




Digital ***Growth Grant*** ***Unwrapped***

 **BARCLAYS** | **Eagle Labs**

 **Funded by
UK Government**

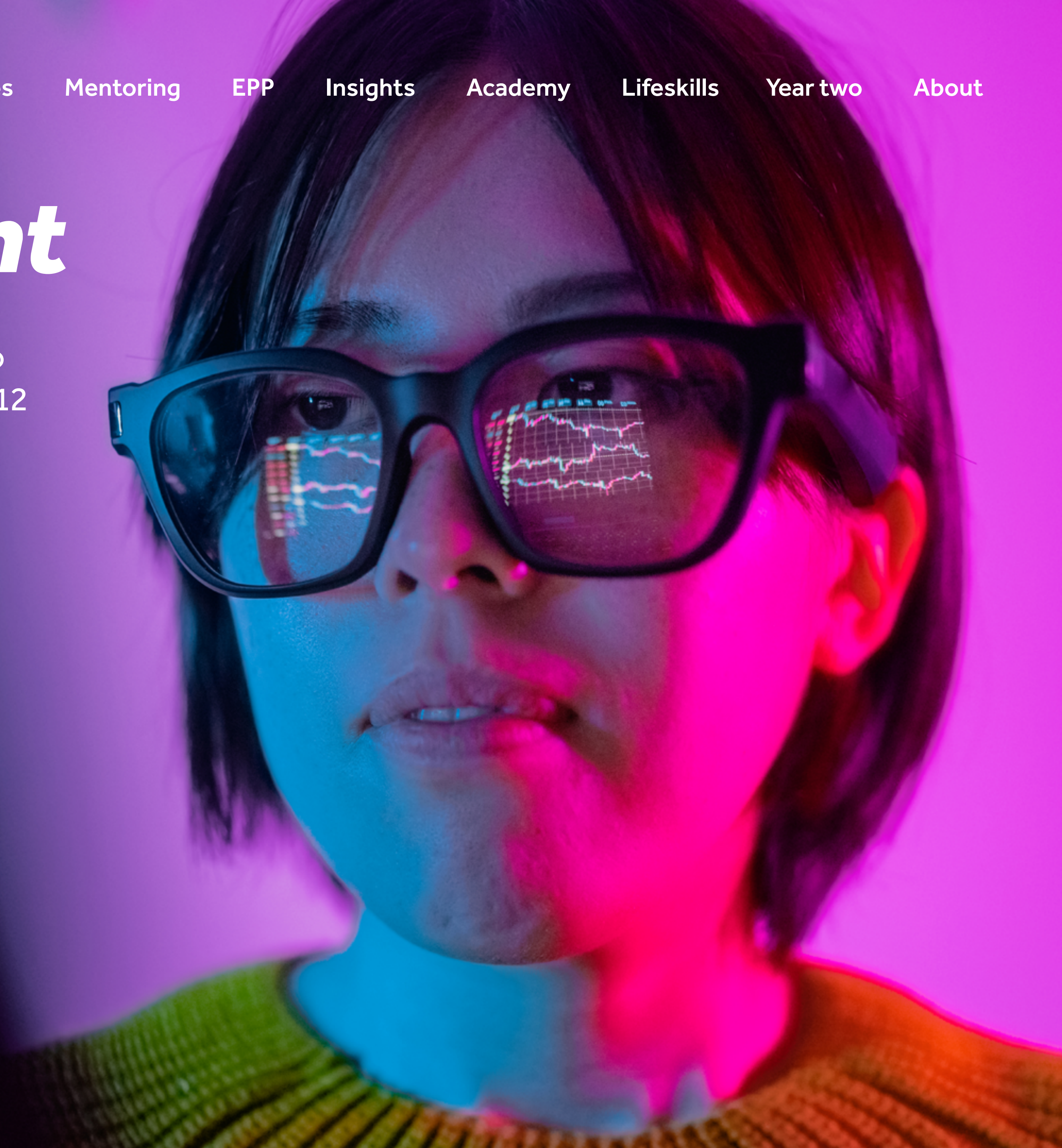


Digital Growth Grant

In April 2023, Barclays Eagle Labs launched a suite of activity to support tech businesses in all corners of the UK linked to the £12 million Digital Growth Grant, funded by the UK Government.

Over two years, we are using the grant to help boost the growth of UK tech startups and scaleups to align with four objectives set out by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT):

1. Deliver support services to the digital sector
2. Grow regional support networks for tech startups and scaleups
3. Ensure founders and firms can access digital entrepreneurship and investment readiness training
4. Clearly signpost startups and scaleups to existing initiatives.





Amanda Allan

Director, Barclays Eagle Labs

Foreword

We're proud to have supported the UK tech ecosystem by delivering activities funded by the Digital Growth Grant over the past year.

Since Eagle Labs was founded in 2015, we've offered tailored growth programmes, business mentoring and access to resources that help us connect and grow the UK tech ecosystem and support innovation. The UK Government's Digital Growth Grant meant we could offer even more support to businesses throughout the UK, and we'd like to share what we've achieved.

We've provided growth programmes and mentorship to help early-stage startups develop their ideas and help established businesses to scale. That included 13 national growth programmes, supporting 1,081 participants, as well as providing 750 hours of mentoring sessions.

Through our Ecosystem Partnership Programme, we've partnered with 13 organisations to deliver targeted support to founders within regional ecosystems to help accelerate their businesses. We've provided a total of £1.43m in matched funding to deliver 18 programmes, supporting over 600 entrepreneurs.

We improved access to support for entrepreneurs in underrepresented communities. 65% of founders accessing Digital Growth Grant activity identified as members of groups known to be underrepresented in the tech ecosystem. We also launched two programmes aimed at providing tailored support to underrepresented groups: the Black Venture Growth Programme and the Female Founder Accelerator.

We published a wide range of educational content and tools, which we hope will inspire the next generation of technology entrepreneurs. We released 10 thought leadership reports, including Artificial Intelligence, Unlocking Investment and Neurodiverse Founders. We launched the Eagle Labs Academy aiming to help 10,000 founders start and scale a business. We've also added modules to Barclays LifeSkills, to support the journey towards entrepreneurship for young people.

We're excited to build on the progress we've made over this last year and look forward to helping even more tech entrepreneurs across the UK with enhanced growth programmes, mentoring sessions, educational content and much more over the next 12 months.

We haven't done this alone. We'd like to say a huge thank you to the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, our Digital Growth Grant delivery partners, Independent Advisory Board members and all the incredible founders we've had the chance to work with.

Year one in numbers

Through the Digital Growth Grant funding, we've launched a suite of new activity focused on boosting the growth of tech startups and scaleups across all four nations of the UK.

- **Growth and connectivity**
- **Regional ecosystems**
- **Entrepreneurship diversity**
- **Education and inspiration**

Growth and connectivity

Providing growth programmes and mentorship to help early-stage startups develop their ideas and support established businesses to scale

13

national growth programmes

1,081

growth programme participants

750

hours of mentoring support delivered

+78

mentoring Net Promoter Score (NPS)

Regional ecosystems

Distributing targeted support to local ecosystems to generate regional equitable outcomes and to enable the whole UK to thrive

74%

of support provided to businesses outside London

£1.43m

matched funding provided through the Ecosystem Partnership Programme (EPP)

13

2023/24 EPP partners

+600

businesses supported outside of London through the EPP

Entrepreneur diversity

Democratising access to entrepreneurial support for underrepresented communities in the ecosystem to increase diversity

35%

ambition for founders to self-identify as diverse

65%

of founders supported self-identify as diverse

2

programmes launched to specifically support under-represented founders

513

combined applications received for Female Founder and Black Venture Growth programmes

Education and inspiration

Publishing a wide range of content and tools to educate founders and inspire the next generation of technology entrepreneurs

10

thought leadership reports released, nine in partnership with Beauhurst and one with The Entrepreneurs Network

+900

Eagle Labs Academy members

2,495

unique report views

4

entrepreneurial LifeSkills modules launched

Independent Advisory Board

We want to deliver the Digital Growth Grant funded activity in a way that has a positive impact on the UK tech and entrepreneurial ecosystems. To do this, we have formed an Independent Advisory Board made up of representatives from across the UK. The board members represent:

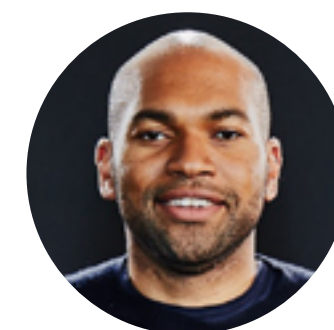
- The UK investment landscape
- The education sector
- Under-represented business communities
- Regional ecosystems and/or local authorities
- The innovation sector
- Sophisticated startups and scaleups.

