

# ENTERPRISE IN LONDON: GUIDE

## **Interested in Entrepreneurship?**

Find out about the opportunities, events and possibilities that London has to offer for budding entrepreneurs like you, with this useful guide to enterprise in the capital.

**LONDON'S EVENING UNIVERSITY**

# ENTERPRISE IN LONDON: GUIDE

## HAVE A BUSINESS IDEA? NOW IS TIME TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!

*You're studying at Birkbeck, you're based in London and you have a business idea; this is a recipe for success and you're in the right place.*

*This guide from Birkbeck's Enterprise Pathways team will take you through the vast opportunities available to you. Regardless of your course of study, if you have a business idea that you want to take forward you will find plenty of useful information and guidance here.*

*We'll provide a journey through the extensive offering that London brings for budding entrepreneurs, from free resources and incubators to funding support and start-up competitions; you'll get a flavour for where entrepreneurship happens in London.*

*Wherever you're reading this, we're sure you'll find ideas that will inspire you to progress your idea and we're excited to be part of your journey!*

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP QUIZ: DO YOU HAVE IT IN YOU TO BE AN ENTREPRENEUR?

We found this interesting self-assessment quiz on Forbes. Even though we believe entrepreneurs are made and not born, some people do have a knack for starting their own thing and being their own boss. This doesn't only entail a great risk-taking spirit and unparalleled resilience; it also includes embracing failure, openness to experience and flexibility.

The quiz assesses each of the five personality factors by examining six secondary traits that comprise each factor (See explanations of each factor on the link provided). The quiz is adapted from the Entrepreneurial Personality Quiz in Instinct: Tapping Your Entrepreneurial DNA to Achieve Your Business Goals, by Thomas L. Harrison. The five factors underpinning the model are Openness to Experience, Conscientiousness, Extroversion, Agreeableness, and Neuroticism – OCEAN.



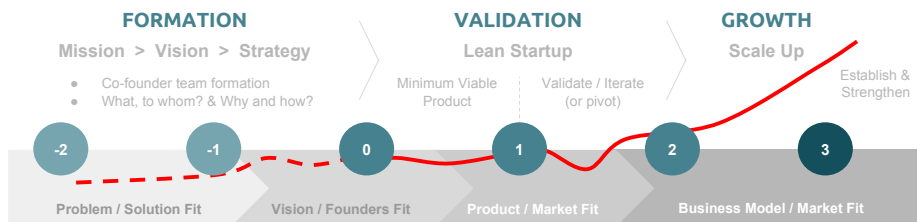
The questions present hypothetical situations drawn from Harrison's interviews with hundreds of successful entrepreneurs. Each answer says something about your entrepreneurial bent, though some answers yield a neutral result (suggesting someone neither more nor less entrepreneurial in nature).

**SEARCH ONLINE:** Forbes Entrepreneur Personality Quiz

**DIRECT LINK:** [forbes.com/2010/08/02/entrepreneur-personality-quiz-thomas-harrison-entrepreneurs-management-serial-startups-10-quiz.html](https://forbes.com/2010/08/02/entrepreneur-personality-quiz-thomas-harrison-entrepreneurs-management-serial-startups-10-quiz.html)

## FROM IDEATION TO CREATION

Startup Commons, a global non-profit start-up consultancy, developed a simplified framework on the start-up development phases:



### Ideating

Entrepreneurial ambition and/or potential scalable product or service idea for a big enough target market. Initial idea on how it would create value. One person or a vague team; no confirmed commitment or no right balance of skills in the team structure yet.

### Concepting

Defining mission and vision with initial strategy and key milestones for next few years on how to get there. Two or three entrepreneurial core co-founders with complementary skills and ownership plan. May be additional team members for specific roles also with ownership.

### Committing

Committed, skills balanced co-founding team with shared vision, values and attitude. Able to develop the initial product or service version, with committed resources, or already have initial product or service in place. Co-founders shareholder agreement (SHA) signed, including milestones, with shareholders time & money commitments, for next three years with proper vesting terms.

### Validating

Iterating and testing assumptions for validated solution to demonstrate initial user growth and/or revenue. Initial Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) identified. Can start to attract additional resources (money or work equity) via investments or loans for equity, interest or revenue share from future revenues.

### Scaling

Focus on KPI based measurable growth in users, customers and revenues and/or market traction & market share in a big or fast growing target market. Can and want to grow fast. Consider or have attracted significant funding or would be able to do so if wanted. Hiring, improving quality and implementing processes

### Establishing

Achieved great growth, that can be expected to continue. Easily attract financial and people resources. Depending on vision, mission and commitments, will continue to grow and often tries to culturally continue "like a startup". Founders and/or investors make exit(s) or continue with the company.

Startup Development Phases - From idea to business and team to organization.

