

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Guide

Version 2.0

Top Enterprise and Entrepreneurship websites for Students and Graduates

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1. Introduction

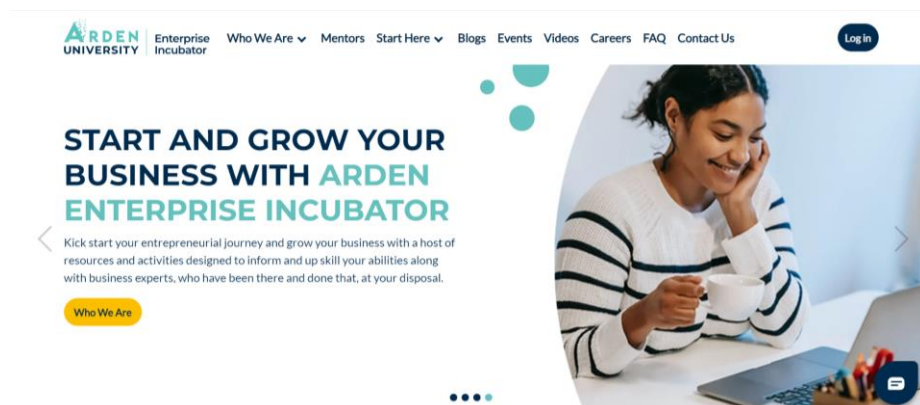
Welcome to the comprehensive guide of enterprise and entrepreneurship resources for students and graduates. This guide has been carefully curated to provide you with a diverse range of useful resources that can support your journey in the world of business. We have categorised the resources based on study centre locations, enabling you to find specific opportunities and support relevant to your area. Additionally, we have also included a section of general resources that are not location-specific, ensuring there is something for everyone. Furthermore, we have compiled a list of freelance resources, recognising the growing trend of self-employment and gig economy. Let's dive in and explore the wealth of resources available to help you thrive in enterprise and entrepreneurship!

2. Finding support through Arden Enterprise Incubator (AEI)

What is AEI?

The AEI otherwise known as Arden Enterprise Incubator offers comprehensive support for you to start and grow your businesses. It provides resources, mentorship, and activities tailored to each stage of the entrepreneurial journey, facilitated by both academics and industry experts.

For more details, visit <https://aei.arden.ac.uk/> (you can also access the AEI via the Resources section on iLearn)



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Arden Enterprise Incubator website. At the top left is the Arden University logo with the text 'Enterprise Incubator'. To the right of the logo is a navigation menu with links: 'Who We Are', 'Mentors', 'Start Here', 'Blogs', 'Events', 'Videos', 'Careers', 'FAQ', and 'Contact Us'. A 'Login' button is located in the top right corner. The main content area features a large heading: 'START AND GROW YOUR BUSINESS WITH ARDEN ENTERPRISE INCUBATOR'. Below the heading is a sub-heading: 'Kick start your entrepreneurial journey and grow your business with a host of resources and activities designed to inform and up skill your abilities along with business experts, who have been there and done that, at your disposal.' A yellow button labeled 'Who We Are' is positioned below the sub-heading. On the right side of the main content area is a large image of a young woman with dark hair, wearing a white and black striped sweater, sitting at a desk with a laptop and holding a white mug. The image is framed by a light blue border with decorative teal circles.

All of you at Arden can access this resource to learn what is needed to start and run a successful business. Whether you are an entrepreneur who has already started or is looking to start your own business, an entrepreneur aiming to create a new brand within your current business, or someone simply interested in building your knowledge in this area, the AEI can guide you through the process.

Guided by academics and industry experts, you can access a host of resources designed to increase your knowledge and provide additional skills required for business. You have the freedom to choose between beginner, intermediate, or advanced sessions as you see fit, at a time convenient for you - control of your learning is in your hands. While beginner and intermediate sessions are open to all, advanced resources are only available if you have a business plan and are seeking more focused assistance for your business.

3. General – UK

[British Business Bank](#) - provides resources, advice and support for entrepreneurs and small to medium-sized businesses in the UK. They also offer a range of financial products to help businesses grow.

[ByteStart](#) – publish guides and practical help for start-ups and growing businesses.

[Enterprise Nation](#) - a community of entrepreneurs and small businesses that provides support, training, and networking opportunities to help businesses grow.

[The Prince's Trust](#) - offers support to young people (18-30) interested in entrepreneurship. They provide training, mentoring, and financial support to help young people start and grow successful businesses.