The role of the Independent Advisory Board is to:

- Provide strategic challenge and advice on the delivery of the UK Government funded activity
- Ensure full representation of the breadth of the UK startup and scaleup ecosystem
- Determine the allocation of Ecosystem Partnership Programme funding
- Facilitate integration of the Digital Growth Grant programme into the tech ecosystem.



Ian Browne
Managing Director, Dog
Patch Labs



Charles Ebubedike
CEO, Clinova



Katie Gallagher OBE
Managing Director,
Manchester Digital



Julie Grieve
Business Advisor



Mark John
Co-Founder, Tramshed



Roei Samuel
CEO of Connectd



Dr Phil Clare
CEO, Queen Mary
Innovation



Chris Elphick
Head of Venture Capital,
British Private Equity &
Venture Capital Association



Irene Graham OBE
Founding CEO,
ScaleUp Institute



Alisdair Gunn
Project Director of
Glasgow City
Innovation District



Steven Roberts
Founder, SR&F and
previous Chief Scientific
Adviser, Barclays



Brian Sharkey
Independent Advisory
Board Lead, Barclays
Eagle Labs

Growth Programmes

Partnering with specialists to create a suite of national programmes designed to support founders at every stage of their growth journey, from startup to scaleup.

13

national growth programmes

2,135

applications received

1,081

growth programme participants

£188m

lifetime capital raised across all cohorts¹

£17.9m

lifetime capital raised across all cohorts since support¹

70%

of programme participants supported self-identify as diverse

Growth Programmes

Business Growth Stage

Ideation

Pre-seed

Seed

Series A+

Product Builder Programme

Funding Readiness Programme

Product Growth Programme

Female Founder Accelerator Programme

Black Venture Growth Programme

Industry Bridge Programmes

Scaleup Programmes

Product Builder Programme

Powered by Plexal

The Product Builder programme is designed to help founders accelerate from idea to product faster, and share techniques to validate, develop, test and evolve a digital product idea. The two-month programme was developed to focus on new challenges and ideas, rather than the existing technical and digital skills of founding teams.

“Structured to accommodate the busy lives of idea-stage entrepreneurs this programme provides support in areas such as challenge validation, value proposition creation, solution ideation and prototype, generating your first £1000 and funding.”



Holly Smith

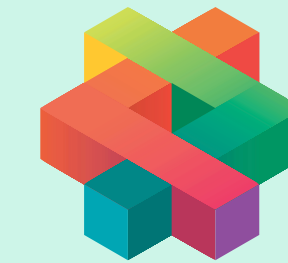
Programme Design Lead, Plexal

“Being part of a programme backing idea-stage businesses has been incredibly fulfilling. I’ve loved seeing the growth of various product ideas and concepts. Partnering with Plexal to support non-technical founders on their product journey and witnessing their personal founder-journey has been amazing.”



Rouya Mardani

DGG Programme Delivery Manager,
Barclays Eagle Labs



plexal

Innovation company Plexal is closing the gap between organisations – government, startups, scaleups, industry, academia – and working towards a common goal: using science and technology to solve society’s challenges, delivering national security, economic growth and prosperity across regions.

Providing bespoke consultancy services and state-of-the-art workspaces for over 1,000 innovators, Plexal supports entrepreneurs building emerging technologies.

Throughout the programmes, Plexal helps founders work closely with experts in commercialising technology and establishing product-market fit, while facilitating lifelong connections with likeminded peers.

Product Builder Programme Cohort

472

applications received

214

participants across both cohorts

40%

of participants started the programme with an idea

72%

of participants aimed to validate their idea with customers

71%

of participants self-identify as diverse

56%

of participants based outside of London

Company spotlight

ivee.jobs

ivee.jobs is a SaaS platform offering personalised career upskilling for returners and connecting them to suitable roles. The B2B service gives employers access to this experienced, diverse and largely untapped talent pool, as ivee.jobs prepares them for their return to the workforce.

“The Product Builder Programme allowed us as to transform our concept into a more developed product, complete with Figma prototypes, user journeys, and a refined understanding of product-market fit. This allowed us to embark on the next phase of its journey— raising our pre-seed round.”



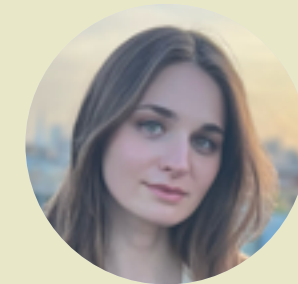
Amelia and Lydia Miller
Co-Founders, ivee.jobs

Funding Readiness Programme

Powered by Capital Enterprise

The Funding Readiness Programme is a seven-week programme to help entrepreneurs to navigate the funding landscape. Many founders and entrepreneurs are confused by the funding options available to them and to help them navigate the funding landscape better, the programme is designed to help to demystify funding and to provide founders with the skills and knowledge they need to fund their business growth.

“The programme not only offers essential investment readiness education, but also serves as a platform for networking with numerous ambitious founders and recognising the significance of valuable connections. Witnessing the growth of our alumni fills me with a sense of pride.”

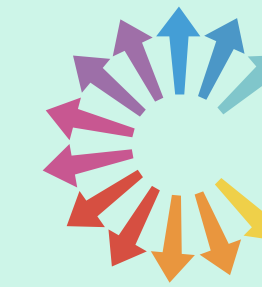


Natalia Loza
Funding Readiness Programme
Coordinator, Capital Enterprise

“If you have been involved in the UK Tech ecosystem you have probably heard lots of stories about founders making funding decisions which affects future investment or undervalues their idea - working with Capital Enterprise to educate founders on this topic and avoid these pitfalls has been truly rewarding and a real career highlight.”



Robyn Townsend
Product and Proposition Manager,
Barclays Eagle Labs



CAPITAL ENTERPRISE

Capital Enterprise is a body of connectors, influencers, investors and policy-makers, collaborating to serve and help super-charge the UK startup scene. The largest network of startup supporters in London and a leading authority on tech startup growth and committed to making the UK the best place in Europe to start and scale a business. Capital Enterprise are actively involved in the UK's startup, investment and fast-growth scenes having founded the AI-Seed Fund and co-founded and co-managed the London Co-Investment Fund.

Funding Readiness Programme Cohort

518

businesses across both cohorts

78%

of businesses at MVP stage or beyond

33%

of businesses are revenue generating

£21.7m

lifetime capital raised by cohorts¹

66%

of participants self-identify as diverse

58%

of businesses based outside London

Company spotlight



Renew Risk serve renewable energy developers, insurers, and financiers, all seeking enhanced insights into risks associated with renewable energy assets. Understanding that clients need solutions that are reliable, secure and easy to use, Renew Risk have built products for the market, with active engagement from the market.

“The programme has been a game-changer for my business. The expert mentors and advisors provided invaluable guidance, helping me refine my business plan and pitch. Through personalised coaching and networking opportunities, I not only secured funding but also gained the skills and confidence to navigate the funding landscape effectively. I highly recommend this programme to any entrepreneur looking to scale their business. Thank you for the incredible support!”



Ashima Gupta

Co-Founder and CEO, Renew Risk

Product Growth Programme

Powered by Plexal

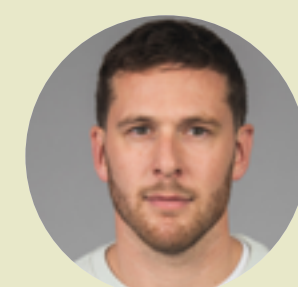
The Product Growth Programme aims to accelerate founding teams from MVP to product-market fit. Over 12-weeks the founders are provided with education on how to secure funding runway, access high growth target markets, and build a team to accelerate development.

"Navigating the valley of death poses a significant hurdle for startups transitioning from MVP to market adoption. Product Growth was created to support startups in achieving product-market fit during this critical phase of their journey. The programme supports startups with innovative digital products and technologies, providing comprehensive support in key areas."