Version 3.0 - [www.startupcommons.org](http://www.startupcommons.org)



The framework helps to understand the start-up journey, identify key stages and to help develop a start-up from “idea to business” and from “founding team to organisation” in a balanced and understandable manner. For a new idea, you do not just need to visualize the innovation process itself; you need to project your idea to generate value as a product and business model. To develop all of these together, you need to be fully

devoted to creating a business model of a growing business and organisation that captures the value being created.

As you can see from the figure, the journey starts with Ideation through to Validation until you reach Establishment. Going through it, do you think your entrepreneurial ambition has the potential to eventually achieve growth and attract financial resources?

**LINK:** [startupcommons.org/](http://startupcommons.org/)

## WHERE ENTREPRENEURSHIP HAPPENS IN LONDON

London is a hub. You would be surprised how many events, acceleration/incubation programmes, networking opportunities and much more are out there for early entrepreneurs like you, as well as others who are more established. We've aimed to map where such events and opportunities happen in the capital for you to explore along your journey.



# 1. GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES



## BRITISH LIBRARY BUSINESS AND IP CENTRE

The Business and IP Centre supports small business owners, entrepreneurs and inventors. For an early-stage entrepreneur you can develop your ideas with the centre's market research and company databases, learn new skills at a workshop or mini-masterclass, or have a one-to-one with successful entrepreneurs and experts in their field. The centre also provides information clinics and research service. Their flagship programme, Innovating for Growth, offers £10,000 worth of free support. If you're after more specialised start-up support, they have a dedicated programme for that too.

**LINK:** [bl.uk/business-and-ip-centre](https://bl.uk/business-and-ip-centre)

**STAGE:** Start-up and early stage

**INDUSTRY:** Any

**FUNDING:** Yes

**TYPES OF INTERVENTION:** Training and business resources, mentorship for start-ups, workshops and events, protecting ideas and related IP

## INNOVATE UK

The UK government is giving entrepreneurship specific attention and there is no better time to start a venture. Innovate UK is the UK's innovation agency; it's an executive, non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The department strives to determine which science and technology developments will drive future economic growth and publishes an annual delivery plan to summarise its programmes, funding competitions and industries of interest. Not only does Innovate UK fund innovation, they also pair innovative entrepreneurs in science and tech with business partners and industry leaders. Make sure you subscribe to the blog and check out their annual delivery plan.

### LINKS:

- [gov.uk/government/organisations/innovate-uk/about](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/innovate-uk/about)
- [gov.uk/government/publications/entrepreneurs-setting-up-in-the-uk/entrepreneurs-setting-up-in-the-uk](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/entrepreneurs-setting-up-in-the-uk/entrepreneurs-setting-up-in-the-uk)

**STAGE:** Any

**INDUSTRY:** Science and tech

**FUNDING:** Yes

**TYPES OF INTERVENTION:** Innovation funding advice, events, networking with experts and industry leaders

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### MAYOR'S ENTREPRENEUR COMPETITION

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The Mayor's Entrepreneur competition is in partnership with Citi Foundation and is a funding competition for students in London. If you've got a business idea that provides a creative solution to the environmental and social challenges that London faces, this is the competition for you.

**LINK:** [london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/smart-london-and-innovation/mayors-entrepreneur-competition](https://london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/smart-london-and-innovation/mayors-entrepreneur-competition)

**STAGE:** Ideation / early

**INDUSTRY:** Ideas focussed on sustainability, helping London's environmental and social challenges

**FUNDING:** Seed

**TYPES OF INTERVENTION:** Competitions, internship opportunities, prizes and networking

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### HORIZON 2020

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For established start-ups and innovative SMEs, Horizon 2020 is definitely worth looking into. You must partner up with two other start-ups or research organisations in two different countries to form a three-member consortium. The Horizon 2020 programme was established by the European Union (EU) as a collaborative financial instrument that would help secure Europe's global competitiveness in research and innovation. The programme, which will end in 2020, aims to put Europe at the heart of world-class science and innovation, making it more competitive, creating economic growth and new jobs. It offers an open, simple structure for accessing funding in order to remove barriers to collaborative innovation.

**LINK:** [gov.uk/business-finance-support/horizon-2020-business-grants-uk#additional-information](https://gov.uk/business-finance-support/horizon-2020-business-grants-uk#additional-information)

**STAGE:** Early growth (1-2 years) and established

**INDUSTRY:** Science, industrial leadership, societal challenges

**FUNDING:** Yes

**TYPES OF INTERVENTION:** Competitions, internship opportunities, prizes and networking

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### THE DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE'S (DIT) GLOBAL ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAMME (GEP)

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This initiative targets global entrepreneurs looking to expand their businesses to the UK. DIT's GEP places international entrepreneurs in the UK through domestic seeding competitions and accelerator programmes. So if you're an international business person looking to expand your company to the UK, this is the programme to get involved with. Here's what the DIT says on the UK being an ideal expansion ground:

- The UK has one of the lowest corporation tax rates in the G20
- You can register a company within 48 hours
- The labor force is the second largest in the Europe
- The UK government offers support to start-ups and entrepreneurs

The programme also sponsors your Entrepreneur visa to come to the UK. To do this you will need to have received at least £50,000 of funding from an approved organisation (venture capital firm, UK government, or through one of the DIT's endorsed seed competitions listed on the link provided).

