

## Ralph Brown

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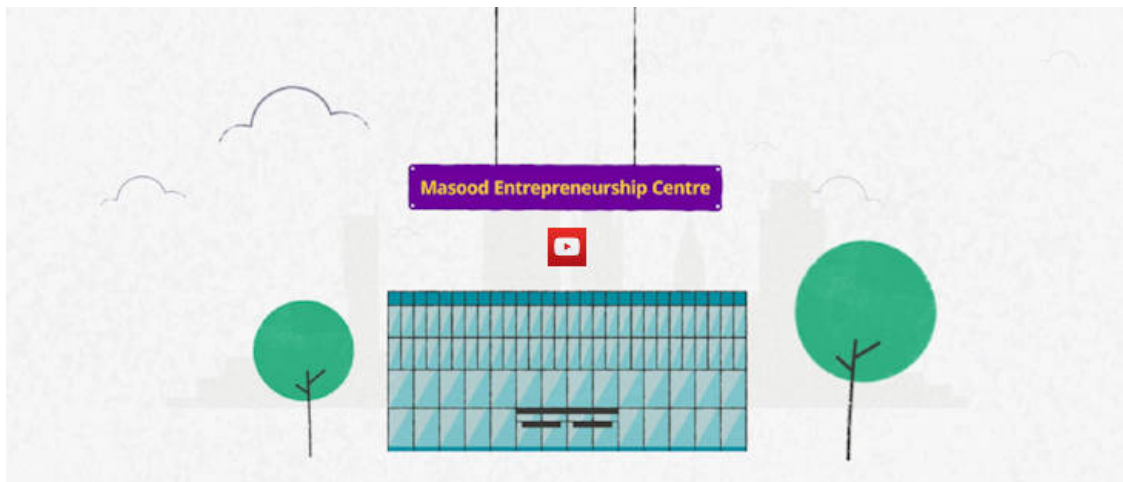
**From:** MEC <entrepreneurship@comms.manchester.ac.uk>  
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MEC Update

Issue 33 | 17 May 2023



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

MEC News



## Entrepreneurs share £100,000 prize money at Venture Further Awards

The Venture Further Awards were held in the Whitworth Hall on Wednesday 10 May, celebrating the entrepreneurial talent and creativity from students and recent graduates across The University of Manchester. Streamed live, the winners of the 2023 Venture Further Awards start-up competition were announced to the world.

Twenty teams reached the final round, across five categories – Environmental, Healthcare, Services, Social and Technology. Four teams competed for the top cash prize of £15,000 with second place winners receiving £5,000.

This year's winners are:

### Environmental

#### **Naxca Ltd.: Marco Antonio Rodriguez Frias**

Naxca 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.

### Healthcare

#### **NanoGraft Ltd.: Gergana Ivanova and Omar Haroun**

A health tech start-up focussed on helping restore sensation to lower limb amputees. NanoGraft are developing a wearable device that provides sensory stimulus to the user allowing them to feel the ground when they walk.

### Services

### **Hive: Student and Industry STEM Solutions Ltd.: Thomas Chiu**

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 generating the high-demand skills they need to kickstart their space career.

#### Social

### **Active Ageing Initiative: Brenda Agyeiwaa Poku and Kwame Asamoah Kwarteng**

AGI supports older adults across Ghana to age with dignity and respect. They train partner institutions to implement the AGI framework, advocate and prioritise care for older adults and conduct research to develop the framework to drive real change.

#### Technology

### **Metofico Ltd.: Mehdi Boutagouga Boudjadja**

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.

Lynn Sheppard, Director of the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre commented: *"This year's Venture Further Awards were again an amazing demonstration of the entrepreneurial spirit of students and graduates from across the University."*

[Watch a recording of the Venture Further Awards 2023 >>](#)

## North West Biotech Initiative



Congratulations to the everyone involved in the North West Biotech Initiative, winner of the Student Experience award at the Educate North Awards 2023.