Russell Gundry
Programme Director, Plexal

"The need for the Product Growth Programme was identified through founder feedback and the fit of available follow-on support. It's been a pleasure working with Plexal not only to co-design and deliver this programme but to help fill in gaps between startup and scaleup support within the UK entrepreneurial ecosystem."



Harry Baker
DGG Programme Delivery Manager,
Barclays Eagle Labs



plexal

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Throughout the programmes, Plexal helps founders work closely with experts in commercialising technology and establishing product-market fit, while facilitating lifelong connections with likeminded peers.

Product Growth Programme Cohort

93

applications received

25

businesses in cohort

88%

of businesses have active or planned proof of concepts

36%

of businesses within the healthcare industry

76%

of cohort self-identify as diverse

44%

of businesses based outside London

Company spotlight



Pregma is a HealthTech company, supporting and empowering expectant and new mothers, connecting them to the maternity-focused private healthcare professionals they may need. Pregma's goal is to redefine how maternity care is provided in the UK, giving women increased control of their maternity journeys.

"It's been an absolute pleasure to be part of such a positive and collaborative environment, and we are undoubtedly now far better equipped to navigate our path ahead. The programme may be ending, but the network it introduced us to and the energy it has given us will certainly live on. Thank you!"



Faye Safari
Founder, Pregma

Female Founder Accelerator

Powered by AccelerateHER

The Female Founder Accelerator supports female-led technology businesses by connecting founders with experts from across the entrepreneurial landscape in a series of masterclasses, with the focus on developing their business propositions further. The nine-week programme also includes opportunities for one-to-one mentoring, accountability groups, in person community networking, and a showcase event.

"The UK economy needs more female founders. To achieve this, we need to provide the networks and development opportunities that will ultimately level the playing field, that's what this programme aims to do. It's been a joy to watch 100 exceptional women come together each week to learn, collaborate, and scale."



Elizabeth Pirrie

CEO, AccelerateHER and COO,
Investing Women Angels

"Partnering with AccelerateHER to bring together 100 female founders has been a pleasure! Witnessing the founders dedication and how the female founder community support each other has been inspirational. It has been awesome to play a role in helping diversify the UK tech ecosystem."



Rouya Mardani

DGG Programme Delivery Manager,
Barclays Eagle Labs



AccelerateHER have been accelerating the growth, visibility and backing of over 7,000 female founders since 2016. Over £65m worth of investment has been raised by founders from the network following the support of mentoring, workshops, networking, international market building missions, and the annual AccelerateHER awards. Through the programmes offered and exposure gained to potential investors, customers and key networks, the organisation has amplified the visibility of female founders, and the contribution they make to the economy and the planet.

Female Founder Accelerater Cohort

257

applications received

100

businesses in the cohort

46%

of businesses are revenue generating

59%

of businesses use AI within their product

57%

of businesses based outside London

36%

of cohort are aged 34 years or under

Company spotlight



DEV4 are a bespoke software development company that specialise in designing high-quality cloud-based software with user-friendly interfaces and automated processes. Currently focusing on an equipment tracking MVP, equi-track. This cloud-based solution streamlines equipment management through seamless integration with mobile, GPS, and IoT technologies, accelerating automation in asset tracking.

"Importantly, the programme provided a comfortable space to confidently discuss my business and future plans. Conversations with mentors and fellow cohort members highlighted the invaluable support which networks like this offer. This experience has motivated me to apply to the next Industry Bridge programme to connect our MVP plans with businesses in the renewable energy sector."



Gail Henderson
Technical Director, DEV4

Black Venture Growth Programme

Powered by Foundervine

The Black Venture Growth Programme focuses on business growth and removing barriers to fundraising through targeted support. The 16-week programme aims to boost success through business audit assessments, investment readiness education, customer acquisition support and the championing of participants within the ecosystem.

“The programme has been designed to accelerate the growth of bold founders driving innovation. We believe it’s a crucial step in addressing the systemic barriers that we still see at Foundervine that black founders face in growing and scaling new ventures. Together, we aim to amplify success and pave the way for a more dynamic entrepreneurial landscape.”



Izzy Obeng
CEO, Foundervine

“It’s been phenomenal to have brought the Black Venture Growth Programme (BVGP) with Foundervine to life, where we can specifically focus on the opportunities to remove barriers to fundraising through targeted support. Witnessing the unique journeys of each business on this cohort has been an incredible experience. It’s been a privilege to support them on their journey.”



Natalie Ojevah MBE
Diversity and Inclusion Lead,
Barclays Eagle Labs

Foundervine

Foundervine supports the growth of ambitious early and scaling-stage businesses. Since 2018, the accelerators have propelled new ventures to start, scale and raise capital. A wealth of experience in orchestrating large-scale accelerator and investment-readiness programmes, co-created with partners such as Barclays, Amazon, Sainsburys and the UK Government, underscores the commitment to fostering growth in the business sector. With a network of over 540 ventures and an additional 10,000+ founders engaged through events, Foundervine has nurtured a powerful community of support for ventures led by bold founders.

Black Venture Growth Programme Cohort

256

applications received

20

businesses in the cohort

£7.2m

lifetime capital raised by cohort¹

60%

of businesses founded since 2020

20%

of businesses based outside London

65%

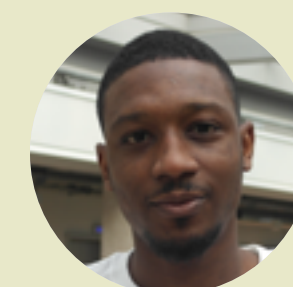
of businesses use AI within their product

Company spotlight



ApTap empowers financial institutions to work seamlessly with merchants, unlocking opportunities for engagement, revenue, and consumer savings. Enabling data-driven relationships by helping banks build rich ecosystems around their customers' finances. By fostering connections between banks and merchants, ApTap helps consumers optimize their spending on bills and subscriptions, offering crucial value during this cost-of-living crisis that impacts everyone.

"For my company, the programme made invaluable connections. Warm introductions to key individuals and expert guidance on navigating large corporates internally have strengthened our potential client relationship and equipped us to confidently approach other large institutions. Finally, they also provided a wealth of knowledge via various masterclasses that are helping inform key business decisions."



Isa Ibrahim
Co-Founder and CTO, ApTap

Scaleup Programme

Powered by Cambridge Judge Business School (CJBS)

The Cambridge Judge Business School Scaleup Programme supports high-potential scalable businesses, founders, and their senior management by addressing components like go-to-market strategy that are key to business growth. The four-month programme is delivered by Cambridge Faculty, thought leaders and industry practitioners through dedicated coaching, peer-to-peer learning, and custom support that helps founders develop their growth plans.

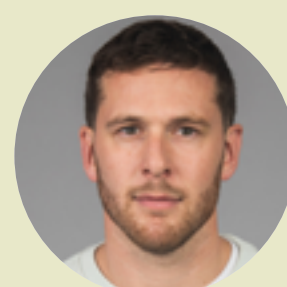
“The Scaleup Programme plays a pivotal role in tackling both entrepreneurial obstacles and broader societal issues, scaling up SMEs not only drive economic prosperity but also contributes to solving pressing societal challenges.”



Stelios Kavadias

Academic Programme Director, CJBS

“It’s been awesome to be a part of the CJBS Scaleup Programme. We interviewed a lot of great companies and it has been a privilege to co-select and support this cohort. I am very much looking forward to witnessing first hand how they benefit from the programme.”



Harry Baker

DGG Programme Delivery Manager,
Barclays Eagle Labs



ExecutiveEducation

Situated within the University of Cambridge ecosystem, CJBS draws on world-renowned faculty, state-of-the-art facilities, and a commitment to practical application. Participants acquire essential skills, knowledge, and networks for navigating dynamic business challenges and fostering sustainable growth. With a distinctive blend of science and business expertise, Cambridge Judge Business School Executive Education offers unparalleled opportunities for professional development. The Entrepreneurship Centre within CJBS seamlessly integrates science and business, fostering innovation and nurturing visionary leaders for impactful change.

Scaleup Programme Cohort

25

businesses in the cohort

44%

of cohort self-identify as diverse

64%

of businesses based outside London

19

average number employees per business

11

industry verticals represented

32%

of cohort are aged 45 years or older

Company spotlight



CrossTech develops automated computer vision inspection software for the railway industry. Their expertise are in AI Image Processing, Automation, Computer Vision Analytics and User-Centred software design. CrossTech are already helping some of the world's most demanding railway systems improve operational performance, efficiency, and safety by locating and / or predicting potential hazards before they cause delays or potential risks.