**LINK:** [gov.uk/government/publications/entrepreneurs-setting-up-in-the-uk/entrepreneurs-setting-up-in-the-uk](https://gov.uk/government/publications/entrepreneurs-setting-up-in-the-uk/entrepreneurs-setting-up-in-the-uk)

**STAGE:** Early stage / Start-ups

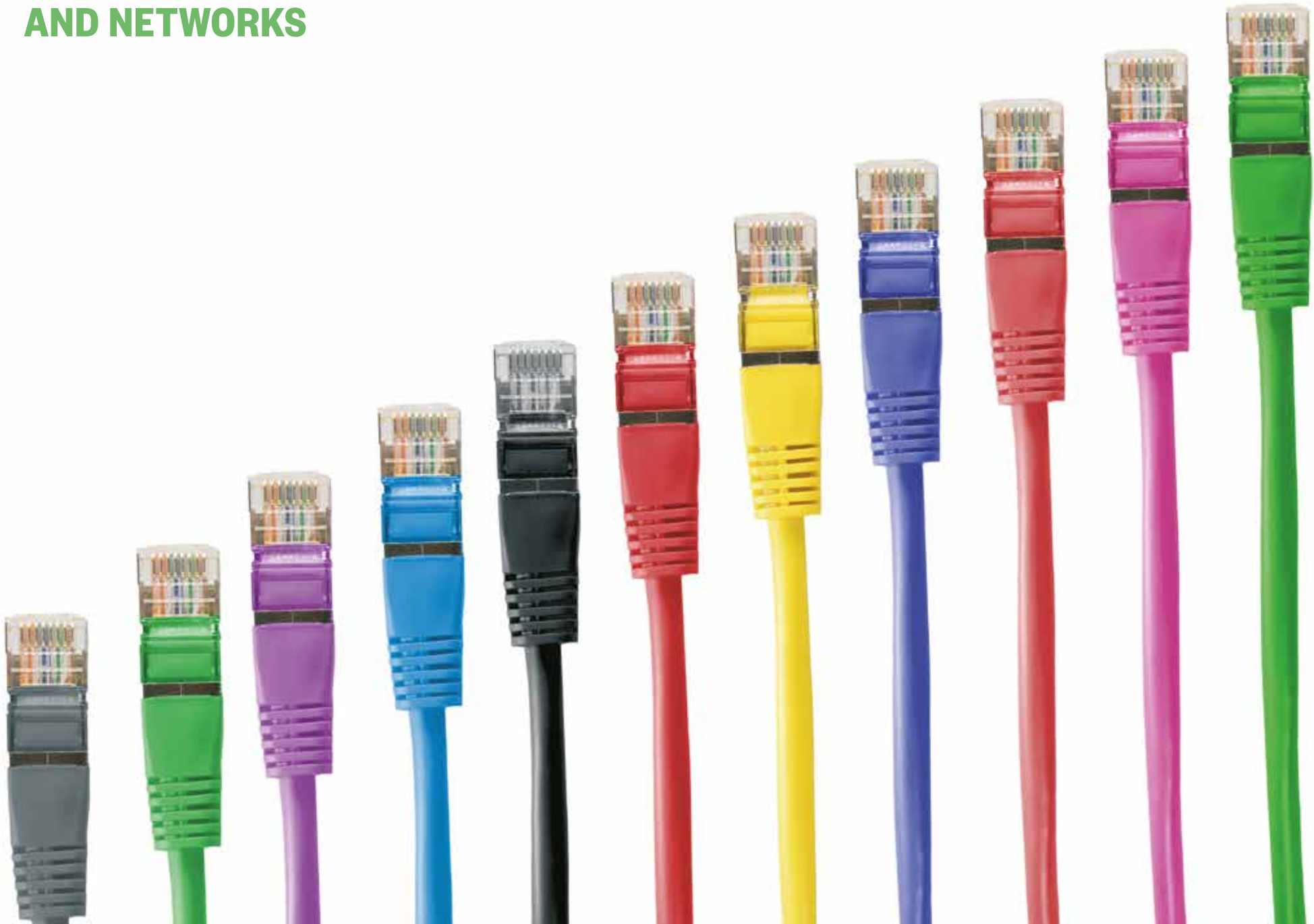
**INDUSTRY:** Technology

**FUNDING:** Seed

**TYPES OF INTERVENTION:** Approved seed competitions, advice on setting up/relocating a business in the UK

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## 2. ONLINE PLATFORMS AND NETWORKS



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### STARTUPS.CO.UK

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This is perhaps the UK's leading, independent online resource for anyone starting and growing a business. Startups.co.uk is the largest and most comprehensive advice platform available covering practically everything you need to know to start, buy, run or sell a business.

