



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



**STUDENT
ENTERPRISE
IMPACT REPORT
2019/20**

**ENTERPRISE
AT LEEDS**

SAILE VILLEGAS
*MSc Computer Science
and Co-Founder of SeeAI*

leeds.ac.uk/enterprise

IN CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Students have access to a range of bespoke and innovative enterprise modules and programmes.

ENTERPRISE AND INNOVATION DISCOVERY THEME

From the Enterprise and Innovation Discovery Theme, students can choose one of our enterprise modules to enhance their transferrable skills, helping them to stand out when embarking on their future careers.

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES 'WITH ENTERPRISE'

We work with schools from across the University to deliver 'with Enterprise' undergraduate degrees for students who want to combine a specialist subject with enterprise.

PHD

The CEES team supervise PhD candidates working on research interests in many areas of entrepreneurship. Our PhD Researchers are part of an energetic environment with opportunities for dynamic interaction with students and faculty members from across the globe.

MSc ENTERPRISE & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The MSc Enterprise & Entrepreneurship helps students develop an understanding of enterprise, entrepreneurship, family business and social enterprise on a global scale.



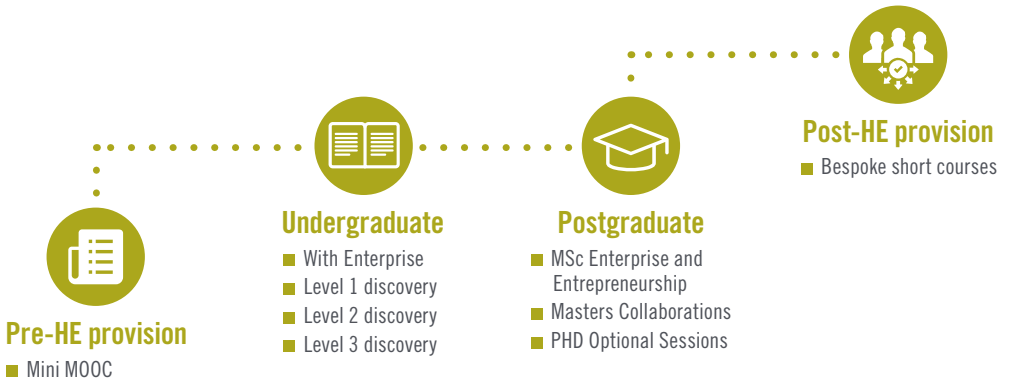
MOHAMMED SAMIR BSc BIOTECHNOLOGY WITH ENTERPRISE STUDENT

“ The ‘with Enterprise’ specialism was a perfect opportunity for me to combine my passions within both the business and the bioscience fields. I have been lucky to work with students from all over the world, including a collaborative project with undergraduates from Drexel University (USA). The skills I have learned are invaluable and they have massively helped me within industry. ”



JORDAN RAMCHARITA BSc BIOTECHNOLOGY WITH ENTERPRISE STUDENT

“ In doing a ‘with Enterprise’ degree I was exposed to some of the fundamental processes and resources required for the successful starting and maintenance of an enterprise. I studied Biotechnology with Enterprise, but what I learnt in the ‘with Enterprise’ modules could as easily be translated to other commercial sectors should my interests shift in the future. ”



MOOC (MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSE)

We provide a free, open access, online resource aimed at FE Schools and Colleges for any FE student to learn how to start a business. This course was designed to support teaching these skills in an engaging and interactive way using videos, voting and quizzes for teachers/students to interact with real-world issues and receive expert advice.

