

School of Business and Management Entrepreneurship Hub

Annual Report 2025/2026





Contents



Welcome	page 5
Meet the Team	page 6
Meet the Advisory Board	page 7
Our Year in Pictures	page 8
Our Programmes	page 9
• Queen Mary Social Venture Fund	page 10
• Centre for Second Chances and Inclusive Entrepreneurship (CSCiE)	page 13
• Live Consultancy Projects	page 16
• SKETCH	page 18
• Social StartUp Challenge	page 20
Our Year in Review	page 22
Thank you	page 28

Welcome

The 2025-2026 academic year has been one of growth, collaboration and impact for the Entrepreneurship Hub.

Across all the Hub's initiatives, we have seen a remarkable surge in student curiosity, drive and creativity and we continue to nurture and provide the entrepreneurial skills, tools, mentorship and opportunities our community needs to turn ambition into reality. Our mission is to empower the next generation of trailblazers and changemakers by making entrepreneurship accessible, inclusive and relevant to Queen Mary University of London students and beyond.

Through our curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular programmes and initiatives, alongside mentoring and strategic partnerships, we help students develop the entrepreneurial competencies, mindsets and confidence to turn ideas into action.

This includes combining training from real-world venture capital partners and experiential learning through the Queen Mary Social Venture Fund; or ensuring entrepreneurship is inclusive and provides pathways for second chances through initiatives such as QMUL-ReMAKE; or driving innovation within SMEs, startups and community organisations through SKETCH and Live Consultancy projects.

Our close collaboration with Queen Mary Entrepreneurial Support and Training (QUEST) and Queen Mary Innovation (QMI) has strengthened the vibrant entrepreneurship ecosystem across Queen Mary and beyond.

This report celebrates the impact of our work: the growth of our community, the development of our programmes and the Hub's increasing reach across Queen Mary and the communities we serve. It also marks the continued development of our team, including the arrival of new colleagues and stronger partnerships that have enabled us to broaden our support and deepen our impact.

None of this would have been possible without the people who make the Entrepreneurship Hub what it is. We are incredibly grateful to our students for their curiosity, creativity and drive to embrace new challenges; to our staff for their passion and dedication; and to our mentors, alumni, partners, friends and colleagues whose guidance, expertise and experience have been instrumental in our successes.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this continued success. We look forward to building on this momentum and creating even greater impact in the year ahead.

Professor Joanne J. Zhang

Founding Director, Entrepreneurship Hub

Meet the Team

What makes the Entrepreneurship Hub thrive is not just what we do, but how we do it – together.

Our team spans strategy, operations and delivery, but shares one common thread: a genuine belief in the power of entrepreneurship to change lives and a commitment to making that belief real for every student and organisation we work with.



Professor Joanne J. Zhang

Professor of Entrepreneurship & Strategy
Founding Director of Queen Mary
Entrepreneurship Hub



Dr Gloria Appiah

Lecturer of Entrepreneurship & Innovation
Deputy Director of Queen Mary
Entrepreneurship Hub



Rui Barros Silva

Entrepreneurship Hub Manager



Dr Anna Glarin

Entrepreneurship Hub Officer



Jodie Bispham

Entrepreneurship Hub Coordinator



Nandini Aggarwal

SKETCH* Coordinator

*Student Knowledge Exchange Through Community Hubs

Meet the Advisory Board

The success of the Entrepreneurship Hub is built on the strength of our community and we owe a great deal of thanks to our Advisory Board. Their vision and guidance have shaped our direction this year, helping us expand our programmes and launch new ventures while staying true to our mission.

We are deeply grateful for their time, commitment and passion in helping us build a more inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem.



Tim Farazmand
Co-founder at PCB Partners



Sinead Finn
Founder at affinity



Oli Freestone
Director at AlixPartners



Dr Kameel Khan
Founder at Project
ReMAKE UK



Elizabeth Lee
Co-Founder and CEO at
Carbon Cell



Katherine Toledo Macedo
Consultant at Baringa



Michaela Mattinson
Head of Optimisation and
Growth at Barclays

Our Year in Pictures



2025/2026 Programmes

The Entrepreneurship Hub supports the community through a broad range of initiatives, from intensive one-day workshops to year-long immersive programmes and everything in between, including:

The Queen Mary Social Venture Fund (QMSVF)

Delivered with The Creator Fund, this student-led venture capital fund supports socially impactful start-ups while giving students hands-on investment experience.