Whether you're wondering where to start, how to find an idea, or how you can export, franchise, design a logo, hire talent, or to prepare your start-up for an IPO that is going public in the stock market, you will find it on startups.co.uk. This is a great place to start your entrepreneurial journey.

**LINK:** [startups.co.uk/about-us/](http://startups.co.uk/about-us/)

**STAGE:** Any

**INDUSTRY:** Any

**FUNDING:** No

**TYPES OF INTERVENTION:** Comprehensive online business resources directory

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### TECH.LONDON

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As it states on their website, Tech.London is "your guide to the startup community, events and jobs in London." Sponsored by the Mayor of London and a group of partners in London's tech community, Tech.London is a great source for the tech start-up scene and what's happening in the capital.

You'll want to specifically check out their incubator/accelerator databases and where relevant events and investors are based in London. It's great for business sources as well but not as comprehensive as Startups.co.uk. Tech.London is essentially the go-to guide for tech startups and entrepreneurs. The massive platform connects and supports London's expanding entrepreneurship ecosystem. It includes all the latest information and resources that people in London need in order to access opportunities within the tech sector, to network and connect with likeminded people, and grow their businesses.

**LINK:** [tech.london/](http://tech.london/)

**STAGE:** Startup and early

**INDUSTRY:** Technology

**FUNDING:** No, funding advice available

**TYPES OF INTERVENTION:** Community and networking, databases for incubators/accelerators and co-working spaces, writing business plans, mentorship and networking, funding advice, doing business in London.

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### ACCELERATOR ACADEMY

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The Accelerator Academy is a 12 week, high growth training and mentoring programme for digital entrepreneurs looking to grow their business through training, mentoring and access to capital. The programme focuses on start-up and early stage high growth potential tech, media, telecoms (TMT) businesses and ambitious entrepreneurs. After an online assessment, successful applicants take part in part-time and evening courses. Additionally they are personally mentored by successful exited TMT entrepreneurs.

**LINK:** [acceleratoracademy.com](http://acceleratoracademy.com)

**STAGE:** Start-up, early stage

**INDUSTRY:** Tech, media, telecommunication

**FUNDING:** Seed

**TYPES OF INTERVENTION:** acceleration program, mentorship, coaching, access to capital

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### ACCELERATOR LONDON

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Opened in 2005 by the London Metropolitan University, Accelerator was one of the very first business incubators in Shoreditch. Accelerator helps passionate entrepreneurs start new businesses and they have helped thousands of companies to grow over the past 10 years, boasting £8.8 million in raised investment and more than 120 jobs created. Accelerator houses 30 of London's best technology start-ups with successful scale teams and establishment in global markets.

**LINK:** [accelerator-london.com/startups/](http://accelerator-london.com/startups/)

**STAGE:** Start-up, early stage

**INDUSTRY:** Tech

**FUNDING:** No, funding advice available

**TYPES OF INTERVENTION:** Incubation, co-working spaces, networking, coaching, events and meetups.

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## 3. SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS

### NESTA

It's probably the largest innovation foundation out there, and Nesta's objective is to "combine knowledge, networks, funding and skills to back new ideas that tackle big challenges." They work in a wide spectrum of industries including education, healthcare, the arts, technology, and economic policy. Nesta is actually a charitable foundation, which launches projects in a staggering number of industries across all stages and provides venture investments. Don't forget to check their start-up acceleration programmes.

**LINK:** [nesta.org.uk/our-projects](https://www.nesta.org.uk/our-projects)

**STAGE:** Any

**INDUSTRY:** Any

**FUNDING:** Yes

**TYPES OF INTERVENTION:** Training and mentorship, funding, research, competition and prizes



### NITROUS LONDON

Nitrous is a platform that fuels effective collaboration between industry leaders, start-ups and government. Think knowledge-based economy, sustainable innovation and commercialisation of innovation. The programme pairs innovative start-ups with industry leaders and government in order to develop new and improved technologies and solutions which have societal impact. Nitrous operates three best-of-breed programmes, focusing on the three key stages of each start-up as it moves from idea to impact. Those stages are: problem/solution fit stage, product/market fit stage, and business/solution fit stage.