"I would highly recommend the programme as it will give you a) practical tools which can make a difference straight away to your growth and leadership skills and b) access to support from highly qualified mentors. Enjoy!"



Haydon Bartlett-Tasker
Managing Director, CrossTech

Scaleup Programme

Powered by Plexal

The Plexal Scaleup Programme supports scaleups as they navigate their rapid growth trajectory. Plexal creates content that's tailored to address the unique situations the nation's fastest-growing scaleups face. They have a connected, UK-wide ecosystem of founders, mentors, investors and customers. The six-month programme supports scaleups to solve society's biggest challenges using collaboration and innovation to address challenges like building healthy communities and enabling sustainable innovation.

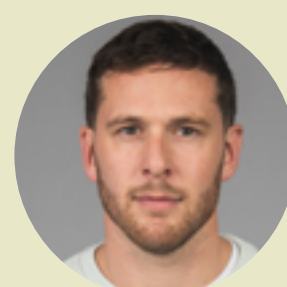
"The Scaleup Programme's mission is to back 25 of the UK's most promising companies, guiding them through their scaling journey and helping them navigate the fast-paced road to growth. With three in-person touchpoints, we're dedicated to fostering a peer-to-peer network of support for the companies on the programme and look forward to seeing the achievements they will accomplish in the future."



Emma Marshall

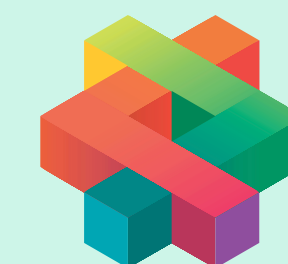
Programme Delivery Lead, Plexal

"Working with the Plexal team and supporting the creation of the programme has provided me with front row seats to the UK scaleup ecosystem. From Spacetech to Deeptech and from Port Talbot to Poole seeing the diversity of the UK scaleup ecosystem both through an industry and geographic lens has been fascinating. I'm looking forward to seeing how the cohort learn from each other and the programme."



Harry Baker

DGG Programme Delivery Manager,
Barclays Eagle Labs



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Scaleup Programme Cohort

25

businesses in the cohort

£80.7m

lifetime capital raised by cohort¹

£5.6m

capital raised since joining programme¹

25

average number employees per business

44%

of cohort self-identify as diverse

68%

of businesses based outside London

Company spotlight



Bright Ascension are a space software company providing products and services to support the next generation of space systems and applications. The innovative modular approach helps to ensure that satellite missions are developed more efficiently and launched significantly faster, with fewer risks and at lower cost.

“I saw the opportunity in the Scaleup Programme to make sure we were much better equipped for the next critical steps we are taking. I have found the sessions to be incredibly useful with practical advice we can use straight away. The direct support from the team, and the advice and encouragement of others on the programme, made the experience valuable and fun!”



Peter Mendham
Founder and CEO, Bright Ascension

Industry Bridge

Powered by CodeBase

Over a ten-month period, Industry Bridge brings together startups and corporates within a sector to explore industry challenges and innovation opportunities.



AgriTech Bridge



Care and
HealthTech Bridge



Cyber Bridge



Sustainability Bridge

CODEBASE

CodeBase is a startup ecosystem builder, delivering economic growth, attracting inward investment, and encouraging entrepreneurship. CodeBase does this by creating the right conditions for startups to succeed, by developing the skills and culture needed for innovative businesses to start and scale. It's not just about supporting individual businesses; it's about fostering a network of people, organisations, and resources that collectively empower entrepreneurs. CodeBase offers education, mentorship, workspace, community and funding-readiness opportunities for startup founders and their teams looking to build, grow and scale.

"Collaboration between startups and established businesses can be difficult to navigate. The Industry Bridge programme is facilitating connections between early-stage companies and established businesses in industries we think are poised for disruption. Equipped with practical, relevant and relatable resources, participants work together to drive transformative change within their respective sectors."



Helen Tate

Head of Bridge Programmes, CodeBase

Industry Bridge

371

applications received

4

industry bridge programmes

£59.9m

lifetime capital raised by startups supported¹

£8.3m

lifetime capital raised by startups supported since support¹

114

startup businesses supported

40

established businesses supported

51%

of cohort self-identify as diverse

70%

of cohort based outside of London



AgriTech Bridge Programme



Startup

“The Bridge programme gave me renewed strength and confidence through generously programmed sessions, community and network building, and mentoring. In 2024, Agrecalc is readying our product and business for investment and the programme has provided valuable opportunities to support our growth at this critical stage.”



Jessica Armstrong

Head of Customer Activity, Agrecalc Ltd

[Visit website](#)



GREAT FOOD
PROUDLY MADE

Established business

“The diverse minds we met through AgriTech Bridge Programme have given us confidence that new solutions can be commercially viable, and I hope we have given them confidence to believe that the food industry could benefit greatly from their transformational ideas.”



Monica Turner

Chief Financial Officer, William Jackson
Food Group

[Visit website](#)

Care and HealthTech Bridge Programme



Startup

“The ability for relevant members of the team to participate as appropriate through the programme means we've been able to make best use of our time to access expert insights in topics that are relevant and timely. We're delighted to have been part of the programme and we'd recommend it to other digital health startups.”



Amanda Philpott
Co-Founder and CEO, eargym

[Visit website](#)

Specsavers

Established business

“It has been interesting to gain insight into how startups work as well as their concerns and blockers working with corporates. As a corporate, things can move slowly so it's been valuable to take on board a bit more of a startup approach to the challenges we are facing to find quicker solutions. The workshops have allowed for everyone to be open and honest about their successes and pitfalls and provide a good opportunity to learn from other people's experience.”



Jesal Vishnuram
Audiology Lead, Specsavers

[Visit website](#)

Cyber Bridge Programme

CAPSLOCK

Startup

“The content has been brilliant. I expected the biggest benefit to be the networking which is a great part. It is great to spend some time with others in your shoes, you often think ‘what am I doing wrong’, so the content and conversations we have had off the back of the sessions has been very helpful and relatable.”



Dr. Andrea Cullen
Co-Founder and COO, CAPSLOCK

[Visit website](#)

MiGSO-PCUBED

Established business

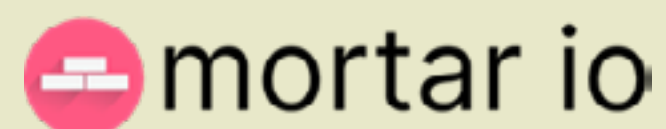
“I found the programme to be a well-structured and highly beneficial initiative that fosters collaboration, knowledge sharing, and innovation within the cybersecurity ecosystem. It provided substantial value for us as an established businesses, contributing to a more secure and resilient digital landscape.”



Alex Bowker
Senior Delivery Manager, MiGSO-Pcubed

[Visit website](#)

Sustainability Bridge Programme



Startup

“As a startup, the Sustainability Bridge was a really unique programme experience for us, having been through quite a few accelerators at this point. We really enjoyed having direct contact with corporate customers, to gain insight into how they tick in a way that we didn't have access to previously.”



Josephine Bromley
Co-Founder and COO, Mortar IO

[Visit website](#)



Established business

“No one company has all the answers and cross industry collaboration is vital. The programme has been a great way to connect with startups who are creating innovating propositions to help consumers and businesses retrofit their homes and businesses.”



Indi Burton
Head of Business Development -
Banking Partnerships, British Gas Zero

[Visit website](#)

Mentoring

Our mentoring programme helps founders navigate challenges and grow their business by connecting them with specialist mentors who are academics, successful entrepreneurs, technical experts and industry practitioners

Mentors are available through our mentoring partners, Cambridge Judge Business School, Capital Enterprise, and CodeBase.

750

hours of mentoring support delivered

+78

mentoring Net Promoter Score (NPS)

466

unique businesses supported

21%

of mentees are aged 45 years or older

64%

of businesses based outside London

57%

of mentees supported self-identify as diverse



“Mentoring is key for tech founders as it offers invaluable guidance, expertise, and networking opportunities. Experienced mentors provide insights into industry nuances, helping founders navigate challenges and make informed decisions (e.g. choosing the most appropriate grant funding opportunity). Mentors’ support fosters skill development, accelerates learning curves, and enhances confidence in founders. In the fast-changing tech world, where innovation is vital, mentorship cultivates resilience and strategic thinking.”