QMUL-ReMAKE

Delivered with Project ReMAKE, this programme supports prison-leavers in developing entrepreneurial skills and building pathways into employment and self-employment.

Real-World Impact Projects

Interdisciplinary student teams tackle live challenges for charities, social enterprises and impact-led start-ups, applying their skills to deliver tangible value to the community.

Each programme connects students with a vibrant ecosystem of entrepreneurs, investors and industry experts by helping them build the skills, confidence and networks they need for future careers and ventures.

Our work is deeply rooted in supporting society, opening up opportunities for those who need it most, so that no one is left behind.

We hope you find this report inspiring; to learn more or get involved, please get in touch – we would love to hear from you!

The Entrepreneurship Hub Team

 www.qmul.ac.uk/sbm/entrepreneurship-hub/

 ent-hub@qmul.ac.uk



Queen Mary Social Venture Fund

Now in its sixth year, the Queen Mary Social Venture Fund (QMSVF) continues to give students a unique opportunity to make real investment decisions by supporting early-stage ventures driving positive social change.

Delivered in partnership with global venture capital partner, The Creator Fund, students build impact investment expertise and develop entrepreneurial knowledge, critical thinking, teamwork and leadership skills, preparing them to become future investors and entrepreneurs.

The QMSVF Pitch Competition served as the final showcase of months of learning and hands-on experience, culminating in the selection of the most exciting and investment-ready ventures by student investors.

Congratulations to DotPlot, winner of QMSVF's 2025-2026 £15,000 investment and a huge thank you to the other six finalists who made this year so competitive: Air Aware Labs, Arcus Dental, Nattura, The Canerow Company, Harker and Orbion Connect.



Founded by Shefali Bohra and Debra Babalola (pictured below, first and second from the left), DotPlot is an innovative UK health-tech company developing a handheld ultrasound device with a companion mobile app to guide users through regular breast self-examinations.



Queen Mary Social Venture Fund

The success of QMSVF relies heavily on our external partners and mentors. We are incredibly grateful to The Creator Fund for their industry-leading training. Special thank you to this year's mentors: Alina Hassan, Sinead Finn, Jake Fox, David Miller, Ved Nathwani and Thomas Panton. Their invaluable guidance has helped our students grow into confident investors and future leaders, ready to back ventures that make a real difference to society.



Reflections behind the impact

"The Queen Mary Social Venture Fund is a brilliant initiative that we're delighted to have taken part in. From the start of the application process we have been supported by incredible individuals within the university and beyond. The investment goes a long way in helping us shape the future of breast health monitoring."

Debra Babalola

Co-founder at DotPlot and QMSVF winner

"Before QMSVF, I was more reserved and passive, whereas now I find it much easier to express my ideas and opinions. QMSVF really brought me out of my shell regarding sharing my thoughts critically."

Abishaan Saravanabavan

MSc Artificial Intelligence

"QMSVF helped me develop a range of entrepreneurial skills, including deal sourcing, due diligence and adaptability, as well as soft skills such as communication, leadership and initiative. QMSVF also provided opportunities for me to build my network with founders."

Marion Shenelle Mah

LLB Law

"QMSVF pushed me out of my comfort zone in the best possible way. Working with peers challenged me to listen more carefully and challenge my own assumptions. I became more confident in voicing my analysis and more comfortable sitting with ambiguity."

Bao Tran

BSc Business Management

Queen Mary Social Venture Fund



Numbers behind the impact

~180

Start-ups
sourced

58%

Female
participation rate

6

Schools
represented

15

UG & PG
Programmes

89%

Students gained confidence in
building professional networks

95%

Students gained confidence in
entrepreneurial thinking

Centre for Second Chances and Inclusive Entrepreneurship (CSCiE)

Following six years of successful collaboration between the Entrepreneurship Hub and Project ReMAKE UK, the Centre for Second Chances and Inclusive Entrepreneurship (CSCiE) was launched in April this year.

QMUL-ReMAKE remains one of the Hub's flagship programmes, ensuring entrepreneurship stays inclusive and accessible to all.