**LINK:** [nitrous.london/how-it-works/](https://nitrous.london/how-it-works/)

**STAGE:** Any

**INDUSTRY:** Ideas with societal impact: transport, city planning, buildings, social programmes, water, education, government, public safety, energy

**FUNDING:** No

**TYPES OF INTERVENTION:** Acceleration programmes, networking, mentorship

### NEW ENTREPRENEURS FOUNDATION

New Entrepreneurs Foundation (NEF) is a great option if you think you have an entrepreneurial drive but you don't know where to start or you don't have the means to. NEF places you in a promising start-up for 12 months for the mission of "building market-leading businesses and play a key role in driving Britain's future prosperity." If you already have a start-up you can host an entrepreneur through this programme as well.

**LINK:** [newentrepreneursfoundation.com/programme-explained/](https://www.newentrepreneursfoundation.com/programme-explained/)

**STAGE:** Early

**INDUSTRY:** Any

**FUNDING:** Seed funding

**TYPES OF INTERVENTION:** Work placement, coaching and mentorship, networking, events

## 4. FUNDING

### BUSINESS GROWTH FUND (BGF)

Techworld rated BGF as the largest UK-focused venture fund. BGF is an investment company that provides growth capital for ambitious entrepreneurs running growing UK companies. At its simplest, the growth capital BGF provides is long-term, patient equity funding, between £2m–£10m, which businesses use to execute their strategic plans.

**LINK:** [businessgrowthfund.co.uk/growth-capital-2/](https://businessgrowthfund.co.uk/growth-capital-2/)

**STAGE:** Early growth

**INDUSTRY:** Any except regulated financial services

**FUNDING TYPE:** Equity funding, mixed investment structure depending on size, e.g. equity and unsecured debt. Minority stake investment and board seat.

**TYPES OF INTERVENTION:** Patient long-term equity funding, advising, partnerships

### BRIDGES FUND MANAGEMENT

If your start-up or idea has a social cause you might be familiar with Bridges Fund Management. The fund provides “capital that makes a difference” and attempts to generate investment returns through social and environmental challenges. The fund strives to address big societal challenges such as creating jobs in underserved areas, delivering better health outcomes, or reducing carbon emissions, while driving strong commercial performance.

**LINK:** [bridgesfundmanagement.com/what-we-do/](https://bridgesfundmanagement.com/what-we-do/)

**STAGE:** Start-up and early

**INDUSTRY:** Social businesses, sustainable growth and living, education, health

**FUNDING TYPE:** Impact investment

**TYPES OF INTERVENTION:** Impact advice, training future impact investors, networking with impact investors

### VIRGIN STARTUP

Virgin StartUp offers a great variety of online business resources starting from a business plan template to a complete guide on government grants. The organisation is government-backed and offers start-up business loans with favorable terms to early stage entrepreneurs. You can borrow up to £25,000 with a fixed 6% interest p.a. over 1-5 years in addition to free mentoring.

**LINK:** [virginstartup.org/](https://virginstartup.org/)

**STAGE:** Start-up and early

**INDUSTRY:** Any

**FUNDING TYPE:** Startup loans

**TYPES OF INTERVENTION:** Advice, loans and mentoring, events and masterclasses, business resources

### SEEDRS

Crowdfunding is also big on the entrepreneurship funding front. Seedrs is more on the investor support side but as an entrepreneur you should check it to see if it is a platform you could consider for your business.

**LINK:** [seedrs.com/](https://seedrs.com/)

**STAGE:** Any

**INDUSTRY:** Any

**FUNDING TYPE:** Equity crowdfunding

**TYPES OF INTERVENTION:** Investor network, investor relations, admin services, multi-currency, secure and cross-border investments

## 5. FOOD STARTUPS

*Many may associate entrepreneurship purely with tech and finance but this certainly not the case. Food and drink are increasingly getting a larger slice of the pie in terms of incubation/acceleration programmes, funding, internship opportunities and more.*

### KITCHENETTE

Kitchenette is a food start-up incubator that provides talented food entrepreneurs with London's top mentors, great street food, pop-up residencies and access to investors.

**LINK:** [wearekitchenette.com/](http://wearekitchenette.com/)

**STAGE:** Startup and early

**INDUSTRY:** Food

**FUNDING TYPE:** No

**TYPES OF INTERVENTION:** Working space with partners, one-year incubation programmes, mentorship, access to investors

### CROWDFOODING

Crowdfunding is a crowdfunding platform for food and tech startups. The platform aims to help entrepreneurs by allowing them to sell their products through their site, as well as connecting them with other foodies.