Fabricio Chavarro
Capital Enterprise Mentor
Co-Founder, OTRAVISTA LLP

Mentoring

Mentor

"As a mentor for Barclays Eagle Labs I meet a variety of businesses and the challenges the founders face constantly reminds me why mentoring was so pivotal during my time as a founder. A mentor session is a safe space to play out scenarios and get advice from someone who has experienced what you are going through. I always came away relieved that I had talked an issue through and with a clear plan of my next steps. Being on the other side as a mentor now I feel privileged to be able to support founders with their challenges and help them form a plan of how to move forward."



Julie Grieve
Business Advisor

Mentee

"The matching process facilitated by CodeBase identified the best mentor for my needs at the time. My mentor provided brilliant advice which reset my strategic and tactical approach for increasing commercial traction through sales. This has formed the basis of our commercial development plan over a six-month period. We are already seeing the benefits."



Dr Ian Philp CBE
Founder, Age Care Technologies

Mentoring

Mentor

“Barclays and CJBS have embarked on a journey through the Scaleup Programme, where mentoring is not just an added feature but a core aspect of our mutual commitment to fostering growth and success. This goes beyond the traditional boundaries of education by integrating dedicated business coaching and mentoring into our approach. This ensures that entrepreneurs are supported with their unique business challenges. Our tailored mentorship is designed to help founders enhance their leadership qualities and refine their business strategies to seize unique growth opportunities. Together, CJBS and Barclays are dedicated to unlocking the potential of mentorship to help shape resilient, forward-thinking leaders capable of steering their businesses through the complex process of scaling up.”



Babita Devi

Growth Coach, Board Advisor,
Cambridge Judge Business School

Mentee

“Being referred to Babita Devi has been a game changer for my business. At the time of our first meeting, I was overwhelmed with not having enough hours in the day to do what I perceived necessary and an advanced case of impostor syndrome; feeling out of my depth without the business know-how needed to take a next big step. Having Babita as a mentor has given me the clarity to value my strengths and help me gain momentum through parallel growth.”



Carol Arnott

Founder and CEO, Get Set Yeti Ltd

Ecosystem Partnership Programme (EPP)

The Ecosystem Partnership Programme supports organisations embedded in their local entrepreneurial ecosystem to help boost their support to tech and digital businesses. Organisations apply for matched funding to deliver new or amplify existing activities that address opportunities or challenges that have been identified within their local ecosystem.

“Through Season 1 of our Ecosystem Partnership Programme, we’ve allocated over £1.4m of matched funding to organisations that are already plugged into their national and regional ecosystems. It’s been amazing to work with such incredible partners across the UK and see the passion and commitment they each put into supporting startups and scaleups, which are important to growing local economies.”



Amy Woodcock
Ecosystem Partnership Programme
Delivery Manager, Barclays Eagle Labs

£10.2m

matched funding requested across all applications

13

2023/24 EPP partners

£1.43m

matched funding provided to successful EPP partners

9

NUTS1¹ regions supported

+600

businesses supported

100%

of support delivered to businesses based outside of London



¹ Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) classification, major socio-economic regions. All data to March 2024; Source: Barclays Eagle Labs Ecosystem Partnership Programme Application Database and Tracker

Allia Impact

'Grow Your Business' is a self-paced programme packed full of specialist support with a library of online content. It is open to a diverse range of small and medium businesses across East Anglia, helping them to achieve growth, gain more revenue and customers, and create employment.

"The Allia Self-Paced Learning (SPL) project is for those in underserved communities, across the East of England, who are unable to tap into support and resources that exist in major urban hubs. The SPL blends content that can be accessed whenever with one-to-one support to give founders personalised support from coaches who understand the challenges founders face."



Andrew Brisbin
Director of Ventures, Allia Impact



Allia is dedicated to helping founders of social enterprises, tech for good ventures, and impact changemakers thrive through workspace, finance, and support. Across all stages of growth, Allia supports founders through its programmes, buzzing impact spaces, and impact finance solutions.

EPP participant company spotlight: Phoenix Trust

Phoenix Trust is a social enterprise and charity based in Milton near Cambridge. Offering work experience to young people and adults with a range of learning disabilities and special, additional or complex needs. The site has a concrete factory, carpentry workshops, a kitchen garden and canteen kitchen, and is open to the public for the sale of products produced on site.

“The emphasis on sharing and networking also ensured that the course was collaborative and communication between participants was encouraged and nurtured. If you are lucky enough to be offered a place - grab it with both hands!”



Jude Tustian

Manager, The Phoenix Trust Milton

C4DI

The C4DI Beta Satellite programme, in partnership with North Yorkshire Council, focuses on bringing together a diverse and wide range of skilled digital experts with traditional businesses. It helps provide new work opportunities and business growth through ongoing connectivity, advice and guidance. The programme provides participants with digital readiness audits, workshops, networking and one to one support via a dedicated Digital Champion.

“The C4DI Beta Satellite Programme supports digital empowerment in North Yorkshire. This initiative is designed to fuel digital innovation across traditional businesses and digital enterprises alike, addressing the need for digital integration in our local, rural economy. Our commitment to this programme reflects our belief in the transformative power of digital innovation to help create a prosperous, inclusive economy for all.”



Linsey Brown
Head of Partnerships, C4DI



C4DI is a privately-owned network of incubators focused on aiding tech startups and traditional businesses in growth and innovation. Operating from hubs in the UK and Central Europe, C4DI provides comprehensive support, including expert advice, funding, mentorship, and supply chain access, to help businesses scale and succeed. C4DI offers Corporate Innovation Programmes and Bespoke Project teams to enhance business success through effective technology use.

EPP participant company spotlight: Data Stream

Data Stream UK's mission is to empower businesses with data-driven solutions tailored to their unique objectives. Aligning expertise with business goals, working collaboratively to harness the full potential of data assets.

"Participating in the C4DI Beta Satellite Programme as a Digital Champion for AI has been an incredibly rewarding journey. The doors it has opened to new opportunities as well as the direct route to market it has offered has been pivotal."



Elliot Fearn

Managing Director, Data Stream UK

ConceptionX

Conception X is scaling the commercialisation of breakthrough technologies across the East Midlands, the North East, the North West, the South West and Scotland through a series of hyperlocal interventions to help discover and build the next generation of DeepTech startups.

“We all know breakthroughs that transform lives are years in the making. Conception X creates companies today that solve problems that will become apparent 3-5 years down the line, working closely with universities across the country to discover and inspire a new generation of DeepTech founders, and promoting the translation of groundbreaking research into tomorrow's technologies.”



Riam Kanso
Founder and CEO, Conception X

conceptionx

Conception X is the UK's leading cross-university venture programme that helps PhD students working on research with commercialisation potential to launch deeptech startups in a low-risk environment and with a tech-for-good angle. An independent not-for-profit that attracts participants from universities across the UK and beyond.

EPP participant company spotlight: RideScan

RideScan has built an attachable device for autonomous robots and self-driving vehicles that draws inspiration from human cognitive processes to enhance the safety and reliability of autonomous systems. By interpreting raw telemetry data without the need for additional sensors or access to proprietary systems, RideScan provides humans with real-time insights into machine behaviour.

“The programme has expanded my thinking in terms of how to talk to customers, investors and experts, and I can convey the value of my idea in a more concise manner now – something that’s very difficult to do until you start talking to different people.”



Shivoh Chirayil Nandakumar

PhD student in Robotics and AI at Heriot-Watt University

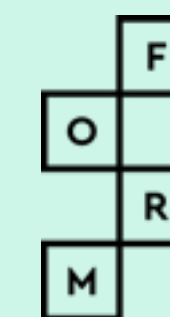
Form

Gather, delivered by Form supports companies to unlock the next stage of growth for their business. Providing expert-led one-to-one consultancy, two intensive 6-week business support programmes and a growth workshop connecting ambitious leaders to equip them with insights and tools for sustainable, repeatable growth.

"In the Liverpool City Region, we have an incredible community of ambitious early-stage, growth, and scaling businesses, all of which are part of the Gather community. We are delighted to further invest in the Gather ecosystem, specifically supporting businesses pushing through the growth bottleneck phase of their growth journey."



Matt Johnson
Managing Director, Form



GATHER

Form are a strategy and leadership consultancy that works with dynamic, creative, digital, and technology companies worldwide. In addition to working directly with individual businesses, Form also engages in growth partnerships with public and private sector organisations to help SMEs and ecosystems flourish.

