and Engineering
School of Natural Sciences

Services

Bonita Concierge Services Ltd

Bonita provides luxury concierge services to the high-end villa-rental market in the British Virgin Islands (BVI). After raising its \$50k first round seed investment in December 2022, Bonita is on track to begin trading by November 2023. It has also successfully partnered with the 3 largest villa-rental companies in the BVI, generating over 75 luxury villas to service exclusively.

Lead Entrant:



Leo Forte

BA Modern Language and Business & Management (Spanish)
School of Arts, Languages and Cultures

Hive: Student and Industry STEM Solutions Ltd

HiveSpace tackles the problem of space-related skills shortages in the rapidly growing space sector. Through HiveSpace's Industry Sponsored Space projects, space businesses across the UK can connect with the next generation of talent and students can explore space-related design projects aimed at generating the high-demand skills they need to kickstart their careers in space.

Lead Entrant:



Thomas Chiu

MEng Aerospace Engineering with Industrial Experience
School of Engineering

Little Pops Pop-up Ltd

'Little Pops' is a street-food company specialising in bagels sourced from local independent suppliers. Born out of their frustrations surrounding limited food offerings and poor customer service, Little Pops was set up during the founders' final years at University. Trading with just a borrowed table and menu board initially, Little Pops has since grown to trade at multiple prestigious music festivals and events.

Lead Entrant:



Thomas Picceri

BA Business Management and French
School of Arts, Language and Culture
Alumni Class of 2022

Edward Popham

BA Business Management and French
School of Arts, Language and Culture
Alumni Class of 2022

MasterMedPrep

MasterMedPrep addresses the lack of highly trained healthcare workers globally and their access to high-quality education. MasterMedPrep's mission is to be the go-to resource for healthcare students and trainees by providing the network, data, platform, resources, and partnerships that healthcare students and trainees need to succeed.

Lead Entrant:



Daniel Warrington

Medicine & MSc Healthcare Ethics and Law
School of Medical Sciences
Alumni Class of 2022

Social

Active Ageing Initiative

Active Ageing Initiative (AGI) supports older adults across Ghana to age with dignity and respect. They train partner institutions to implement the AGI framework, advocate to prioritise care for older adults, and conduct research to develop the framework. AGI works with elderly adults, religious institutions, community groups, NGOs, governmental, social and health care agencies, hospitals, national pension associations, pensioners' groups, and residential homes to drive real change.

Lead Entrant:



Brenda Agyeiwaa Poku
PhD Nursing
School of Health Sciences
Alumni Class of 2019

Kwame Asamoah Kwarteng
MSc International Development:
Globalisation Trade and Industry
School of Environment Education
and Development
Alumni Class of 2019

Beyond 9

Beyond 9 is a social enterprise that helps mums re-launch into their professional careers or start new ones, post maternity-leave or career breaks, by providing them with support and resources to achieve their goals. The multi-sided platform brings organisations, counsellors, and mentors, into one space, providing flexible job opportunities, learning resources, counselling and career coaching whilst building a community online.

Lead Entrant:



Manya Girdhar
MSc Innovation Management
and Entrepreneurship
Alliance Manchester Business School

I3Italy C.I.C

I3Italy enables Italians living in England to obtain tailored guidance and advice for free and from anywhere. I3Italy supports Italians in England curating a hub of up-to-date, sourced and reliable information on topics relevant to them. The website contains detailed articles that focus on specific topics, and a helpdesk service. The Facebook and Instagram pages focus on current news.

Lead Entrant:



Cesare Giulio Ardito
PhD Mathematics
School of Natural Sciences
Alumni Class of 2020

TRI

A community driven, web-based platform connecting users through music, movement, and nutrition – a hub of free and accessible workshops providing people with the tools to improve their wellbeing and quality of life. A service that uses education, collaboration, and expression at the forefront, to tackle the decline in mental and physical health in the UK, in a holistic way.

Lead Entrant:



Erin McDermott
Master of Enterprise
Alliance Manchester Business School
Alumni Class of 2022

Technology

Advanced Broadcast Graphics Limited

Advanced Broadcast Graphics (ABG) is revolutionising the broadcast industry. Our innovative virtual camera technology, 3D-video, enables broadcasters to capture any angle of a televised event, synthesising new viewpoints with machine-learning. 3D-video is focused on capturing and preserving reality as the dynamic environment that it is, giving television audiences a truly immersive experience as if they were there in person.

Lead Entrant:



Harry O'Brien
BSc Computer Science
School of Engineering
Alumni Class of 2022

ChaosShift

ChaosShift: Order the Chaos, Save Time to Create.