[NatWest Business Builder](#) - provides free resources and advice for entrepreneurs and small businesses, including articles, webinars, and videos.

[Small Business Commissioner](#) - this organisation provides advice and support to small businesses in the UK, especially in the areas of late payment and dispute resolution.

[Flying Start Online](#) – free courses and training on how to start and scale an Ecommerce business from scratch.

[Gov.uk](#) - the official website of the UK government that provides information on finance and support for your business.

[Lloyds Bank](#) – supporting Black-owned businesses. Have a directory [Black Business Directory](#) of business resources and organisations that support Black and diverse entrepreneurs. Also, offer an educational programme [Immerse](#) for Black founders – an accelerator, events, and network opportunities with likeminded entrepreneurs.

[National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship \(NCGE\)](#) - aims to raise the profile of self-employment and the option of starting your own business as a career choice for graduates. The NCGE runs the "Flying Start" programme to help students and graduates put their business ideas into practice.

[Nesta](#) – a charity that supports innovation. One of their specialist enterprises is [Nesta Challenges](#) (runs challenge prizes, which are competitions that offer a reward for the first or best solution to a social problem).

[Nestle Youth Entrepreneurship Platform](#) - offering entrepreneurs (of any age) valuable resources, mentorship, and opportunities to develop and scale your innovative business ideas. Gain access to expert guidance, funding possibilities, and a supportive community. Ideal for anybody in food technology but lots of useful resources for any entrepreneur.

[Progressive Sports](#) – a national sport franchise providing physical education for children 3-13 years. Good for anybody that wants to launch their own sports education business.

[Prospects](#) – webpages on self-employment (how entrepreneurs generate ideas, the different types of business and how to start your own company)

[The British Library Business & IP Centre](#) – a free service that offers support to entrepreneurs and small business owners to develop their ideas and access funding across the UK.

[The Rebel School](#) - teaches people how to start a business without spending anything - free courses and tonnes of resources.

[UnLtd](#) - offers advice and grants for social entrepreneurs and enterprises.

4. Birmingham

[Aston Centre for Growth](#) - a business accelerator that provides mentorship, resources, and funding to start-ups and SMEs.

[Birmingham Enterprise Community](#) - it is a community of entrepreneurship and business owners in Birmingham that hosts events, training, and networking opportunities to support entrepreneurship.

[Business Growth West Midlands](#) - offers fully funded guidance and support for entrepreneurs and business leaders. You can access expert advice on business plans, funding, finance, and sustainable growth, as well as tailored programs to help your business succeed.

[Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce](#) - offers support and networking opportunities for enterprises in the Birmingham area. They provide a range of services, including advice on starting a business, business development, training and events.

[Innovation Birmingham Campus](#) - offers office space and support services for technology start-ups and small businesses. It provides access to funding opportunities, business development programs, and mentorship to help start-ups grow.

[The Black Pounds Project](#) – “championing the cause of African, Caribbean, and diverse entrepreneurs since its inception in 2020”. Offer expert mentoring, online learning and expo events. Ideal for rising entrepreneurs. Support product owners, sole traders, creatives, and service owners. Can subscribe to receive a free start-up checklist.

[The British Library Business & IP Centre \(Birmingham\)](#) – a free service that offers support to entrepreneurs and small business owners to develop their ideas and access funding – based at Library of Birmingham, Centenary Square, Broad Street Birmingham.

[University of Birmingham Enterprise](#) - provides support for entrepreneurs and start-up companies in the Birmingham area. They offer mentoring, funding, and networking opportunities to help new businesses get off the ground.

5. Leeds

[AD:VENTURE](#) - the AD:VENTURE programme offers ERDF-funded support for businesses in their first three years of trading and new start businesses.

[Enterprise West Yorkshire](#) - Free support to explore, plan and launch a business in West Yorkshire. Includes “Innovative entrepreneurs” which is a nine-month programme of support.

[Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund II \(NPIF\)](#) – offers funding to smaller businesses in the North through a range of commercial finance options with smaller loans and debt finance from £25,000 to £2 million and equity investment up to £5 million.

[The ide@ Community](#) - an online space for anyone with a burning desire to start a business or to be their own boss. Their e-learning programme Leap has been curated to give you the tools you need to take those first steps in starting your own business (open to anyone in the Leeds City Region).

[West Yorkshire Business Support Service](#) - business owners can connect with a local Growth Manager to discuss where their business is now and what they would like to achieve in the future. Offers a number of programmes of support including focuses on Emerging Technology and Sustainability.

