



Entrepreneurship Programme and Event Guide

2025–26





EnSpire Oxford is the University of Oxford's entrepreneurship hub.

We help students, researchers, staff, and alumni get inspired to explore entrepreneurship, launch startups, and grow ventures. EnSpire sponsors entrepreneurial activities across the University, acting as a super-connector and central hub for opportunities. We run programmes, offer tailored support, and share the latest through our popular newsletter - making it easier for everyone at Oxford to get involved, stay informed, and build something new.

IDEA (Increasing Diversity in Enterprising Activities) is EnSpire's long-term initiative to increase diversity in entrepreneurship. We aim to strengthen a culture of belonging and representation through actions such as tailored coaching and investment support for women, funding inclusive student society events, supporting early-stage founders from underrepresented groups with grants, and showcasing diverse role models through public panels to foster an inclusive innovation community.

**Sign up to the
EnSpire newsletter
by scanning the
QR code.**



EVENTS AND PROGRAMMES

No matter what stage you are at in your entrepreneurial journey, there are a range of opportunities available to help you reach your entrepreneurial goals, from one-day bootcamps to term-long programmes.

All events and programmes have been categorised to help you decide which will suit you best:



INSPIRE: Entrepreneurial mindsets & skills



LAUNCH: Idea validation & venture creation



GROW: Founder support and venture acceleration



ALL STAGES: Skill-building, events & networking





Business Ideas Competition

***Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students,
Researchers, Staff, Alumni (within 2 yrs)***

Have a business idea that could make a difference? Open to students, researchers, staff, and recent alumni, the EnSpire Business Ideas Competition celebrates innovation across disciplines. No business plan is required, just a simple form or one-minute video submission. Winners gain cash prizes, recognition, certificates, and bootcamp invitations each term.



All-Innovate Bootcamp

***Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students,
Researchers, Staff, Alumni (within 2 yrs)***

Turn your idea into action at the All-Innovate Bootcamp, a hands-on one day programme helping you shape early-stage concepts into structured plans. Through practical tools, expert guidance, and collaboration, you'll refine your business model, test ideas, and connect with innovators - leaving with clarity, confidence, and next steps for development.





Innovation for All

***Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students,
Researchers, Staff, Alumni (within 2 yrs)***

Innovation for All is a series of engaging talks exploring innovation, entrepreneurship, and impact. The series showcases a diverse range of speakers who share their founder stories and entrepreneurial journeys, providing first-hand insights into the realities of building ventures and creating change. Attendees will have the chance to ask questions and take away lessons to inspire and shape their own entrepreneurial path.



Edge Sprints

***Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students,
Early Career Researchers***

In partnership with EnSpire, Oxford Edge will run a series of academic hackathons and innovation sprints designed to challenge and inspire undergraduates, postgraduates, and early career researchers from across the University. These will span disciplines, from science and technology to humanities and the social sciences, fostering creativity and cross-disciplinary collaboration. Participants from across departments and colleges will work together in teams to solve real-world problems, develop prototypes, and pitch innovative solutions. Each session will have a theme and the duration will vary from a single afternoon in a term to a sustained programme over weeks in the vacation periods.



Oxford Venture Builder

***Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students,
Researchers, Staff***

Oxford Venture Builder is a programme for all affiliates of the University of Oxford who are looking to develop their business ideas, whether individually or as a team. The programme is run by Oxford Saïd Entrepreneurship Centre, in partnership with EnSpire Oxford.



MIT X Oxford Faculty Founder Initiative

Application by Invitation

The MIT X Oxford Faculty Founder Prize Competition is a two-year initiative designed to help Oxford and MIT faculty turn human health innovations into real-world impact. From diagnostics and therapeutics to devices and AI-driven digital health, participants will benefit from a supportive cohort, expert mentorship, commercialisation workshops, investor introductions, and tailored resources. The programme also offers two fully funded trips to MIT, a \$10,000 annual flexible stipend, and consulting support from MIT Sloan MBA students. Faculty will compete for major awards, including a \$250,000 Grand Prize.



#StartedinOxford Showcase

Open to all University and community members

Listen to Oxford's brightest new startups pitch for prizes at the #StartedinOxford Showcase; a truly interactive entrepreneurship event part of Oxford Tech Week. Attendees choose the winners by investing £1000 #StartedinOxford pounds in their favourite startups, while founders gain excellent exposure and a chance to practice their pitch. Expect insights into the Oxford entrepreneurship ecosystem & unrivalled networking opportunities.





StEP Ignite

Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students

StEP Ignite is a student entrepreneurship programme run by Oxford University Innovation (OUI) and Oxford Edge, supported by EnSpire. Open to all University of Oxford students, it offers the chance to develop your own idea or one from Oxford's IP library into an impactful venture. The core programme runs for four weeks, with an optional four-week extension for those who want to take their projects further. Teams collaborate to refine ideas and pitch to a panel of judges, with prizes, mentoring, and tailored support available. Participants can also continue their journeys through the OUI Startup incubator, building ventures with lasting impact.



Investment Training

Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students, Researchers, Staff, Alumni (within 2 yrs)

Investment Training is a termly workshop designed for founders at the launch and grow stages. It provides a practical introduction to funding and investment, covering company structures, different types of investors, and key considerations when seeking capital. The session aims to demystify investment, build confidence, and give participants a clear foundation for their next steps.



Startup Incubator

***Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students,
Researchers, Staff, Alumni***

The Startup Incubator, run by Oxford University Innovation, tailors the support you need to fit the specific challenges of your new venture. Phase 1 allows startups to refine concepts, validate ideas and launch their venture. During Phase 2, startups can scale operations, refine products, secure funding, and access specialised guidance for venture acceleration.