MEC sponsored this years Educate North Awards, which took place last month, an annual event celebrating enterprise education and the achievements of our colleagues and students across the HE sector in the North of England.

The NWBI, as a student society, exists to help undergraduates and postgraduates who want to stay in science but don't necessarily want to remain in the lab or academia and their

activities were also recently featured in a MEC student entrepreneurship [case study](#).

## Eli Harari Graphene Enterprise Award 2023



A recording of the [Eli Harari Competition](#) Introduction and Overview webinar is now available. In this webinar, Tony Walker, former Deputy Director of the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre, gave an overview of the competition, shared hints and tips as to what the judges will be looking for in applications and details of the support available to entrants and how to access this. We were also pleased to welcome and introduce the winner of last year's competition, Aled Roberts, who shared his experience and discussed how his company has progressed since being involved with the Harari programme.

[Watch a recording of the Eli Harari Competition Introduction and Overview webinar >>](#)

## Entrepreneurial Advisor Network



On Friday 12 May, MEC re-launched the [Entrepreneurial Advisor Network](#) with a focus on developing the matched mentoring offer for student and graduate start-up founders.

Ten specially selected advisors were invited for an orientation and networking session in The Zone, and heard from Paul Argyle (advisor) and Sid Sethi (advisee) about their mentoring relationship which began back in 2018.

Whilst many of our advisors have returned year-on-year, we were grateful to welcome new prospective advisors along to the session. The networking discussions were insightful and uplifting, building on the collective knowledge and understanding from guests across a variety of sectors, all of whom signed up to mentor one of our [VFA](#) finalists or winners.

We hope to continue developing and expanding the network, connecting our start-up founders with expertise from our diverse alumni community and local business ecosystem.

You can find out more about the Entrepreneurial Advisors Network [here](#). If you, or someone you know of would like to help support one of our fledgling businesses, then please contact Community Development Manager, [Lucy Hutchinson](#).

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

## Spotlight on

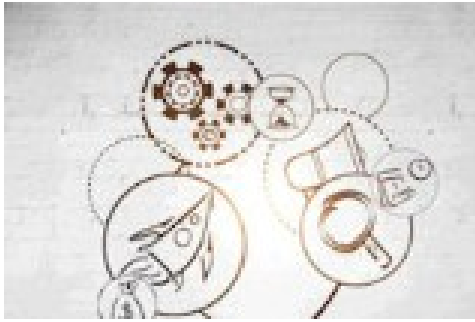


### Supporting student entrepreneurship could also boost lecture attendance

MEC Senior Lecturer Robert Phillips has recently written an article for *Times Higher Education* on the possibility of students funding their way through university via self employment.

The article discusses several surveys and reports which evidence the lower attendances of the university students in post-COVID era, mainly due to the need to earn money. Rob suggests that self-employment teaches valuable skills and offers more flexibility to fit work around academic and domestic demands.

[Read more](#)



## PGCert Entrepreneurship - Scholarships

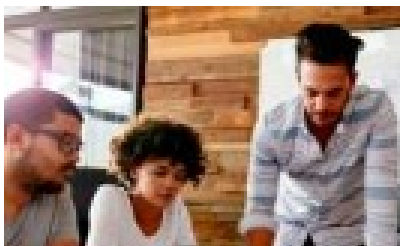
To further support students in their entrepreneurial journey, we are proud to be supporting scholarships to students for the new fully online, part-time [Postgraduate Certificate in Entrepreneurship](#).

This course provides another way to bring your business ideas to life, with support from the University of Manchester's team of leading entrepreneurial minds.

The deadline for applications is **22 May 2023**.

[Find out more](#)

## Resource Centre



## Social Enterprise

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

A [social enterprise](#) is a business that trades to tackle social problems, improve communities, people's life chances, or the environment. A social enterprise is a business,

not a charity, that makes money and profit. Discover what it means to be a social entrepreneur, how to set up a social enterprise.

[Read more](#)



[Masood Entrepreneurship Centre](#)

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