**LINK:** [crowdfunding.co.uk/](http://crowdfunding.co.uk/)

**STAGE:** Startup and early

**INDUSTRY:** Food

**FUNDING TYPE:** No

**TYPES OF INTERVENTION:** Crowdfunding, networking



## 6. SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

*Did you know that one in five SMEs in the UK is a Social Enterprise? Essentially a social enterprise is a business which has a social purpose of benefitting communities across the world. London is one of the Social entrepreneurship hubs of Europe. The social innovation ecosystem is continually developing and entrepreneurs who run social ventures or are working on social causes will certainly be able to find support in London.*

### UNLTD

UnLtd is the leading provider of support to social entrepreneurs in the UK and offers one of the largest social entrepreneurship networks in the world. UnLtd supports hundreds of social entrepreneurs each year through its core Awards programme. It also invests directly in individuals and offers a complete package of resources; from awards and funding to ongoing advice, networking and practical support.

**LINK:** [unltd.org.uk](http://unltd.org.uk)

**STAGE:** Any

**INDUSTRY:** Social ventures: education, ageing, unused community spaces

**FUNDING TYPE:** Yes

**TYPES OF INTERVENTION:** Annual award programmes, crowdfunding, networking, mentorship

### BIG POTENTIAL

If you're looking for funding for your social enterprise Big Potential is definitely worth looking into. The London-based organisation is a Big Lottery Fund grant (fund that distributes National Lottery-raised money for social causes). Big Potential delivers approximately £20m of grant funding over 3 years to voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations with the aim of improving the sustainability, capacity and scale of such enterprises so that they deliver greater social impact.

**LINK:** [bigpotential.org.uk/learn](http://bigpotential.org.uk/learn)

**STAGE:** Any

**INDUSTRY:** Voluntary, community and social enterprises organizations

**FUNDING TYPE:** Yes

**TYPES OF INTERVENTION:** Specialist business support, workshops and events, advanced and specialist grants, diagnostic services, online business resources



### CLEARLYSO

Through its investor networks, ClearlySo connects entrepreneurs with impact investors. The advisory firm helps businesses work on growth, strategy and fundraising to scale their impact. If your enterprise has got what it takes, ClearlySo will support your capital-raising activities through financial advisory work, and introduce you to institutional and individual investors who share your objectives and values.

**LINK:** [clearlyso.com](http://clearlyso.com)

**STAGE:** Any

**INDUSTRY:** Any

**FUNDING TYPE:** No

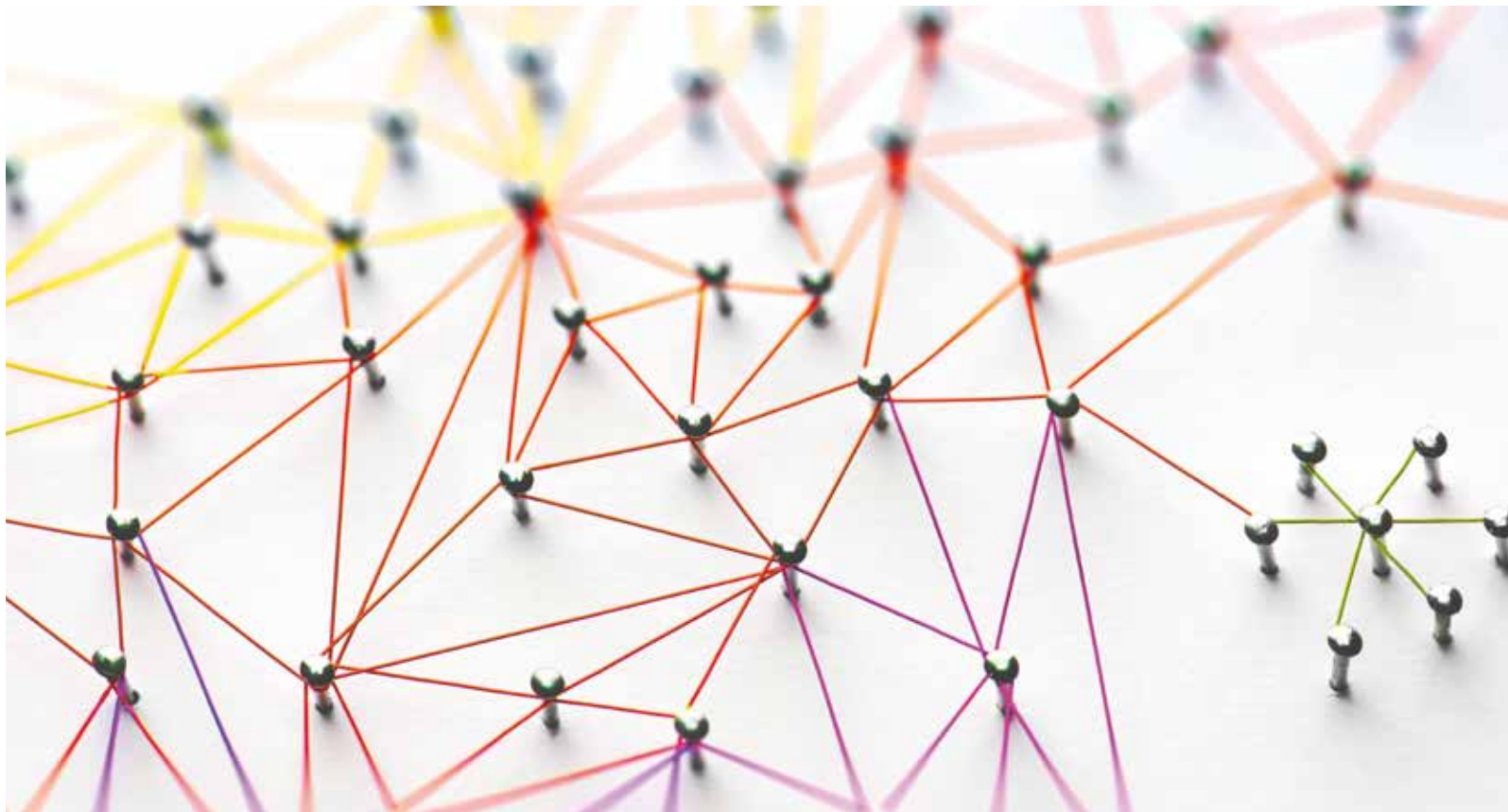
**TYPES OF INTERVENTION:** Networking, advising, mentorship, access to investors