Following the launch of the CSCiE, we are excited to announce that from September 2026, QMUL-ReMAKE will be delivered under the new Centre, which will strengthen support for formerly incarcerated individuals and other marginalised communities. We welcome new partners to create opportunities and meaningful changes; please get in touch if you are interested.



ReMAKE graduation and launch of CSCiE

On 16 April 2026, we celebrated the achievements of 9 entrepreneurs who graduated from the programme this academic year, supported by 26 students and 13 mentors.

More than 100 guests joined for the QMUL-ReMAKE graduation ceremony and the launch of the Centre for Second Chances and Inclusive Entrepreneurship. The event was made even more special by a video message from Lord Timpson, Minister of State for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending, congratulating us on the launch of the Centre.

A message from Lord James Timpson
Minister of State for Prisons, Probation
and Reducing Reoffending



Centre for Second Chances and Inclusive Entrepreneurship (CSCiE)

Reflections behind the impact

"I've had an excellent experience with my student advisors, whose proactive approach has made a real difference in my journey. They consistently went above and beyond, always checking in, anticipating challenges and offering support before I even asked. Their ability to translate their academic practice into real-world applications has helped me think more strategically and confidently about my next steps."

QMUL ReMAKE entrepreneur, 2025-2026

"Prison leavers need someone to irrationally believe in them – the results will soon follow."

Kameel Khan

Founder of Project ReMAKE UK

"Project ReMAKE has allowed me to see myself in a different light, open new doors and let go of the past, in exchange for the future."

Omar Mentesh

QMUL-ReMAKE entrepreneur, 2021-2022

"Aligned with Queen Mary's mission to be the most inclusive university of its kind, anywhere, the new centre aims to support entrepreneurs who may be excluded from traditional pathways, unlocking their potential and enabling entrepreneurship to be a force for inclusion, opportunity and impact."

Professor Joanne J. Zhang

Director of the Entrepreneurship Hub

"It's a wonderful opportunity to really embrace the talent that we all know is within our prisons and second chances that so many people desperately want. It will really change many lives and bring all that together and that helps change so many people's lives."

Lord Timpson OBE

Minister of State for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending



Centre for Second Chances and Inclusive Entrepreneurship (CSCiE)

Reflections and numbers behind the impact

"Taking part in ReMAKE as a student advisor has been a truly rewarding experience that has shaped both my personal perspective and professional development: I had the pleasure of working with an inspiring individual whose ambition and determination stood out and the programme helped me develop a range of key transferable skills."

Andrea Souza Amadeu

LLB Law

"ReMAKE has been an incredibly eye-opening experience that has allowed me to learn about the journey of a small business and of a formerly incarcerated person, as they navigate life after prison. Being part of this programme feels like you are helping with a wider societal matter as you are directly helping to alleviate the pressure on the Court and Justice Services and Probation, whilst being part of someone's second chance."

Muhammed Abdul Wahid

BA History and International Relations

"Joining ReMAKE has been a meaningful experience. I really enjoyed the process from start to finish and it had a much bigger impact on me than I would have expected. Supporting a prison-leaver with their business plan was not only rewarding, but also inspiring, as it gave me the opportunity to contribute to someone's personal and professional journey."

Zaeem Navid

MSc Economics

"ReMAKE has significantly shifted my perceptions of formerly incarcerated individuals. Before the programme, I was aware of the structural challenges they face, but I had not fully understood the depth of barriers, stigma and lack of opportunity that remains after release. The programme made me realise how important support systems and inclusive initiatives are in enabling real second chances."

Anastasia Godlidze

BSc Marketing and Management

26

Students
advisors

9

ReMAKE
Entrepreneurs
supported

~12h

Weekly skills
development

+500h

Total student
engagement
hours

Live Consultancy Projects

This academic year saw the introduction of the Live Projects module, part of the MSc Entrepreneurship and Innovation programme, as an exciting, practical alternative to the traditional dissertation.

The module allows students to work directly with selected start-ups and organisations, delivering real solutions to complex business challenges.

Over five months, eleven students worked alongside three start-ups and one charity in a consultancy-style role.

Following three formal client meetings and extensive research, students delivered a final in-person presentation and took part in a live Q&A session.