EPP participant company spotlight: Focal Studios

Focal Studios is made up of a team of creative technologists who specialise in projection mapping, immersive media, installation artworks and video production. Helping clients tell their stories in spectacular ways, leaving audiences with unforgettable immersive experiences.

“Taking part in the programme was a fantastic experience. I needed help understanding how to attract and retain clients, develop a better pricing model and grow the company effectively. The wealth of knowledge and experience of our advisor came across in all our conversations, giving me the confidence and reassurance that we are on the right path.”



Dennis Outten

Co-Founder and Managing Director,
Focal Studios

Functional Skills UK

The Hidden Talent programme upskills and connects job seekers and college students within the local Brighton startup ecosystem to solve specific digital marketing problems.

“We developed a consortium approach based on a shared passion for creating opportunities for young people and adults through skills development. We have worked with local startups over a number of years and identified not only their digital marketing problems but also their recruitment challenges. We connected the two groups together, which helps strengthen the local startup ecosystem.”



Carl Southwell
Founder, Startup Street



Startup Street champions inclusive ecosystems for marginalised entrepreneurs, ensuring access to skills and funding through real world business challenges.

Functional Skills UK (FSUK) offers diverse training, including Apprenticeships and Adult Education, serving over 1000 learners annually through 21 centres and community venues in Brighton and Hove.

BHE Academy specialises in English, Maths, and Digital qualifications, with 15 years of expertise in delivering bespoke education experiences offering programmes that emphasise entrepreneurship

EPP participant company spotlight: TechNative Digital

TechNative Digital is setting out to close the tech skills gap by offering new routes into tech through immersive 16 week bootcamps that are led, designed and sponsored by tech employers. Helping businesses build talented and diverse teams and offer opportunities for those who want a career in tech to train and move directly into employment.

“The young people who presented to me on the day were fantastic! They had worked really hard to research TechNative and what it is we do and had created their own video content and marketing plans to help us promote it. There was loads of great feedback about our current marketing and some great pointers for improving our strategy and gaining more engagements.”



Dan Wallman

Founder and CEO, TechNative Digital

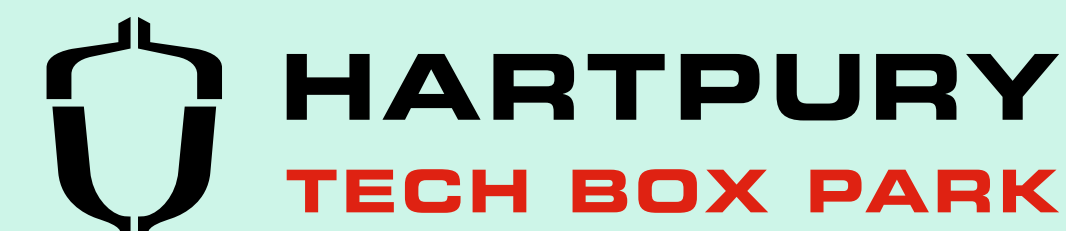
Hartpury University

Through the SME Accelerator 20 businesses receive memberships to Hartpury Tech Box Park to help turn their products and services into a commercial success for the AgriTech, FoodTech, and GreenTech industries.

“We’re excited to increase the unique support to our existing Tech Box Park, offering more valuable opportunities for founders, entrepreneurs, and scaleups in the region to test, trial and commercialise new products for the land-based sector.”



Catherine Briggs
Manager, Hartpury Tech Box Park



Situated within Hartpury's commercial farm, Hartpury Tech Box Park offers self-contained workspaces for collaboration and growth. With unique access to on-farm testing and trialing, it serves as a valuable hub to support business growth.

EPP participant company spotlight: BioViron International

BioViron International provides products aimed at reducing carbon footprints for businesses and public sector organisations.

“The potential to develop something groundbreaking here is real. We’ve always seen the potential for our products within the agricultural market, but never thought we’d find a partner so agreeable. Joining the Tech Box has given us the chance to tap into the minds of farmers, estate managers and agricultural students to see where our materials could work well.”



Bruce Bodio

CEO, BioViron International

Heriot-Watt University

The DeepTech LaunchPad gives six entrepreneurs access to experts, facilities and equipment within Heriot-Watt University and the National Robotarium, the world-leading centre for robotics and artificial intelligence based at Heriot-Watt's Edinburgh campus. Entrepreneurs also receive training and support from the university's commercialisation team, helping them to become investment-ready with proven prototype products, industry partners and a viable route to market.

"The DeepTech LaunchPad creates an exciting step in strengthening Scotland's innovation ecosystem and establishing Heriot-Watt as a global leader in commercialising deep technology research. Participants gain access to world-leading facilities like the UK's National Robotarium as well as our vast network of international industry connections, experts and alumni to help accelerate their cutting-edge research toward commercial success."



Jamie Allan

DeepTech LaunchPad Programme Leader, Heriot-Watt University



Heriot-Watt University, located in Edinburgh, Scotland, offers a diverse range of undergraduate, postgraduate, and research programmes across various disciplines including engineering, business, and the sciences. Renowned for its strong industry connections and emphasis on practical, real-world skills, Heriot-Watt equips graduates with the tools they need to excel in their chosen fields and make meaningful contributions to society.

EPP participant company spotlight: Infinity DPM

Founded in 2013, Infinity DPM are currently focused on the upper limb prosthetics market. With a pipeline of complimentary products, the first of which is an upper limb arm solution which could be a much-needed missing link between the patient's residual limb and a variety of prosthetic solutions including robotic hands and wrists.

"We are a small company with limited resources. Joining the DeepTech Launchpad will give us much needed access to a wide range of expertise, mechanical engineering, electronics engineering, software engineering and biomechanical control."



David Yeudall
Founder, Infinity DPM

SETsquared Partnership

The Creative Tech Programme,

delivered alongside MyWorld, supports creative tech businesses in the South West to become investor-ready and accelerate their business growth.

The Green Futures Programme,

delivered alongside Green Futures Solutions at the University of Exeter, is supporting sustainable tech businesses in the South West to develop scalable and ambitious business models and bid for funding for collaborative research and development with academic partners.

“There is a local challenge around supporting creative tech SMEs to secure private sector investment to support their growth. Equally, there are strong clusters of green tech businesses in South West, but they need funding to continue their R&D and university-grade research to bring these innovations to the market. The programmes have been carefully designed to put these businesses on the path to success”



Serena Giaminardi

Head of Programmes and Investment,
SETsquared



SETsquared is the enterprise partnership between six UK universities, Bath, Bristol, Cardiff, Exeter, Southampton and Surrey. Its mission to turn innovation into thriving business and to date it has supported over 5,000 entrepreneurs working in the most challenging fields of science and technology, helping them raise over £4bn in investment and funding.

EPP participant company spotlight: New Party Rules Labs

New Party Rules Labs specialises in crafting mixed-reality games that are as multifaceted as the adults who play them. From the thrill of adventure to the beauty of shared discovery, our games serve as conduits for a wide range of play experiences in both physical spaces and virtual playgrounds.

“What struck me was the candidness of discussions, where successes, challenges, failures and learnings were openly shared. Hearing from successful businesses offering invaluable perspectives on the journey from investment to navigating exits was enlightening.

“Sign up; there's always more to learn.”



Imwen Eke

Experience Designer and Social Games
Creator, New Party Rules

Sheffield Hallam University – AWRC

The Advanced Wellbeing Accelerator is an R&D-focused programme which supports pre-revenue and early-stage companies in developing products or services with applications that help people to live healthier lives.

“The AWRC Accelerator programme applies our research expertise to real world problems, supporting companies who are helping to tackle global health challenges. We have seen companies go on to secure funding as well as sign significant partnerships, internationalisation and realise NHS adoption as a result of this support.”



Jason Brannan
AWRC Deputy Director, Sheffield Hallam University



The Advanced Wellbeing Research Centre (AWRC) is one of Sheffield Hallam University's most impactful research centres, with a mission to transform lives through innovations that help people move. This is at the heart of AWRC and reflects a belief that physical activity, in its many forms, has significant benefits for individuals, communities, the economy and wider society.

EPP participant company spotlight: BERRI

BERRI uses the expertise of clinical psychologists to make online tools that identify, support and track children's psychological needs. BERRI looks at behaviour, emotional wellbeing, relationships, risks and indicators of neurodevelopmental or psychiatric conditions, using advanced data science to generate individualised reports for parents/caregivers explaining the child's needs and giving tailored advice on how to support them.