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## 7. NETWORKING, EVENTS AND MEETUPS

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*Whatever stages you're at with your venture, in London you have access to hundreds of events and meetups every month to inspire, guide and develop you. Often run by established and early entrepreneurs, you'll be broadening your network and connecting with likeminded people who could end up supporting you in more ways than one.*



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### GOOGLE CAMPUS

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Part of the global Campus network, Google Campus London is based in Bonhill Street, East London. Mostly for the tech sector, you will have access to workshops and events for early stage entrepreneurs. Through Campus you will be able to make meaningful connections and potentially find your next business investor, co-founder, or recruit.

**LINK:** [campus.co/london](https://campus.co/london)

**STAGE:** Startup and early

**INDUSTRY:** Tech

**FUNDING TYPE:** No

**TYPES OF INTERVENTION:** Meetups, mentoring sessions, networking, startup school

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## THE PITCH UK

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The Pitch UK is an annual championship which crowns a champion every year through a bootcamp programme. Pitch UK is a pitching competition aiming at evolving into one of the UK's small business programmes, geared up to educate and enable entrepreneurs to take their businesses further. We highly value their model.

**LINK:** [thepitch.uk](http://thepitch.uk)

**STAGE:** Startup and early

**INDUSTRY:** Any

**FUNDING TYPE:** No

**TYPES OF INTERVENTION:** Networking, mentorship, expert business training, bootcamps and events

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## STARTUP GRIND

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Powdered by Google for Entrepreneurs, Startup Grind is a global start-up network designed to educate, inspire, and connect entrepreneurs. Mainly for tech startups, you will find numerous events, talks and workshops for early entrepreneurs delivered by successful and established founders. There is also a global conference for the other Startup Grind hubs. Ensure you check their events schedule to update your calendar.

**LINK:** [startupgrind.com/london](http://startupgrind.com/london)

**STAGE:** Start-up and early

**INDUSTRY:** Tech

**FUNDING TYPE:** No

**TYPES OF INTERVENTION:** Networking, events, conferences, mentorship

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## DO YOU KNOW WHAT AIM IS?

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Alternative Investment Market (AIM) is a stock exchange for young companies. For the last 20 years it has attracted an increasing number of investors. AIM is the London Stock Exchange's international market for smaller growing companies. A wide range of businesses including early stage, venture capital backed as well as more established companies join AIM seeking access to growth capital.

[londonstockexchange.com/companies-and-advisors/aim/aim/aim.htm](http://londonstockexchange.com/companies-and-advisors/aim/aim/aim.htm)



# AND OF COURSE THERE'S MORE...

Understandably, it doesn't stop here. When it comes to supporting entrepreneurship in any stage or industry, London is prolific. This guide has hopefully provided you with an insight into what's out there in the capital, the opportunities you can explore and where you can find support specifically for you and your venture.

We have also compiled the following list for you to browse and find suitable support quickly:



## CO-WORKING SPACES, INCUBATION, ACCELERATORS

### TECHSTARS

[techstars.com/programs/london-program/](https://techstars.com/programs/london-program/)  
Accelerator program

### TECH CITY UK

[techcityuk.com/about-us/](https://techcityuk.com/about-us/)  
Acceleration program for digital businesses

### HIGH GROWTH SPACE

[level39.co/news/high-growth-space/](https://level39.co/news/high-growth-space/)  
Co-working spaces and bespoke acceleration programs and curricula.

