

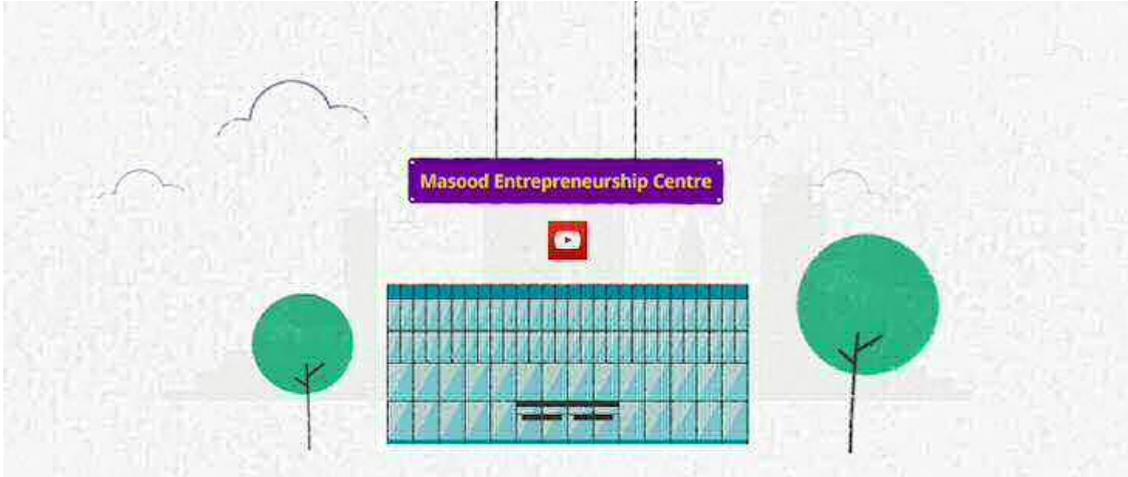
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Masood
Entrepreneurship
Centre

MEC Update

Issue 34 | 16 June 2023



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

MEC News

Celebrating the Visionaries of Change at the Social Enterprise Discovery Bootcamp!



We are thrilled to announce that two of Manchester's game changing social entrepreneurs will be joining us for the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre's Social Enterprise Discovery Bootcamp which runs across the 21 and 22 of June.

This two day socially engaged learning experience presents an opportunity to connect and collaborate with likeminded learners, while hearing directly from speakers who have walked the path of social entrepreneurship, having developed and started up their own organisations which are helping to drive social change, innovation, inclusivity and solidarity.

Dr. Nicola (Niki) Banks, a trailblazer from SEED, is soon to kickstart her transformative social enterprise, [One World Together](#) with the launch event taking place in June. Niki and her team have developed a platform which reimagines the landscape of charitable giving, ensuring that funds reach partner organisations across the globe on a long-term, predictable, and unrestricted basis.

We are also privileged to be joined by Beth Barnes, the inspirational founder of [Alternative Football](#), which is the North West's first and only fully inclusive football league for female and non-binary transgender people.

Don't miss out on your chance to listen and learn from our homegrown changemakers here at the University of Manchester. This event is the perfect place to explore and develop your own ideas, and maybe meet your future collaborators – so book your spot on our waiting list and join us in our mission to support positive social change.

[Read More](#)

Masood Entrepreneurship Centre - Market Research



Can you spare 2 minutes to complete our survey? We want to hear from you!

As we're planning our activities for next year, we want to know what you would love to see from MEC next year.

Complete our [survey](#) now to get your opinions heard.

Entrepreneurship Champions



Are you passionate about entrepreneurship? Are you interested in how being entrepreneurial can benefit everyone? Do you want to create student-led initiatives at the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre (MEC)?

Then our [Entrepreneurship Champion](#) role is perfect for you!

Being an entrepreneur isn't just about a start-up culture and making lots of money. Here at MEC, we want to educate and make students aware of how being entrepreneurial and having entrepreneurial skills can help you make a difference in your everyday life. You don't have to focus on starting up your own business and projects to be entrepreneurial!

As an Entrepreneurship Champion, you would become the face of MEC on campus. You will take the reins and put together a range of activities every semester to showcase the usefulness of entrepreneurial skills, whilst learning industry-needed skills and knowledge!

[Apply >>](#)

Spotlight on



MEC Alumni Entrepreneurs Showcase

The Masood Entrepreneurship Centre (MEC) has, for over 20 years, provided entrepreneurship education and applied practice through its unique model of both on-curricular and co-curricular programmes offered in all Schools and Faculties across the University of Manchester.

We are delighted to showcase, in a new brochure, examples of the innovative and impactful start-ups founded by our graduates. This brochure was included as part of the recent University Board of Governors Strategy Day.

These entrepreneurs have taken their education and experiences gained at our institution and turned them into successful ventures that are making a difference in the world.

We are proud to present their stories and achievements and we wish them continued success and look forward to seeing what the future holds for them and for all of our graduates who aspire to make a difference in the world through entrepreneurship.

[Read more](#)



Healthify Africa

Healthify Africa is an evidence-based wellness platform developed by Lynda Odoh, an MPH student at the University and a winner in the Social category of the 2021 Venture Further Awards. The app is now available after piloting across hospitals in Nigeria.

