

About the National Consortium of University Entrepreneurs

The National Consortium of University Entrepreneurs (NACUE) is a fast-paced, grassroots organisation that stimulates university enterprise by supporting and representing enterprise societies, enterprising students and student entrepreneurs in universities across the UK.

Founded in December 2008 by 12 leading enterprise society presidents and launched in May 2009, NACUE now engages over 70 university enterprise societies across the UK, supports over 85 universities in stimulating student-led activity and represents the views of over 40,000 enterprising students to policy-makers in all levels of government, industry and education.



Supporters

NACUE is sponsored by Microsoft, Tata, NCGE, IBM, Deloitte, Oracle, Meltwater Group and Lloyds TSB; receives critical support and incubation from London Metropolitan University, with office space in Accelerator London; and is supported by an esteemed Advisory Board, including Alan Barrell (Cambridge Angel & Cambridge University Entrepreneur in Residence), Julie Meyer (CEO of Ariadne Capital), Doug Richard (CEO of School4Startups), Tony Robinson (CEO of SFEDI), Paul Lucraft (Former MD of Mastercard), and Houston Spencer (VP Marketing of Alcatel-Lucent).

Context

With youth unemployment at a record level and graduates facing unprecedented competition for the all-too-few graduate jobs that are available, it is essential that student's and graduate's skills, employability, and business creation potential are developed if we are to avoid a 'lost generation' of long term unemployed graduates. Enterprise and entrepreneurship education, be it in-curricular or extra-curricular is invigorating an outdated education system to ensure that students develop the confidence, the skills and the ambition required not only to start a business, but also called for repeatedly from employers of all sizes.

While educators and researchers work hard to reform universities from within by embedding enterprise in the curriculum, independent student-led enterprise clubs and societies like the 70+ that NACUE supports, trains and connects, are already delivering significant success. These societies build enterprise ecosystems from the ground up to bring together local entrepreneurs and SMEs, university alumni and the many fragmented resources, events and opportunities from various university departments and external stakeholders, in order to help inspire and support nascent student entrepreneurs within their membership base.

Supporting Societies

NACUE supports the sustainable development of such societies with the vision that within 3 years there will be a thriving network of student-led groups in every university in the country providing the essential informal peer-to-peer support and inspiration needed by young entrepreneurs to succeed. NACUE offers unique expertise to both existing societies and to staff and students looking to get societies

started and it nurture societies as they grow year on year, helping them become and remain reliable and trustworthy organisations that the universities and other stakeholders can rely on for delivery of critical support programmes for students.

Supporting Entrepreneurs

NACUE also runs flagship events to recognise and champion student and graduate entrepreneurs. With such events NACUE aims to go above and beyond what any single society can achieve alone. With the National Student Enterprise Conference, the National Varsity Pitch Competition, our School 4 Startups Tour with Doug Richard and other initiatives, NACUE aims to push student enterprise to the forefront of the agenda for the media – challenging them to accurately represent young people and the amazing achievements that are all-too-often going unrecognised in traditional media.

NACUE has also developed world-class support programmes for student and graduate entrepreneurs through 3-day Enterprise Bootcamps which have been successfully piloted in London with 50 young entrepreneurs benefiting from intensive training, mentoring and inspiration. NACUE has also piloted a Ventures Academy in late April, where student and graduate entrepreneurs convened in the newly built Hauser Forum in Cambridge to spend 2 days with a collection of the UK's leading angel investors, venture capitalists and high growth entrepreneurs to learn about investment, to get investment ready and to compete for a chance to pitch for investment at a deal day in late May.

Advocacy

Finally, we run significant advocacy campaigns and projects focused around recognition, support and empowerment of enterprise societies and enterprising students.

Within Education we lobby and advise individuals and organisations from staff within specific universities, right up to international university membership networks. We work to change the image of enterprise societies and position them as credible organisations that with support and training from NACUE can be relied upon to deliver critical enterprise promotion to students within universities.

Within Government we lobby and advise policy makers in all relevant departments, agencies and other entities around the critical role that enterprise societies play, and the importance of delivering resources to them rather than continuing the inefficient top-down delivery of enterprise initiatives within universities. In January 2010 we launched the Enterprise Alliance UK (www.enterpriseallianceuk.co.uk) with Enterprise Educators UK and the Institute for Small Business & Entrepreneurship – leading membership-based organisations for enterprise educators and academics & researchers respectively. The Alliance allows the three organisations to put forward an independent voice on enterprise education to Ministers, Shadow Ministers and other government stakeholders. NACUE is also currently leading on the formation of an All Party Parliamentary Group on Enterprise & Entrepreneurship Education.

Founded Dec 2008
Launched May 2009

Stats

Supporting 70+ societies
Engaging 85+ HEIs
Representing 40,000 enterprising students

Governance:

Student Advisory Board
Senior Advisory Board
-Alan Barrell (Chair)
-Julie Meyer
-Doug Richard
-Paul Lucraft
-Houston Spencer
-Tony Robinson

Founding Sponsors:

-Tata
-Microsoft

Incubation & Support

-London Metropolitan University & Accelerator London

Supporting Societies

-Annual national leaders training weekend
-Biannual regional events
-24/7 advice & guidance
-Advocacy & lobbying
-Supporting creation of new societies

Supporting Students

-3 day Start-up Bootcamps Package
-National Student Enterprise Conference
-National Varsity Pitch Competition
-Venture Academies

Advocacy

-Launched Enterprise Alliance UK with EE UK and ISBE
-Running lobbying campaign in run-up to election
-Working to launch APPG on HE Enterprise
-Sit on formal and informal advisory boards
-Give speeches on wide range of topics