As part of their final assessment, students also produced a comprehensive research report and a high-level executive summary for each client.

The Entrepreneurship Hub is proud to foster strong partnerships that connect education, entrepreneurship and impact. Together, we create opportunities for students and organisations to learn, collaborate and grow.

We extend our sincere thanks to the following partner organisations for their continued support.

- **Clean Break**, a charity using theatre to transform lives and challenge perceptions of women affected by the criminal justice system.
- **ViWipe**, an affordable, non-invasive HPV self-test to improve access to cervical cancer preventions.
- **FlowSense**, an award-winning start-up improving accessibility to period care.
- **Decentials**, founded by QMUL-ReMAKE graduate Mahlechi Hunte, providing people in prison with essential items that promote dignity and wellbeing.



Live Consultancy Projects

"The Entrepreneurship and Innovation Projects module has been a valuable addition to the MSc Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management programme.

It is a real opportunity for our students to support startups with a social mission, enabling them to apply the knowledge and skills developed throughout the programme while making a meaningful contribution to ventures creating positive social impact.

The module was launched for the first time this year and we are absolutely delighted with how it has gone and look forward to building on its success in the years ahead.

We are especially grateful for the enthusiasm and commitment of our students and the excellent collaboration of our startup partners."



Dr Gloria Appiah

MSc Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme Director
and Deputy Director of Queen Mary Entrepreneurship Hub

Reflections behind the impact

"I didn't know what to expect but it was a brilliant project. I've never come across anything like it. The students really understood the business. They helped us understand that our unique message is key to our success and become more strategic in our approach."

Mahlechi Hunte

Founder of Decentials

"I've previously worked with organisations, but I've never been responsible for finding solutions to clients' problems. This project has been a fantastic learning experience and it helped me develop professional skills."

Dhruv Khandelwal

MSc Entrepreneurship and Innovation
Management

"Before starting this project, I thought businesses just focused on profit making. My opinion has changed through this project: business should also create social value while remaining commercially sustainable."

Rohan Chandrashekar

MSc Entrepreneurship and Innovation
Management

"What's so exciting about working with students is that they're willing to explore and ask questions. Students have been very attentive, respectful and collaborative between them. It's really been a rewarding experience for us."

Muna Daud

Founder at Flowsense

SKETCH

(Student Knowledge Exchange Through Community Hubs)

SKETCH is Queen Mary's Student Knowledge Exchange award-winning programme.

The programme is built on four guiding principles: Employability, Interdisciplinarity, Inclusivity and Local Rootedness and is delivered through a multidisciplinary areas such as law, heritage, technology, finance and business and management.

As the founding pillar of SKETCH, the Entrepreneurship Hub is committed to opening opportunities, developing real-world skills and creating meaningful impact for our community and beyond.

Alongside sister QMUL pillars such as qLegal, qNomics and qTech, the Entrepreneurship Hub connects students with local businesses, individuals and community partners to deliver workshops, training, advice and consultancy-style projects that solve real-world problems.

This year the projects ranged from a public opinion enquiry and social media strategy development to a reporting framework, a learning resource and audience research and evaluation.

Students from the School of Business and Management (SBM) and the School of Society and Environment (SSE) supported six clients: Jigsaw House Society, History of Parliament Trust, Oxford House, Swadhinata Trust, Museum of the Home and Barts Health Archives NHS.



Numbers behind the impact



External
organisations
participating



QM students
involved



Consultancy
hours delivered
per student

SKETCH

(Student Knowledge Exchange Through Community Hubs)

Reflections behind the impact

"I think working on a project like this is a great opportunity to implement the skills you learn throughout your degree, like research, presenting, etc., into a real-world scenario and to see how your skills can make an impact. It also helps to see how your skills and the things you learn in your degree are relevant and important in the workplace."

Sara Roque

BA International Relations with Business Management

"It's an amazing experience to put onto a CV but the skills it teaches are really invaluable: teamwork, work ethic and meeting project goals on time are all skills that will be necessary for the future, so it is great to build upon them through this project."

Alessandro Angelov

BA History and Politics

"I learned how to work in a team and also developed professional relationships with people from real organisations. I gained social skills and more knowledge on real world issues."