“The AWRC accelerator has been a great opportunity to network with other founders in the health and wellbeing space, and to dedicate time to thinking about important steps like gaining regulatory approvals that will allow us to offer our services into the NHS. It feels like there is a whole community of support, rather than having to learn everything myself!”



Dr Miriam Silver

Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Founder
and CEO, BERRI

Sunderland Software City

The programme is aimed at helping tech entrepreneurs secure capital, by offering sessions with experienced startup advisers to help overcome investment-related barriers.

Founders receive funding advice, facilitated networking and access to invaluable insights from seasoned founders. Programme partner Ignite offers an eight-week online platform - The Launch, to help potential founders test and validate their startup ideas.

“Raising funding takes time, resilience and commitment so we’re here as an extension of their team; an impartial sounding board. We’re invested in their success; we want to help them achieve their funding goals.”



Mark Gardner
Startup and Growth Manager,
Sunderland Software City



Sunderland Software City (SSC) is a tech sector support organisation with a mission to drive digital technology growth across the North East of England. Working to build the region’s tech workforce, helping more people start tech businesses, ensuring companies have the support they need to grow and helping drive the adoption of emerging and advanced technologies.

EPP participant company spotlight: XR Therapeutics

XR Therapeutics helps people to overcome their anxiety and live a more fulfilling life, by delivering safe and effective mental health treatment using the latest immersive technology. A startup which spun out of Newcastle University, XRT's offering is based on over a decade of clinical and academic research.

"The advice from Sunderland Software City on securing funding was invaluable and the achievement of funding is going to have a huge impact on the future of XRT. To date our work has focussed on helping autistic people but now we're able to share this treatment with more people suffering with phobias."



Billy Webber
CEO, XR Therapeutics

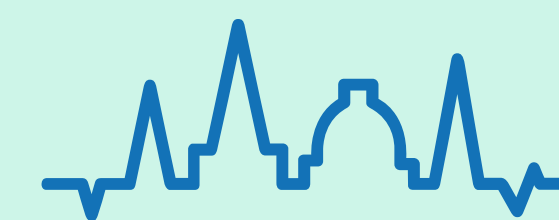
TheHill

TheHill Start-Up Labs programme brings early-stage companies and digital innovators together with nurses, midwives, and allied health professionals (NMAHPs), supporting them to get their healthcare focused digital innovation off the ground. The programme enables NMAHPs and early-stage companies to work together to develop solutions which could address a clinical need within the NHS.

“We are delighted to be able to further grow the important digital health ecosystem in the UK. This project follows our needs-led approach, starting with engaging frontline staff in articulating needs and contributing to solutions, ultimately leading to stronger digital health companies with a good problem-solution fit.”



Megan Morys-Carter
Director, TheHill



T H E H I L L

TheHill, embedded within Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, empowers digital innovation in health and care across the Thames Valley. Encouraging NHS staff to engage with digital innovation and inspire them to create their own solutions. Working with staff to understand the needs on the frontline, which helps drive work in digital innovation, to benefit both staff and patients.

EPP participant company spotlight: QHERE

QHERE is a marketplace app that helps patients remotely join the queue or schedule an advance appointment while cutting the waiting time when they arrive. Based on their current location and the real-time workforce availability, the app lets patients know when they should move to arrive at their turn – to optimise staff utilisation and patient satisfaction.

“Participating in this programme proved immensely beneficial for QHERE, ensuring our solution resonates with genuine NHS needs and providing insights into navigating its intricate structure. The programme's invaluable mentorship and resources, coupled with the cooperation between clinicians and businesses, have made a substantial difference. Overall, the programme presented a remarkable opportunity for QHERE.”



Wael ElAttar

Founder and CEO, QHERE

Tramshed Tech

The 12-week **GreenTech Catalyst Accelerator** aims to accelerate the growth and impact of environmentally focused businesses that have the potential to contribute to a more sustainable future pan-Wales.

The **Convergent Content Programme** aims to forge powerful connections between Wales' vibrant tech, media and creative sectors. This programme offers a range of immersive workshops, industry-driven events and mentorship with an aim to explore fresh ways of creating and distributing content as well as reaching new audiences.

“Recognising the potential in both GreenTech and Creative Industries, we focus on developing programmes in these areas. In Cardiff alone, 15% of all enterprises are in creative industries, surpassing the UK average of 11%.”



Sophie Webber
Innovation and Partnerships Manager,
Tramshed Tech



Tramshed Tech provides connected workspaces, next-level business support programmes and specialist skills training to help supercharge the growth of tech, digital, and creative businesses in Wales and beyond. Bringing together founders, startups, scaleups, enterprise organisations, investors, corporates, universities and government bodies to spark conversations, foster collaboration, forge partnerships and facilitating game-changing innovation.

EPP participant company spotlight: Green Wing

Due to launch summer 2024, Green Wing is a carbon footprint manager for the TV and film industry. Our app aims to simplify the BAFTA albert certification process. By capturing data, Green Wing aims to help production companies toward achieving their sustainability focussed goals.

“The GreenTech Accelerator has been a hugely worthwhile and positive experience. The programme and the fantastic team behind it have given me the confidence to pursue my goals as well as the tools to succeed. From creating pitch decks to understanding investment; from marketing strategies to brilliant networking opportunities; at the end of the 12-week programme I now have a much better understanding of what it takes to launch, run, and successfully grow a startup. Thank you!”



Louise Bray
Co-Founder, Green Wing

University of Edinburgh

The Venture Builder Incubator is a curated programme of interactive, online workshops and in person events designed to provide PhD students and academics with the skills and knowledge to exploit the commercial potential of their groundbreaking research and ideas. New this year is the launch of a sub-cohort focused on robotics and autonomous systems in collaboration with the National Robotarium at Heriot-Watt University

“Launching a new sub-cohort in robotics allowed us to focus support on a growing industry and make the most of the excellent research and facilities the university has.”



Laura Bernal

Venture Builder Incubator Programme
Manager, University of Edinburgh



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

The University of Edinburgh is one of the world's top universities, consistently ranked in the world top 50 and placed 22nd in the 2024 QS World University Rankings. The University has an international reputation for innovative research across a wide range of disciplines and is home to the Data-Driven innovation initiative, including 6 data-driven innovation 'hubs', housing expertise and facilities to help 10 industrial sectors become more innovative through data.

EPP participant company spotlight: AirSpection

AirSpection is developing tough, endurance drones that can launch from accessible locations, fly to remote infrastructure, conduct inspections, and then return. Flying drones to hard-to-reach locations so inspection teams don't have to.

“The programme is really comprehensive and compact, and I learned a lot about customer discovery and validation. The programme was also connected to robotics and autonomous systems stream, so we got connections to the National Robotarium.”



Matthew McLean
Managing Director, AirSpection

Insights

We've worked with Beauhurst to publish nine in-depth studies on different topics and industries that founders and entrepreneurs can use as inspiration and to learn from.

Beauhurst

Beauhurst is a searchable database of the UK's high-growth companies. The platform developed by Beauhurst is trusted by thousands of business professionals to help them find, research and monitor the most ambitious businesses in the UK. Data is collected on every company that meets their unique criteria of high growth; from equity-backed startups to accelerator attendees, academic spinouts and fast-growing scaleups. The data is also used by journalists and researchers who seek to understand the high-growth economy, and powering studies by major organisations—including the British Business Bank, HM Treasury and Innovate UK—to help them develop effective policy.

"Through the delivery of thought leadership reports, we have provided insights into emerging technologies as well as the wider tech ecosystem. These reports are useful not only to stakeholders but government agencies, entrepreneurs and investors. They provide a detailed and comprehensive overview of the sector's current state, as well as insights into its future potential. Contributions from relevant DSIT teams, partner organisations, and industry members were included to provide diverse perspectives. This information is invaluable for understanding the trajectory of the tech sector and for making informed decisions that could shape its direction.

Our partnership with Barclays Eagle Labs has highlighted the successes and challenges faced by the UK tech sector. By fostering collaboration, providing insightful content, and recognising the importance of these industries and technologies, we aim to contribute to the sustainable growth and continued success of the UK's technology sector"



Bila Turay
Research Manager, Beauhurst

Insights

We published the flagship thought leadership report, **Tech in the UK 2023 – Innovation Nation** in partnership with Beauhurst, which gives a detailed view of the growth trends and opportunities within the UK tech sector.