The Oxford Moonshot

DPHils, Early Career Researchers

The Oxford Moonshot is a new programme of support for DPHils and Early Career Researchers, to help them launch and grow rapidly-scalable ventures, championing bold ideas with the potential for high impact. The programme combines workshops, founder talks, industry clinics and peer-to-peer sessions to equip founders with the skills at determination to act. Through mentoring and leadership coaching, founders build resilience and the skills to make the tough decisions needed to build change-making ventures. The Oxford Moonshot is designed for those looking to translate big ideas into real-world change.



Professional 1-2-1 Clinics

Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students, Researchers, Staff

Benefit from free one-off consultations with experienced professionals, from lawyers and accountants to business coaches and sector specialists. These clinics are designed to give Oxford students, staff, and researchers practical insights and tailored advice to help them overcome challenges, explore opportunities, and take the next step in their entrepreneurial journey.



Understanding Intellectual Property

Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students, Researchers, Staff

This termly online session will introduce what intellectual property (IP) is, who owns it, and the key considerations when you believe you've created IP. Real case studies will be shared by members of the Innovation and Engagement team at the University, as well as colleagues from Oxford University Innovation, to illustrate the University's policy in practice.



Pitch & Mix

Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students, Researchers, Staff, Alumni (within 2 yrs)

Pitch & Mix is Oxford's team formation event designed to connect ideas with collaborators. Founders present their ventures, outlining expertise they're seeking, while participants share skills and interests. Through pitches, networking, and conversation, this event helps entrepreneurs find co-founders, teammates, and partners across the University's diverse innovation ecosystem.





EnSpire Founder Grants & Student Society Grants

Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students, Researchers, Staff, Alumni (within 2 yrs)

These two EnSpire Grants are designed to provide targeted funding to support entrepreneurship at Oxford, with opportunities for both individuals and student societies. Some funding will be reserved for initiatives that highlight or support women and diversity in entrepreneurship.

Founder Grants offer up to £1,000 for early-stage startup teams to take their next step, whether building a prototype, developing a website, or meeting potential clients. With 20 grants available, funding is awarded on a rolling basis and includes check-ins with EnSpire to ensure meaningful progress.

Student Society Grants provide £500 to help Oxford student societies deliver entrepreneurship-focused events such as talks, workshops, and networking activities.



SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

UNIVERSITY SUPPORT

Entrepreneurial support at Oxford is rich and wide-ranging, offering pathways, training and support for every stage of the journey. Alongside EnSpire, students, staff and researchers can access guidance, mentoring, and venture support from Oxford Saïd Entrepreneurship Centre and the Careers Service, to Oxford University Innovation and Oxford Edge. Other initiatives such as MPLS Enterprise, and Enterprising Women nurture skills and confidence, while innovation hubs including Begbroke Science Park's Agile Lab and the BioEscalator provide space to test, grow, and scale impactful ideas.

Visit enspire.ox.ac.uk/support to find out more.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Oxford provides a strong ecosystem for students and researchers interested in social enterprise. The Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship develops entrepreneurial leaders tackling global challenges, while the Oxford SDG Impact Lab offers hands-on projects with external partners. The ImpactU Hub delivers training and support for socially responsible ventures, and Social Shifters connects changemakers through digital resources. Locally, OSEP champions social enterprises and purposeful businesses. Together, these initiatives help transform ideas into meaningful impact.

Visit enspire.ox.ac.uk/social-enterprise to find out more.

FUNDING AND COMPETITIONS

As well as the EnSpire Founder Grants and Student Society Grants, we are here to help you explore further funding opportunities, both within the University and beyond. This includes Oxford Seed Fund - the largest student-led venture capital fund in Europe, providing startups and entrepreneurs with access to capital and a supportive ecosystem in which to develop and scale. Other funding opportunities include the Santander X Global Award, The Hult Prize and the Social Shifters Global Innovation Challenge, as well as internal university funds and research funding opportunities.

Visit enspire.ox.ac.uk/funding to find out more.

ONLINE TRAINING & RESOURCES

Want to explore entrepreneurship from the comfort of your own home? You're in luck! A great place to start is E-School - a free online learning platform for University of Oxford students and staff, run by Oxford Saïd Entrepreneurship Centre. Available 24/7, the platform includes over 2,400 minutes of easy-to-consume, on-demand content and features an array of sessions from investing and funding to technology and leadership. There are also a variety of online resources to be found on the EnSpire website, including entrepreneur profiles, startup case studies, a startup tips video series and an entrepreneurship ecosystem map.

Visit enspire.ox.ac.uk/online-resources to find out more.



ENSPIRE OXFORD PARTNERS

EnSpire works with key partners within the University to provide a wide range of core entrepreneurial programmes and events. Find out more about each partner here.



Oxford University Innovation (OUI) contributes to the University's societal benefit by working with staff and

students to apply their expertise and research. They have a bold vision of creating a world-leading innovation ecosystem with the University of Oxford at its heart. EnSpire Oxford works in partnership with OUI's Startup Incubator and their student focused programme, StEP Ignite.





Oxford Saïd Entrepreneurship Centre equips Oxford Saïd students and the wider university with the skills and

mindset needed to think and act entrepreneurially in the modern innovation economy. The Centre does this by providing experiential learning, local and global networks, and thought leadership.



The Careers Service supports University of Oxford students, researchers, and alumni. Their aim is to

educate and resource students, enabling them to navigate the complex jobs market and make informed career decisions.



Oxford Edge, launched in 2025 with support from EnSpire Oxford and a broad consortium of partners, equips

students across all disciplines with entrepreneurial education and practical mentoring. Open to all Oxford colleges and departments, Oxford Edge brings together academic knowledge, industry expertise, and alumni support to foster student ventures from social impact through to science and technology, alongside a vibrant calendar of programmes and events.

enspire.ox.ac.uk