Usman Nawaz

BSc Business and Management

"Taking part in a project like this provides valuable opportunities to network and build relationships with others."

Neslihan Sahin

BA Politics and International Relations



"We had a brilliant cohort of enthusiastic and engaged students who worked very well to meet a precise, but ambitious brief. This is the first engagement initiative that we've completed with non-History students and it has been refreshing to gain the insight of students working in different fields. From a corporate (rather than research) perspective it has reaffirmed that students with variety of subject perspectives and expertise can engage effectively with the Trust. We've been very impressed with how the project was managed."

Dr Martin Spychal

Senior Research Fellow & Digital Humanities Lead, History of Parliament Trust



Social StartUp Challenge

The Social StartUp Challenge, led by the Entrepreneurship Hub's Deputy Director, Dr Gloria Appiah, is a hands-on, high-energy entrepreneurship challenge that takes place annually.

Held in March 2026, this year's challenge invited students from all levels and disciplinary backgrounds across the university to explore how entrepreneurship can address real-world social issues and create meaningful impact.

Twenty students joined us for the full-day workshop, engaging in practical idea development to test, pitch and validate early-stage ideas into clearer venture concepts. Participants were supported by seasoned entrepreneurs: Dr Jelena Aleksic, Usha Kong, Dr Arjuna Sathiaseelan and Neil Yeomans, who also served as judges and mentors to the student groups.

The challenge gave students the opportunity to build entrepreneurial confidence, collaborate across disciplines, receive expert feedback and identify clear next steps to continue developing their ideas beyond the day.



Congratulations to the winning team, Cortexa, for creating and pitching a solution that enables parents to recognise potential developmental support needs early and access appropriate guidance and resources.

An impressive interdisciplinary team whose combined expertise helped shape Cortexa's success and brought together Renata Doré (MSc Entrepreneurship & Innovation Management), Saba Siddiqui (MSc International Marketing and Business Strategies), both from the School of Business and Management and Radhika Garewal (MSc Cancer, Molecular and Cellular Biology, Barts Cancer Institute).

By bringing together students, entrepreneurs and industry experts, the programme provided a valuable platform for developing ideas with the potential to create meaningful social impact.

Numbers behind the impact



Students gained:
confidence validating business ideas
enhanced innovative thinking
stronger problem-solving skills

Social StartUp Challenge

Reflections behind the impact

"The energy throughout the day was absolutely incredible. We had four interdisciplinary student teams who were challenged to design their own social innovation venture, conduct user interviews, build an MVP and deliver a final pitch. Their ability to combine technical creativity with a strong sense of social purpose was deeply inspiring. Events like this remind me of the vast innovation potential within our universities when students are encouraged to explore purpose driven entrepreneurship. We need more of these!"

Arjuna Sathiaseelan

Social StartUp Challenge Mentor

"Mentoring at the Social StartUp Challenge was a very rewarding experience. It was inspiring to see students engage so openly with the process of social entrepreneurship and to watch their ideas evolve over the course of the day. What stood out most was their curiosity, enthusiasm and willingness to think creatively about solving real-world challenges. The mentoring conversations were thoughtful and energising and it was clear that the students valued the opportunity to test their thinking and receive feedback. It was also a pleasure to work alongside other mentors, bringing different perspectives to support the students' development."

Usha Kong

Social StartUp Challenge Mentor

"I valued the mentorship aspect of the workshop. There were many highly inspiring and very helpful serial entrepreneurs on the panel, all with goals of creating positive social impact in the world."

"The workshop helped me understand the importance of identifying real-world problems, developing sustainable solutions and working collaboratively in teams to bring those ideas to life."

"The workshop helped me understand the importance of identifying real-world problems, developing sustainable solutions and working collaboratively in teams to bring those ideas to life."

Anonymised feedback from students



Our Year in Review

This year has been one of the most exciting yet for the Entrepreneurship Hub, marked by new milestones, new partnerships and new ways of bringing entrepreneurship to life for our community.

The Inaugural Annual Lecture with Sir Ronald Cohen



On 25 March 2026, Queen Mary University of London had the pleasure of welcoming Sir Ronald Cohen for the Hub's inaugural Annual Lecture. Professor Joanne J. Zhang joined Sir Ronald, one of the world's leading pioneers of impact investing, for a fireside conversation, following the recent publication of his book, *Reshaping Capitalism: The Advance of Impact in Guiding Our Economies*.