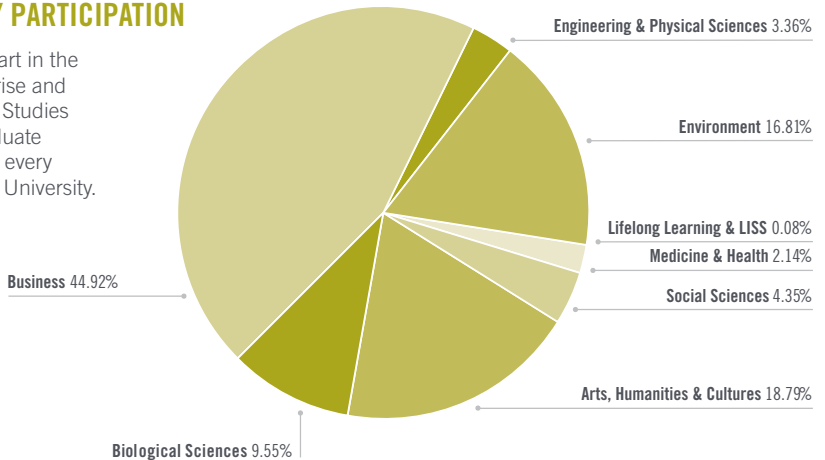


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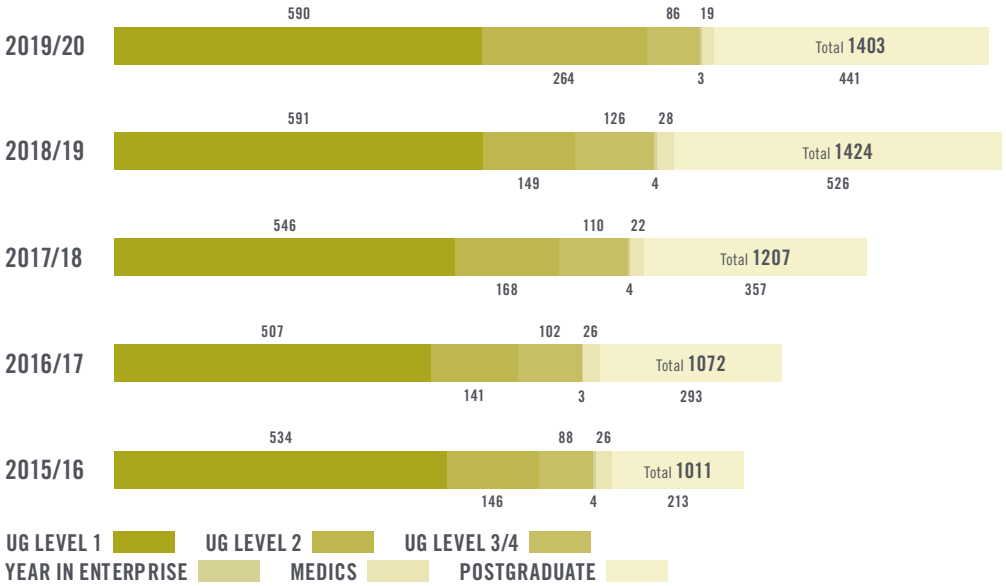
people have signed up for the 'Starting A Business' course since it started in 2015 (23,231 signed up in 2019/20)

CROSS-FACULTY PARTICIPATION

Students taking part in the Centre for Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Studies (CEES) undergraduate modules are from every faculty across the University.



GROWTH IN NUMBER OF STUDENTS TAUGHT



MSc ENTERPRISE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (LAUNCHED IN 2013/14)

Student numbers for 2019/20

44

FULL-TIME*

*46% increase on previous year

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES WITH ENTERPRISE (LAUNCHED IN 2014/15)