### CO-WORKING LONDON

[coworkinglondon.com/](https://coworkinglondon.com/)  
Online directory: listing detailed information about London's co-working spaces, incubation/acceleration programs, start-up awards and tech event. Details include every space's capacity, specific features, included amenities, etc.

### BARCLAYS ACCELERATOR

[barclaysaccelerator.com/#/london/](https://barclaysaccelerator.com/#/london/)

## FUNDING, VENTURE CAPITAL FIRMS

### CROWD VELOCITY

[crowd-velocity.co.uk/](https://crowd-velocity.co.uk/)

Crowdfunding platform; Industries: social, sustainable, creative, innovative, tech

### LONDON GROWING PLACES FUND

[london.gov.uk/WHAT-WE-DO/regeneration/what-weve-funded-so-far/growing-places-fund](https://london.gov.uk/WHAT-WE-DO/regeneration/what-weve-funded-so-far/growing-places-fund)

Supporting innovative ways of creating jobs and skills in emerging sectors, supporting growth in business and investment, and increasing productivity

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## COMPETITIONS, AWARDS, PRIZES

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### THE PITCH UK

[thepitch.uk/#intro](http://thepitch.uk/#intro)

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### MAYOR'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP COMPETITION

[london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/smart-london-and-innovation/mayors-entrepreneur-competition](http://london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/smart-london-and-innovation/mayors-entrepreneur-competition)

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### UNLTD

[https://unltd.org.uk/about\\_unltd/](https://unltd.org.uk/about_unltd/)

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### SANTANDER UNIVERSITIES

#### ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARDS

[santander.co.uk/uk/santander-universities/entrepreneurship-business](http://santander.co.uk/uk/santander-universities/entrepreneurship-business)

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## EVENTS, MEETUPS, NETWORKING

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### GOOGLE CAMPUS

[campus.co/london/en/](http://campus.co/london/en/)

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### START-UP GRIND

[startupgrind.com/london/](http://startupgrind.com/london/)

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### CREATIVE MORNINGS

[creativemornings.com](http://creativemornings.com)

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### MEETUPS

[meetup.com/cities/gb/17/london/](http://meetup.com/cities/gb/17/london/)

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## SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS, ADVISORY FIRMS, EDUCATION

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### LONDON GROWTH HUB

[growthhub.london/about-us/](http://growthhub.london/about-us/)

Online business resource for startups

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### THE LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP FOR LONDON (LEAP)

[lep.london/about](http://lep.london/about)

Consultative and advisory body established by the Mayor. Connects entrepreneurs and business together to identify strategic actions to support economic growth and job creation

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### PROPEL DELOITTE

[propelbydeloitte.com/?utm\\_source=deloittehomeandutm\\_medium=landing\\_pageandutm\\_campaign=deloitte%2Fpropel](http://propelbydeloitte.com/?utm_source=deloittehomeandutm_medium=landing_pageandutm_campaign=deloitte%2Fpropel)

Accounting and analytics firm for start-ups at affordable rates

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### TEACH FIRST

[teachfirst.org.uk/](http://teachfirst.org.uk/)

Entrepreneurship education: Partnering with schools, disadvantaged pupils, universities and charities to teach young people about entrepreneurship

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### MIND THE BRIDGE

<http://mindthebridge.com/>

Entrepreneurship education: fostering a sustainable, global entrepreneurial ecosystem, spur innovative ideas, and create a new generation of entrepreneurs and success stories.

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## MENTORSHIP

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### CLEARLYSO (SOCIAL ENTERPRISE)

[clearlyso.com/](http://clearlyso.com/)

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### KITCHENETTE (FOOD)

[wearekitchenette.com/](http://wearekitchenette.com/)

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### VIRGIN STARTUP

[virginstartup.org/](http://virginstartup.org/)

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### NEW ENTREPRENEURS FOUNDATION

[teachfirst.org.uk/](http://teachfirst.org.uk/)

<http://newentrepreneursfoundation.com/programme-explained/>

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### BRITISH LIBRARY BUSINESS AND IP CENTRE

[bl.uk/business-and-ip-centre](http://bl.uk/business-and-ip-centre)

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### NETSA

[ncsta.org.uk/our-project](http://ncsta.org.uk/our-project)



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Study in a world-class research environment



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## GET IN TOUCH

If you want to find out more about the enterprise support you can access as a Birkbeck student, or if you're keen to get involved with Enterprise Pathways, contact us:

**Email:** [enterprise@bbk.ac.uk](mailto:enterprise@bbk.ac.uk)

**Visit:** [bbk.ac.uk/enterprise](http://bbk.ac.uk/enterprise)