Drawing on decades of experience shaping the global impact investment movement, Sir Ronald shared insights on the future of impact investing, the role of private capital in addressing social and environmental challenges and the importance of entrepreneurship in driving system-level change. The discussion explored how purpose and profit can be aligned to create sustainable, long-term value for both society and investors.

The event brought together Queen Mary's community and the wider innovation ecosystem, reflecting the growing interest in entrepreneurship as a force for positive change.



Scan the QR Code
to watch the Annual Lecture

Our Year in Review

Sparking ideas through QIdea

In October 2025, the Entrepreneurship Hub supported the launch of QIdea, Queen Mary's startup idea competition for students and recent graduates looking to build a business or social enterprise.

As part of QUEST's core offer, QIdea helped aspiring entrepreneurs test and develop their ideas, connected them with expert support, with 41 (students and alumni) competing for professional business coaching and certificates of excellence.

A highlight was the involvement of a panel of external judges – 80 experienced founders, entrepreneurs and industry professionals – who generously gave their time and expertise to review applications and provide meaningful feedback.

Thank you to all judges and congratulations to every participant who took part.



From classroom to award-winning idea

Renata Dore, a student on the MSc Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management programme, was part of one of the winning teams in the Social StartUp Challenge, developing Cortexa, a digital mobile platform designed to help parents track and better understand childhood behavioural patterns.

Building on this success in June 2026, Renata took Cortexa further through the IGNITE Impact training and competition, organised by the Bromley by Bow Centre, where it was selected as one of the winning ideas, earning the team a £1,000 award.



Our Year in Review

Supporting Tower Hamlets community

In May 2026, two students from the MSc Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management programme, Sekere Pepa and Esha Sharma, led workshops for community-led initiatives through the Bromley by Bow Centre Enterprise in Tower Hamlets.

Sekere and Esha delivered sessions on Value Proposition, Digital Marketing and Branding and the Social Business Model Canvas, helping participants develop their business models and turn early-stage ideas into structured, scalable ventures.



Drawing on knowledge and skills gained through the MSc programme, alongside their involvement in Entrepreneurship Hub initiatives such as the Queen Mary Social Venture Fund (QMSVF) and the Social StartUp Challenge, Sekere and Esha provided outstanding support to the participating enterprises.



The experience was invaluable for both students, giving them the opportunity to apply their learning in a real-world setting while creating positive impact within the local community.

Championing student entrepreneurship

The Global Queens Community is a global social impact initiative dedicated to fostering the personal and professional growth of women worldwide.

The event which took place in April 2026, gave students a valuable opportunity to network with women leaders and entrepreneurs across sectors and gain insights into leadership, entrepreneurship and social impact.

Three students from the winning team of the Social StartUp Challenge – Radhika Garewal, Saba Siddiqui and Sekere Pepa (in place of Renata Dore) – were sponsored to attend the Global Queens Awards, made possible through the support of Social StartUp Challenge mentor, Usha Kong.

Our Year in Review



Students described the event as inspiring and enjoyable, highlighting the chance to meet successful individuals committed to creating positive social change.

Small Business Charter reaccreditation

Building on our initial three-year Small Business Charter (SBC) accreditation in 2023, the School of Business and Management is delighted to announce that Queen Mary University of London has successfully secured a five-year reaccreditation.

The reaccreditation recognises the excellence and impact of the Business School and the wider University in supporting entrepreneurship education, advancing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and contributing to the growth and prosperity of the local and regional economy.

This achievement follows a rigorous and collaborative process that began in Spring 2025 and culminated in the Small Business Charter assessment visit held on 12-13 May.

The process drew on contributions from more than 75 colleagues across Queen Mary, alongside input from nearly 40 students and external partners and it was led by Professor Joanne Zhang, and Dr Dominic Wong, with support from the Entrepreneurship Hub team.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed their time, expertise and insight throughout the process.



Supporting QMUL- ReMAKE graduates

Following his participation in the QMUL-ReMAKE programme, Omar Mentesh established Anabranh Plus, a social enterprise supporting individuals affected by the criminal justice system through rehabilitation and employability initiatives.