BIOTECHNOLOGY

51

MUSIC

24

BIOLOGY

18

THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE

11

SOCIAL POLICY

10

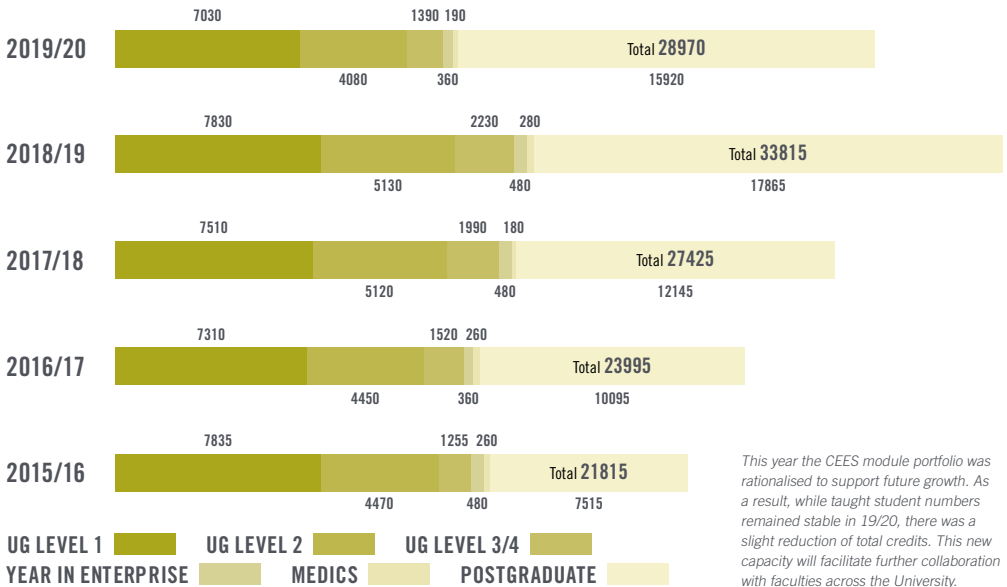
ENTERPRISE AMBASSADORS



WE CURRENTLY HAVE
23 AMBASSADORS

Our team of real-life entrepreneurs are an integral part of our vibrant enterprise community. They share their experiences at panel events, offer guidance at networking sessions and offer our students a unique insight into understanding how the enterprise education experience provided at Leeds fits into the wider world of business.

GROWTH IN TAUGHT CREDITS BY YEAR



CEES RESEARCH

In the past year our team has built on its excellent reputation for cutting edge research. **Professor Nick Williams** recently won a [UKRI grant](#), in partnership with the Universities of Edinburgh, Cardiff, Lancaster, Stirling and Oxford Brookes, to examine the impact of **Covid-19** on innovative, high growth businesses across the UK. Such research will be of key value to policy makers as the UK and other economies seek to navigate their way out of the current pandemic.

Professor Diane Holt also won a Newton Fund Impact Scheme award with partners in Brazil. This will develop films of the value chains in the Amazon and the communities and entrepreneurs that supply the goods such as pirarucu fish, nuts, seeds, oils, and wood into domestic and international markets and supply chains.

Dr Mariana Estrada-Robles has published leading research on family entrepreneurship, and continues to build international collaborations which will take forward research on this important topic.

Professor Williams has published research on the crisis in Chile, which is being developed into direct policy by **CORFO**; the country's economic development agency. **Dr Alex Kevill** is leading on research on the dynamic capabilities of small firms, and **Dr Stefania Romano** is working on critical research on entrepreneurship in the creative industries. Recently Professor Holt authored a report for the [United Nations on Youth Entrepreneurship](#), the mechanisms to strengthen this and profiling initiatives in five UN priority countries as well as best-practice examples from around the world.

Our research activity has been strengthened by the recruitment of **Dr Deema Refai**. Dr Refai is an expert on refugee entrepreneurship and adds significant knowledge to our team.

We continue to work with a number of external partners. For example, **Dr Isla Kapasi** is Co-Chair for the Practice and Impact Special Interest Group for the Institute of Small Business and Entrepreneurship (**ISBE**); Dr Stefania Romano is Co-Chair for the Creative Industries Entrepreneurship (**CIE**) Special Interest Group for ISBE, and **Dr Richard Tunstall** is Chair for the [Entrepreneurship Studies Network](#) (**ESN**) for ISBE and **ECSB**, which supports researchers engaged in alternative approaches to entrepreneurship research, drawing on the humanities, philosophy and sociology.