Ecosystem sentiment

2,500

individuals in the tech industry surveyed

47%

agree that there is a disparity in the availability of tech financing between London and other regions

23%

agree there is a shortage of suitable talent within the sector

65%

agree that public or local grant funding schemes are supportive of the tech ecosystem

The report contains eight regional reports that look at company population stats, investment levels, and more in-depth information on the most prominent nations and regions within the UK's tech ecosystem.

Tech in the UK 2023

1,050

spinout companies created across England

£63.6m

secured in grant funding in Northern Ireland (up three times on the previous year)

24.8%

increase in grant provision to founders in Scotland

8.7%

increase in equity funding in Wales (on the previous year)

Insights - Neurodiversity

We published a **thought leadership report** in partnership with The Entrepreneurs Network, to provide insights into the views of neurodiverse founders and available support networks.

500

founders surveyed

96%

of neurodiverse founders report experiencing discrimination

64%

of neurodiverse founders felt starting a business was the only way they could make a living

67%

of neurodiverse founders surveyed say their neurodiversity makes them a better business person

"We were delighted to conduct the research for the Neurodiverse Founders report. It is a particularly important issue for a lot of the entrepreneurs in our network, and there was no shortage of neurodivergent founders who were eager to talk to us about their experiences of starting and running a business. We found the research was extremely well received when published, garnering numerous mentions in the national media and across social media too. We believe the report made an important contribution towards establishing a baseline of initial evidence on the subject, on which further research can be built."



Eamonn Ives
Head of Research,
The Entrepreneurs Network and
author of Neurodiverse Founders



The Entrepreneurs Network is a think tank for Britain's most ambitious entrepreneurs. They help bridge the gap between entrepreneurs and policymakers, with an aim of making Britain the best place in the world to start and grow a business. The Entrepreneurs Network do this by conducting original research, undertaking policy campaigning, and organising events for entrepreneurs and other individuals in the wider entrepreneurial ecosystem. Since being founded over ten years ago, they have created a vibrant network of over 10,000 entrepreneurs and serve as the Secretariat of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Entrepreneurship.

Eagle Labs Academy

Eagle Labs Academy is a digital learning platform designed to help tech founders start and scale their businesses. It covers the key aspects of launching and growing a business, with bite-sized lessons that let people learn at their own pace. With expert support from:



Launched in 2024 the Eagle Labs Academy aims to support over 10,000 early-stage entrepreneurs. The topics covered include:

- Starting your tech business
- Product development and design
- Raising capital
- Marketing and sales
- Leadership and management
- Scaling and growth

"The UK's startup ecosystem stands unrivalled, home to more tech unicorns than France and Germany combined. That achievement is no coincidence; it's a result of our ongoing commitment to support and grow our tech sector. The Eagle Labs Academy, supported by our £12 million Digital Growth Grant, will help to nurture and develop the skills of the next wave of tech entrepreneurs which will in turn drive economic growth and help to create new jobs."



Saqib Bhatti
Minister for Tech and the Digital Economy

"The Eagle Labs Academy is an online platform we've created to help support tech entrepreneurs with the skills and expertise to start and grow their ideas into successful businesses. I'm thrilled we're able to offer this support that founders can access at anytime and get help with some of the key aspects of starting and running a tech business."



Elaine Oliver
External Engagement Lead, Barclays Eagle Labs

LifeSkills

Barclays LifeSkills is a free employability and financial skills programme, helping millions of people across the UK to develop the skills to prepare for their first job, progress their careers, manage money, make changes to working life or start a business. Most of their work is designed for 14-19 year olds.

Existing entrepreneurial lessons include:

- How to develop your business idea – and start trading
- How to market your business
- How to create a website for your business
- ... and more

We've used funding from the UK Government to add more modules:

- How technological innovation is needed in entrepreneurship
- The role of digital technology and AI
- Why sustainability is important for a business
- Having a positive impact on sustainability
- Enterprise challenge project.

"Eagle Labs have collaborated with Barclays LifeSkills, to provide insights into entrepreneurship for young audiences, between the ages of 11-19. We have explored and distilled two complex but highly relevant topics in artificial intelligence (AI) and sustainability, to ensure future entrepreneurs are inspired and also knowledgeable about future business trends."



Nana Agyemang

Digital Growth Grant Proposition Manager,
Barclays Eagle Labs

Still to come (year 2)

Activity funded by the UK Government will be available throughout the second funding year (between April 2024 and March 2025). Support will be available or taking applications as follows (dates are indicative and subject to change).

April 2024

Mentoring

We are offering 750 hours of grant-funded mentoring support throughout the year. Our DGG mentoring partners Capital Enterprise, Cambridge Judge Business School (CJBS) and Codebase will be providing this support.

Industry Bridge

We are taking applications for our four grant-funded bridge programmes powered by Codebase, including AI, Care & Health, Cyber and Sustainability from innovative startups and established businesses

Product Builder Programme

We are taking applications for our first Product Builder Programme of 2024. It's designed to help startups create their MVP and is powered by Plexal.

Ecosystem Partnership Programme

We've closed applications for Year 2 of the Ecosystem Partnership Programme. We're looking forward to announcing our successful partners towards the end of April 2024.

May 2024

Black Venture Growth Programme

We'll be opening applications for our Black Venture Growth Programme. It's designed for bold founders who are looking to accelerate growth and is powered by Foundervine.

Funding Readiness Programme

We'll be taking applications for our first of two grant-funded Funding Readiness Programmes. They're designed to help entrepreneurs navigate the funding landscape and are powered by Capital Enterprise.

Scaleup Programme powered by CJBS

We've closed applications for our CJBS Scaleup Programme, and we look forward to the programme starting in May 2024

June 2024

Scaleup Programme powered by Plexal

We'll be taking applications for our Plexal Scaleup Programme. It's designed to help scaleups navigate their rapid growth trajectory.

Insights

We'll be publishing the first of four reports of the second funding year, in partnership with Beauhurst.

Later in the year

Female Founder Accelerator

We'll be taking applications for our Female Founder Accelerator powered by Accelrate HER. It's focused on supporting technology businesses founded by women.

Product Growth Programme

We'll be taking applications for our Product Growth Programme . It's designed to help startups who have innovative digital products and technologies find a good product-market fit and is powered by Plexal.

Product Builder Programme (winter season)

We'll be opening applications for our second Product Builder Programme of 2024 powered by Plexal (winter season).

Funding Readiness Programme (winter season)

We'll be taking applications for our second grant funded Funding Readiness Programme powered by Capital Enterprise (winter season).

Insights

We'll be publishing three more reports in partnership with Beauhurst.

Always on initiatives

Eagle Labs Academy

Our digital learning platform can help tech founders start and scale their business.

Barclays LifeSkills

Grant funded LifeSkills modules aimed at helping to inspire students to think like entrepreneurs and develop enterprise skills.

"It's a real honour to have been part of the Digital Growth Grant journey so far, as we strive to make the UK the best place to start and grow a tech business. We're really proud of the progress made over the past year, and look forward to providing further growth programmes, mentoring sessions, educational content and much more to support even more tech entrepreneurs across the UK over the next 12 months."



Mike Jacques
Digital Growth Grant Lead,
Barclays Eagle Labs

Barclays Eagle Labs

Barclays Eagle Labs is a growing national network that provides business incubation, dedicated growth programmes, mentoring as well as co-working, and office space for ambitious high-growth businesses.

By cultivating a community of like-minded entrepreneurs and providing a collaborative work environment, access to peers, and opportunities to maximise growth through digital connections and growth programmes, curated events, and funding opportunities, Eagle Labs is able to help startups to grow at pace.

Eagle Labs also specialises in positively disrupting key industries by bringing together key corporate players, industry bodies, leading universities, and startups to enable rapid innovation and investment, by asking them to collaborate and currently have dedicated industry-aligned programmes.

Eagle Labs all across the UK and more in the pipeline, our focus is to help to connect, innovate and grow ambitious UK businesses and entrepreneurs.

Find out more at labs.uk.barclays.

Important Information

We have pulled together the resources in this document for you to help with your independent research and business decisions. This document contains opinions from independent third parties and link(s) to third party websites and resources that we (Barclays) are not providing or recommending to you.

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Before you go

Get in touch if you would like to find out how we can support you and your business. We'd love to hear from you.



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