

Entrepreneurship Programme and Event Guide

2023-24



EnSpire Oxford is the University of Oxford's entrepreneurship hub, with a mission to help support and encourage entrepreneurship, while highlighting the vast range of entrepreneurial opportunities found at the University of Oxford. We work closely with all entrepreneurship supporters and partners within the University, including the Careers Service, University of Oxford, The Entrepreneurship Centre at Saïd Business School and Oxford University Innovation to provide practical resources for aspiring entrepreneurs, no matter what stage they may be at.

EVENTS AND PROGRAMMES

No matter what stage you are at, there are a range of opportunities available to help you reach your entrepreneurial goals. Events are open to all stages, but to help you decide which programme will suit you, each has been labelled as one of the following stages:

INSPIRE: Inspiration and entrepreneurial mindsets

EQUIP: Basic training and entrepreneurial skills

LAUNCH: Idea and venture development.

GROW: Venture acceleration

Activities can be explored and booked via our skills and career development platform, Inkpath, allowing you the opportunity to track your progress, set goals and choose the path that is best for you.



BUILDING A BUSINESS

This lecture series is designed to teach the fundamentals of developing a business, providing practical information and examples of successful entrepreneurship. Run by the Entrepreneurship Centre at Saïd Business School, in partnership with EnSpire Oxford.

INSIGHT INTO STARTUPS

Insight into Startups is a term-long skills development programme made up of inspiring guest speaker sessions, group exercises, and in-person training, all leading to a micro-internship placement to put the learning into action. The programme is run by the Careers Service, University of Oxford in partnership with EnSpire Oxford.

* Open to current matriculated students at the University of Oxford (with the exception of freshers)

THE OXFORD SAÏD ENTREPRENEURSHIP FORUM (OSEF)

A one-day conference to promote entrepreneurship and innovation, hosted by the Entrepreneurship Centre at Saïd Business School and held annually.

ALL INNOVATE

Do you have an idea that you think could improve society in some way? Wondering whether to pursue it but feel unsure on the next steps? All Innovate is a competition for those at the idea stage.

FUTURE LEADERS INNOVATION PROGRAMME (FLIP)

FLIP is a skills development programme open to students who want to gain the skills to innovate. The programme is run by the Careers Service, University of Oxford, in partnership with EnSpire Oxford, and it leads to an ILM Level 3 Award in Leadership and Management.

OXFORD VENTURE BUILDER

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

IDEA PEER MENTORING

This programme brings together women* entrepreneurs to learn about key processes necessary for setting up and growing a successful business. Each cohort will receive expert advice and get the chance to expand their networks.

*And those who identify as women or non-binary

#STARTEDINOXFORD DEMO NIGHT

A celebration of the Oxford startup scene, featuring a selection of hand-picked startups, spinouts and social enterprises linked to the University of Oxford and Oxfordshire in a fresher's fair style setup.

STARTUP INCUBATOR

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.

PITCH @ THE PUB

A fun and engaging event to find out about new and up-and-coming startups in Oxford, during which a group of pitchers will have a few minutes each to talk about their startups.



MIX @ SIX

An informal entrepreneurial networking event run in collaboration with the Oxford Seed Fund. This event provides the perfect opportunity to meet and connect with fellow entrepreneurs and innovators in the local community.



UNDERSTANDING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP)

This online session will help you to understand what IP actually is, who "owns" it, and the things to think about when you think you have created IP. Case studies will also be presented to help explain the University's policy.

STEP IGNITE

A student entrepreneurship programme run by Oxford University Innovation in partnership with EnSpire Oxford, bringing teams of entrepreneurial students together to develop innovative business ideas.



RESOURCES

IDEA – Increasing Diversity in Enterprising Activities

IDEA is a set of long term and sustainable actions aimed at addressing inequalities in entrepreneurship. By providing resources and opportunities to underrepresented groups, IDEA promotes a more equitable and dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystem. IDEA's main focus is currently on gender but will be broadening the scope as the programme develops. Current initiatives include the Peer Mentoring programme, as well as a dedicated Wonder Women entrepreneur profile series.

E-School

E-School is a free online learning platform for Oxford students, run by the Entrepreneurship Centre at Saïd Business School. The platform includes over 2000 minutes of easy-to-consume, on-demand content featuring over 60 modules of sessions, from investing and funding to technology and leadership. It helps aspiring student entrepreneurs start, grow and scale their own high-growth startups and in-demand skills. The content is delivered by world-leading entrepreneurs, investors, business leaders and academics, alongside people from the military, sports and the arts.

Oxford Seed Fund

The Oxford Seed Fund is 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. It invests in pre-seed/seed stage University of Oxford affiliated companies, in sums between £20,000 to £100,000. Run by the Entrepreneurship Centre at Saïd Business School, and supported by Oxford Science Enterprises, the fund sources and evaluates up to 200 potential opportunities, conducts due diligence and invests in ten startups every year.



ENSPIRE OXFORD PARTNERS

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

C The Careers Services, University of Oxford

The Careers Service supports all 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. EnSpire Oxford works in partnership with the University of Oxford Careers Service to provide the Future Leaders Innovation Programme and Insight into Startups programme.

The Entrepreneurship Centre at Saïd Business School

The Entrepreneurship Centre at Saïd Business School plays a pivotal role in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship within the School's community, as well as among the broader student body and alumni of the University of Oxford. The Centre offers a comprehensive suite of programmes designed to cater to various stages of entrepreneurial development, from ideation to scaling. EnSpire Oxford works in partnership with the Entrepreneurship Centre, facilitating key programmes such as the 'Building a Business' and 'Oxford Venture Builder', in addition to providing support for their flagship event, Oxford Saïd Entrepreneurship Forum (OSEF).

Oxford University Innovation

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.