CEES NEWS



Members of the CEES Team

As part of a BA/LV funded project, **Dr Deema Refai** and co-collaborators from the University of Huddersfield conducted a webinar on 'Refugee and migrant Entrepreneurship During Covid-19'.

In March 2020, Parliament launched the COVID-19 outbreak expert database. Over 5,000 experts responded. CEES PhD Researcher **Sam Appleton** contributed to this research study, one of forty contributors from the University of Leeds.

Dr Isla Kapasi, along with co-authors Galloway and Wimalasena had the conceptual paper, 'A theory of venturing: a critical realist explanation of why my father is not like Richard Branson', published in the International Small Business Journal. The paper presents a theory of venturing using a critical realist approach.



DESA

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



Professor Diane Holt authored a report published by the United Nations Exploring Youth Entrepreneurship.



Enterprise
Educators
UK

Professor **Sarah Underwood** has been awarded Honorary Fellowship of Enterprise Educators UK (EEUK). Honorary Fellowships of EEUK are awarded at the discretion of the Board, to former members of the Executive who have made significant contributions to the development of EEUK.

Dr Richard Tunstall has been elected by constituent university members to become a Director on the Board of Enterprise Educators UK from 1 August 2020 for a 3 year term.

GOLDMAN SACHS 10K SMALL BUSINESSES PROGRAMME

Dr Richard Tunstall acted as Section Lead for a new cohort of participants on the internationally recognised Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses programme. The programme is an investment to help entrepreneurs create jobs and economic opportunity by providing greater access to education, capital and business support services.



Dr Richard Tunstall with Goldman Sachs 10KSB Cohort

START UP SUPPORT DEVELOPING BUSINESS IDEAS

Providing support to develop business ideas and gain access to a professional network, funding, industry mentors and incubation space.

SPARK START UP SERVICES

Our team of business advisors at Spark help students consider their early stage ideas, what inspires them to set up a business and what motivates them to make it become successful.

International Masters students, Saile Villegas and Reo Ogusu founded the med-tech company SeeAI. SeeAI are currently working with NHS Scotland to develop an AI platform helping to reduce the workload of radiologists.

Saile and Reo have received a variety of support including proof-of-concept funding and office space. They were awarded 1st place in the annual Business Plan Competition organised by SPARK and were chosen to represent the University of Leeds in the Santander Universities Emerging Entrepreneurs Programme.

BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION

In the Business Plan Competition, both category winners are entering markets dominated by big brands, but are confident

and articulate in their own venture's unique selling points and have the vision, determination and talent to succeed.

The trading category this year was won by PhD graduate Dr Abbie Neilson and her fiancé Chris Jaume for their business Cooper King Distillery. Within 18 months of returning from their trip of a lifetime, the couple – formerly a medical researcher and chartered architect - had raised £350k through crowd-funding, innovation grants and private investment, built the Cooper King Distillery near York and produced their first gin, cold-distilled with local botanicals including Yorkshire lavender and honey from their on-site beehives.

Fast forward two years and the couple have a close-knit team of ten staff, are maturing their first batch of whisky and have a portfolio of 10+ sustainable spirits that have won a raft of national and international awards and accolades.

PROOF OF CONCEPT

The Proof of Concept award is designed to support businesses in proving whether a concept is feasible or viable; this can include promotion, market research, attending events/trade fairs, licenses and IT such as websites.

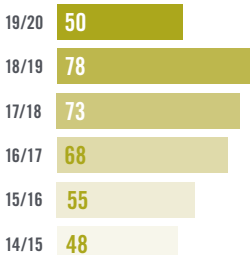
SPARK

Start-Up numbers have remained high with 50 new business forming in 2019/20.

SPARK has seen over 1500 engagements in 2019/20, including workshops, boot camps, 1-2-1 meetings, competitions and business plan support.

