



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■

Supporting Entrepreneurs: How the UK Can Create the Conditions for Start Ups to Succeed



**Evidence-based policy research from
world-leading LSE academics**

Start Up Hubs?

Business accelerators have spread globally as popular sources of support for early-stage entrepreneurs.

These 'schools for entrepreneurs' provide competitively-selected participants with capability-building – including business training, networking, and mentoring – and sometimes funding.


But do they work?

Research by **Dr Juanita González-Uribe** looks at the impact of accelerators in the UK, and finds:

- On average, business accelerators succeed in increasing the performance of participating businesses.
- Accelerators can play a crucial role in helping investors identify the new businesses and opportunities that have the highest chances of success, and direct the resources necessary to make sure they thrive.
- Growing evidence suggests that accelerators positively affect the performance of businesses around them, by attracting venture capital and specialised talent to their respective ecosystems.



[Watch the video](#)

A photograph of a man and a woman in a modern office setting. The man, on the left, is wearing a blue shirt and is looking towards the woman. The woman, on the right, has dark curly hair and is wearing a black top. She is holding a pen and appears to be speaking or gesturing. In the background, there are shelves with various items and a window with a view of the outdoors.

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Entrepreneurs after 50: how the UK is benefitting from older founders

More over-50s than ever are starting their own business: these later-life founders provide a valuable addition to the labour market and run counter to the narrative of an aging population.

A study by LSE academics has examined the transition of older workers from employee to entrepreneur to understand the challenges and best support later-life innovators.

The research shows that being both an ex-employee and a potential entrepreneur leads to tension between identity continuity and innovation. This shapes older people's understanding of entrepreneurship as both risky and desirable.

The research further shows that older entrepreneurs can encounter discrimination and find it difficult to fit within established business communities. Policy can do much to counter these prejudices and encourage and aid the transition to entrepreneurship.

With changes to pension provision in the UK, this research provides a timely example where older entrepreneurship could play a crucial role in addressing the social and economic difficulties associated with ageing populations.



The path to social innovation

Social innovation can help solve societal problems. But how do social entrepreneurs, who dedicate their work to doing well by doing good, make the decisions that define their entrepreneurialism? And how do we ensure they are good decisions?

Dr Nadia Millington in LSE's Department of Management has explored what we know so far, and what needs to be done to ensure social entrepreneurs do no harm in their quest for social good.

This is especially crucial as advice on how to become more socially innovative is patchy at best, without agreement or a unified body of knowledge.

Dr Millington puts forward that social entrepreneurs should focus less on solutions at the outset, and instead dedicate time and investment into learning about and analysing the social problem they have identified. Once this groundwork has been laid, entrepreneurs become more open to new perspectives and innovation, from which solutions to social problems can spark.

How educational institutions are supporting entrepreneurs

Successfully starting, sustaining, and scaling a company is no easy task.

Potential founders with the greatest ideas won't always have the skills, knowledge, or resources to turn concept into business success.

Universities are developing ways to provide the infrastructure for those early ideas. At LSE, Generate is supporting the journey from concept to capital.

The offering can include "Business Clinics" or funding competitions, visa advice or tailored networking support, and other specific support.

LSE Generate has supported students and alumni with sustainable fashion brands like **Allbirds** and **Birdsong**, content creation platform **InfloAi** and global marketplace **Artisan & Fox**. All are headquartered or retain offices in the UK.



LSE Impact Accelerator

LSE's Marshall Impact Accelerator will provide a brand-new platform for the world's most promising social ventures, scaling them to help tackle global challenges in areas such as health, the environment, social inequality, public policy, and developmental economics.

Follow the progress [here](#).

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For more information on any of the work in this booklet, or to link up with world-leading researchers across areas from economic growth to health, climate change to law, please get in touch.

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