Membership Platforms offering benefits and support:

[Federation of Small Businesses \(FSB\)](#) - the FSB advises its members on things like employment law, health and safety, finance and legal protection. Membership gives you access to invaluable networking opportunities.

[West & North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce](#) the Chamber offers a host of money saving services for small business, together with events, networking opportunities, training and mentoring services.

9. London

[Accelerator London](#) - a start-up accelerator that offers early-stage support to tech start-ups.

[Capital Enterprise](#) - a membership organisation that supports and promotes entrepreneurship and enterprise in London.

[Entrepreneur First](#) – a start-up accelerator that offers investment and mentorship to talented individuals who want to start a tech business.

[Grow London Local](#) - the one place to get free access to small business support. Browse free resources designed for small business owners in London or use their online Business Success Check to shortcut your route to trusted support. Alternatively, request a free consultation with a Business Support Manager, who will help you to identify your business needs and the support you need – and connect you to an approved support provider.

[London School of Economics Enterprise](#) - provides training, events and a platform for start-ups to develop and grow.

[Portobello Business Centre](#) – work with people to start and grow businesses and social enterprises. Any kind of business in different industries in London (fashion/food and drink/ education/beauty/health/fitness/law/online services and products/IT/creative/media/publishing/professional services/transport).

[London & Partners](#) - a mayoral agency that offers support to both UK and international businesses seeking to set up or expand in London.

[Tech City UK](#) - a government agency that supports and promotes the growth of digital and tech businesses.

[The British Library Business & IP Centre](#) – a free service that offers support to entrepreneurs and small business owners to develop their ideas and access funding.

[The Workspace](#) - a provider of flexible workspace solutions, ideal for start-up businesses.

10. Manchester

[Build a Business Greater Manchester](#) - aimed at small businesses, entrepreneurs and anyone thinking of starting their own business. It's running across all 10 Greater Manchester authorities, offering tailored help to support new businesses.

[EnterprisingYou](#) - tailored to help those with a budding business idea or established self-employed individuals, sole traders, freelancers and gig economy workers in Greater Manchester. Their program can help you start-up your new venture, elevate your profile or discover your business's growth potential.

[GM Business Growth Hub](#) – organisation offering support across areas of: Funding, Innovation, Sustainability, People and Sales.

[Lancashire's Business Growth Hub](#) - tailored support for Lancashire based ambitious SME businesses. Includes Flying Start programme for businesses under 3 years old and a Business Review offer.

[Manchester City Council - Live chat start up and business advice](#) - Live Chat with a qualified business advisor weekdays from 9am to 5pm (outside these hours you can leave a request for an advisor to contact you.) Funded by Manchester City Council.

[Manchester City Council - Sell to Customers](#) – information on market trading in the Manchester City Council area.

[Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund II \(NPIF\)](#) – offers funding to smaller businesses in the North through a range of commercial finance options with smaller loans and debt finance from £25,000 to £2 million and equity investment up to £5 million.

[Two Zero](#) - programmes over 6-12 months designed specifically for Lancashire scaleup companies to grow their businesses by 20%.

11. Freelancing

[Contractor UK](#) – IT freelancing focused news, network and advice. Particularly useful for the First Timers section: [First Timer Guides](#)

[Fiverr](#) – online freelance community. Can become a seller if you have a particular skill such as: designer, developer, writer, video editor, musician, voiceover artist, social media marketer etc.

[Freelancer](#) – find a wide variety of freelance jobs in several languages.

[Freelancers in the UK](#) – focused on a few sectors including copywriting, translation, design and IT; but 'Useful Information' section is useful for all.

[IPSE](#) – a free downloadable guide to going freelance, with help and information on finances, taxes and business structures, and a 'check list' of actions to get you started.

[IPSE](#) – contract templates, ready to use, adapted for various kinds of clients.

[Paperound](#) - a marketplace for busy small business owners to access student resource, on-demand. UK students can indicate the type of work they are interested in (according to the areas covered on the site) and set their own rates.

[PeoplePerHour](#) - connects clients to expert freelancers who are available to hire by the hour or project. Have to complete an online application to join this freelancer community and become a certified freelancer – once approved you can gain access to a stream of projects.

[Reed](#) – overview on freelance work.

[Save the Student](#) – freelancing guide for beginners.

[ScreenSkills](#) – freelance toolkit for people that want to work in the screen industries (film, television, VFX, animation and games).

[UniTaskr](#) – freelancing jobs for students (mainly UK and US based)

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