The Spark Business Start-Up Support Programme was mentioned in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Report '[Exploring Youth Entrepreneurship](#)' to showcase 'Examples from Around the World' of promoting Youth Entrepreneurship through mechanisms such as entrepreneurship education, mentoring, and access to finance.

Start Up Numbers



Engagements with SPARK



Business Incubation

60 BUSINESSES
CURRENTLY OCCUPY
THE INCUBATOR



JAMES GUPTA
CO-FOUNDER AND CEO OF SYNAP,
CEES ENTERPRISE AMBASSADOR

James Gupta, Co-Founder and CEO of Synap was a Medical student at the University of Leeds. He and fellow student, Omair Vaiyani, designed an app to make revision for exams fun, interactive and impactful. Together they formed Synap, an award-winning start-up based in Leeds, but with clients all over the world, now employing 13 members of staff. It was also named as one of the 'Top 10 British AI companies to Watch' by Business Insider.

Whilst studying at Leeds, James had the opportunity to take part in the CEES social enterprise module for medical students and had access to the business advice and mentorship available at Spark. He also had access to office space in the university's business incubator.

"The incubator space was a crucial part of our plan to take our business 'to the

next level'. Synap started as a cool project we developed in our bedrooms. When it started to get popular we knew it could be something much more but had a number of hurdles to overcome before it could achieve its potential. Having access to the incubator was great for us, both internally as somewhere to work without distractions, and externally - putting a more professional face on the company when bringing different agencies and clients in for meetings."

This year we were delighted to welcome James back as an Enterprise Ambassador. In this role, James has mentored students, given advice to Spark students, provided a masterclass on app development to MSc students and spoken at our Q&A Enterprise Panel about his experiences leading the growth of Synap.

STUDENT ENTERPRISE ACTIVITY

LEEDS ENTREPRENEURS SOCIETY

The student-led Leeds Entrepreneurs came second at the Sheffield Start-Up Weekend. A team representing the University of Leeds created a platform for property investors. Leeds Entrepreneurs aim to help enterprising students to develop and achieve their ambitions by offering motivation, advice, resources and run events to allow students to develop their skills and networking. Their events offer the opportunity to meet other enterprising students as well as other key organisations. They have been meeting regularly throughout lockdown with a weekly online 'hustle together' meeting.



Leeds Entrepreneurs' prize winning team at the Sheffield Start-Up Weekend

ENACTUS LEEDS

This student society has been working with business and university advisors developing and running social enterprises. Over the last year, Enactus ran two projects, 'Re-Vive' – addressing the issue of food waste, and 'Green Leaders', an enterprise delivering learning interventions for school students teaching them about sustainable careers. Other highlights are the development of fundraising plans and the development of a new refugee project.



GIULIA NEUHAUS MSc SUSTAINABILITY AND BUSINESS, CLIMATE ENTREPRENEURS CLUBS LEEDS CO-CHAIR AND PROGRAMME LEAD

The Climate Entrepreneurs Club Leeds (CEC) aims to inspire and support students to develop entrepreneurial ideas tackling climate change. Launched in 2019/20, they reached over 40 people, gave over 15 hours of workshops and inspired 2 teams to work on climate-smart solutions. Leeds CEC won the Innovation Award in the University of Leeds Sustainability Awards 2020.

“ The CEES module 'New Venture Creation' was an incredible resource during the planning process of our sessions, as the tools and techniques taught were applicable to the work of the CEC. CEES was very keen to support our journey and gave us access to the fantastic entrepreneurial network at the university. We hope that our collaboration will bring forth many climate entrepreneurs in the future. ”



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Email us at
enterprise@leeds.ac.uk

Visit our website
leeds.ac.uk/enterprise

For more information and all the latest news
follow us on Twitter [@LeedsEnterprise](https://twitter.com/LeedsEnterprise)

ENTERPRISE
AT LEEDS



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Some of the key information in this brochure remains subject to confirmation. Please check for the latest information using the websites and other resources referred to before making any decisions.



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