With approximately 17 million people dying annually from Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs), the app will empower users to make healthier lifestyle choices from the convenience of their phones and tabs.

For healthcare professionals, the Healthify App will minimize the missed opportunities for lifestyle counselling that happens as a result of limited consulting time and high work pressure from increasing patient load in a day-to-day clinic.

[Find out more](#)



Bundlee is crowdfunding

Bundlee is the UK's first rental subscription service for kidswear, founded by Master of Enterprise (MEnt.) graduate and Venture Further 2018 winner, Eve Kekeh. Bundlee gives

families a sustainable, convenient and affordable way to access clothes as their little ones grow. They've partnered with great brands like Stella McCartney, Patagonia and MORII!

Bundlee's crowdfund has just gone live on Seedrs, enabling you to join their journey to transform the kidswear industry for the better. Investments start from as little as £50. You'd be joining investors in Bundlee who include co-founders of Monzo and Sweaty Betty.

[Find out more](#)



How to start your own business in two (and a little more) days

Manya Girdhar, second prize winner in the Social category of this year's Venture Further Awards (pictured at the awards presentation with Laura Pulleyn), has published a blog post about her entrepreneurship journey. The post discusses her experience on the MSc. Innovation Management and Entrepreneurship (IME) course, winning the Bright Ideas Competition and then progressing to the Venture Further Startup Competition.

[Read more](#)



Reliability: why is it important and what could a career path in industry look like?

The Masood Entrepreneurship Centre ran an event with the Ministry of Defence, Atkins and the School of Engineering in April. Nick Barnett (CEng, FSaRS, DE&S Specialist Fellow), one of our speakers, is the Chief Reliability Engineer for Defence Equipment & Support (DE&S), the agency responsible for the provision and support of all equipment for the UK Armed Forces. Our second speaker Robert Smithers (MEng, MIMechE) is a Senior Reliability Consultant at SNC Lavalin's Atkins business and alumni from The University of Manchester. They discussed the use of technology that we use every day as civilians or in the military in Industry 4.0. They presented innovations and development of technologies such as Thales High-G Centrifuge and Vertical Aerospace VX4 and the importance of implementing reliability. The event will run again in the next academic year, for more information please contact Dr. Kassandra Papadopoulou.

[Read more](#)



UrbanChain Raises £5.25M Series A To Fuel International Growth

UrbanChain have announced that it has raised a £5.25m Series A round led by leading global investment firm Eurazeo through its venture expertise dedicated to the Climate and Smart City space.

Launched in 2017 and a winner in the 2018 Venture Further competition, the Manchester headquartered energy technology company runs the leading peer-to-peer (P2P) energy exchange in the UK, a unique energy market and trading platform for renewables.

UrbanChain has previously received significant investment from Innovate UK and the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero.

[Read more](#)

Competitions and Programmes



King's Awards for Enterprise

The UK is full of exciting and innovative businesses and The King's Awards for Enterprise is a great way of celebrating their success.

Whether a small business with a great innovative product or service, or a larger company running an impressive social mobility programme, this award is a prestigious way to recognise your contribution to enterprise.

The King's Awards for Enterprise are open to applications from almost all businesses and non-profits, of almost all sizes throughout the UK in every sector.

The 2024 Round is now open and closes on 12 September.

[Find out more](#)



Business Startup Bootcamp: MedTech

Run over two and a half days in July, this Business Startup Bootcamp will introduce you to many of the tools, methodologies and approaches that will enable you to design, test and de-risk your business model hypotheses.

The focus for the accelerator will be on Medtech related businesses, with a spark of an idea or an established MedTech company looking to launch innovative products or services.

The Bootcamps are well established and used to be part of the Alderley Park Accelerator, which has helped over 200 businesses in the past eight years. They are a great opportunity to learn about Lean Startup, but also network with experts and other innovators.

[Find out more](#)



One Health Pre-Accelerator

Secure your place on the OneHealth Pre-accelerator Programme! The leading pre-accelerator to help those with a passion for making animal and human health research stronger.

- Create real-world impact;
- Engage with technical and industry experts;
- Receive funding to carry out market testing;
- Expand existing skillset into marketing and business;
- Explore new funding opportunities;
- Gain access to follow-on support and training in Investor Readiness, Licensing and other programmes.

In partnership with Kainos, Pioneer Group and Innovate UK through Queen's University Belfast, HelixWay and its NxNw Consortium.

[Find out more](#)



Cancer Research Horizons Lean Launch Programme

Secure your place on the Cancer Research Horizons Programme! The leading online pre-accelerator to help those with a passion for making cancer research stronger.

- Create real-world impact;
- Engage with technical and industry experts;
- Receive funding to carry out market testing;
- Expand existing skillset into marketing and business;
- Explore new funding opportunities;
- Gain access to follow-on support and training in Investor Readiness, Licensing and other programmes.

In partnership with Cancer Research Horizons (Cancer Research UK's new innovation engine) and Innovate UK through Queen's University Belfast, HelixWay and its NxNw Consortium.

[Find out more](#)



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