Our Year in Review

The Entrepreneurship Hub is proud to continue supporting Omar's work through an ongoing collaboration with his organisation.

As part of this collaboration, Queen Mary hosted a campus visit on August 2026 for a group of care-experienced young people aged 18-28. The visit provided opportunities to explore university life, meet current students and staff and learn more about higher education pathways.

This initiative reflects Queen Mary's commitment to social mobility and widening participation, helping open doors for young people who may not traditionally view university as an accessible option and demonstrating that higher education is for everyone.



Fuelling SME growth

Queen Mary University of London will soon be delivering **the Help to Grow: Management programme**, a government-backed leadership course designed to help SME leaders develop the skills, strategies and networks needed to achieve sustainable growth.

Participants will benefit from leadership and management training, business growth planning, productivity improvement strategies, expert guidance, peer networking opportunities and a flexible blend of online and in-person learning.

To find out more, please scan the QR code or visit the application webpage:

www.qmul.ac.uk/sbm/entrepreneurship-hub/help-to-grow/



HELP TO GROW

MANAGEMENT COURSE



Our Year in Review

Supporting Tower Hamlets community

When Elina Agrafioti Kataki (BSc Business Management) became President of Queen Mary's Business Society (BSQM), she helped grow the Society into a thriving community for students interested in business and entrepreneurship.

A key achievement was launching the Society's first Pitch Competition in February 2026. Supported by Dr Chandres Tejura and the Entrepreneurship Hub, the event gave students the opportunity to pitch business ideas, receive expert feedback and network with founders, investors and professionals.

Reflecting on the experience, Elina said, *"One thing the competition showed our students is that to succeed at anything, you need to step outside your comfort zone."*

The competition became a defining moment for BSQM, contributing to its success and helping secure the Best Student Society Award 2026 at Queen Mary University of London.

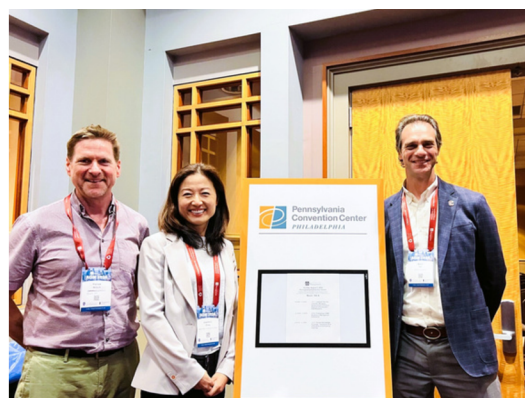


Student Knowledge Exchange (SKE)

In August 2026, our Director, Joanne Zhang, hosted a panel discussion on Student Knowledge Exchange (SKE) at the prestigious 86th Annual Meeting of Academy of Management (AOM) in Philadelphia, USA, with Patrick McGurk, (Queen Mary University of London), Basil Safi (Cornell University), Pilar Aramburuzabala (The Autonomous University of Madrid) and Denise Hawkes (King's College London).

The panel explored how SKE activities can enhance student learning and develop advanced employability skills.

A key takeaway was that meaningful learning is not an automatic outcome of experiential activities; rather, it requires thoughtful programme design, effective scaffolding, and sustained faculty and institutional support to maximise educational and societal impact.



Thank you

To everyone who has supported the Entrepreneurship Hub this year – our students, staff, mentors, alumni, partners and friends across Queen Mary and beyond – Thank You!

The list of people who have contributed to this year's success is far too long to name individually, but please know that every conversation, introduction, piece of advice and moment of support has made a real difference and we are deeply grateful.

If you would like to learn more, get involved, offer support, or simply have a chat, we would love to hear from you, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at ent-hub@qmul.ac.uk.

Until next year,

The Entrepreneurship Hub Team

Queen Mary University of London
School of Business and Management
Entrepreneurship Hub
Francis Bancroft Building
London E1 4NS

ent-hub@qmul.ac.uk
qmul.ac.uk/sbm/entrepreneurship-hub/



Follow us on LinkedIn



Scan to sign up to the
bi-monthly newsletter



Scan to learn more about
Entrepreneurship Hub