Despite the digital push nowadays, construction and design industries are still behind the digitalisation wave. ChaosShift aims to become the next step of digitalisation in the industry. We enable organisations to be stable partners to their own customers by providing a solution which easily manages their creativity and services.

Lead Entrant:



Juliana Valerieva Vargolomova
Global MBA
Alliance Manchester Business School

Hristo Savov
Co-applicant

Metofico LTD

Metofico supplies custom solutions for life scientists to manage and process the deluge of data produced by modern life science experiments. The mission is to provide the best solutions to enable researchers to produce the best scientific outputs.

Lead Entrant:



Mehdi Boutagouga Boudjadja
PhD Neuroscience
School of Biological Sciences
Alumni Class of 2022

Talking to Plants

Talking to Plants presents cutting edge technology which can reform the agricultural industry using non-invasive plant health monitoring. Our solution can help increase crop yields and reduce excessive fertiliser and water usage. The product is being developed by a team of 8 MEng students in the Electrical and Electronic Engineering department at the University of Manchester.

Lead Entrant:



Momin Anwar
MEng Electrical and Electronic Engineering
School of Engineering

Flavia Dumitrica, Marton Gonczy & Samuel Ryder
MEng Electrical and Electronic Engineering
School of Engineering

Where are they now?

Over the past 20 years, the Venture Further Awards have empowered students to take control of their futures and launch successful new ventures. Many of the Venture Further Award winners have gone on to secure seven-figure investments to scale and grow their businesses.




Biorelate Limited
Daniel Jamieson

Daniel won the Technology category in 2014, securing £10k to launch Biorelate. Daniel initially raised £750k in investment from Catapult Ventures, Maven Ventures & angel investors enabling the development of its AI platform, Galactic AI™. In 2022, Biorelate secured £6.5m in Series A investment from Maven Capital Partners and YFM Equity Partners allowing expansion into the US.

Manchester-based Biorelate curates dark biomedical knowledge to empower drug discovery with its AI platform, Galactic AI™. This innovative technology combines natural language processing and machine learning to capture highly valuable biomedical data that pharmaceutical and life sciences organisations can utilise to improve decision making in their drug discovery programs.

 biorelate.com

 [daniel-jamieson-8498a33a](https://www.linkedin.com/in/daniel-jamieson-8498a33a)



AEH Innovative Hydrogel Ltd
Beenish Siddique

Beenish won the Technology category in 2019, securing £10k to grow her business. In 2020, AEH Innovative Hydrogel Ltd secured £1m of funding through Innovate UK to develop its unique, virtually maintenance-free 'vertical farming' system 'GelPonic'. In 2022, AEH secured a funding agreement worth £3.5m with Canada-based biotech investor Terra Sana Holdings, to scale its manufacturing capability in Greater Manchester.

AEH's pioneering technology reduces the use of fresh water in agriculture, enabling nations like the UK to grow a wider range of indigenous foods, so reducing "food miles". It also enables better yields for farmers in developing nations, where poor quality soils and limited rainfall put pressure on water supply and productivity.

 aehinnovativehydrogel.com


 [beenish-siddique-95726ba7](https://www.linkedin.com/in/beenish-siddique-95726ba7)




Bright Biotech Limited
Mohammad El Hajj

Mohammad won the Technology category in 2021, securing £10k. He has since raised £2.5m through the EIT Food Seedbed programme and was one of the nine teams selected for the 2022 Global Incubator Programme - Gateway to Asia.

Bright Biotech uses genetic engineering to transform tobacco plants into low-cost, sustainable, and ultrascaleable bioreactors making extraordinarily high yields of recombinant proteins. Producing high-value proteins at the quantity, quality and cost necessary to promote and enable sustainable industries such as lab-grown meat production as well as regenerative medicine practices.

 brightbiotech.co.uk

 [mohammadkhalilelhajj](https://www.linkedin.com/in/mohammadkhalilelhajj)

Strengths of the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre



Supported at senior level in the University

£50m

We have over 280+ start-ups surviving their first three years of business, employing over 1,000 people and generating over £50m in turnover.



Closely linked with student groups, the Students' Union, and key regional and national groups



Manchester is the place where people do things. It is good to talk about doing things, but better still to do them.



34

Taught enterprise units offered across the campus at all levels

£28m

MEC start-ups received £28m+ of external investment over the last 3 years



Wide range of co-curricular activities

35

Student/graduate/staff start-ups created each year



Highly experienced team of staff



Fully integrated within the institution - working closely with internal groups

Edward Abbott Parry

“ A vision is something you see and others don't. Some people would say that's a pocket definition of lunacy. But it also defines entrepreneurial spirit. ”

Anita Roddick
Founder of The Body Shop

Be your own boss, venture further...

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