Accelerated Student Entrepreneurship Programme

**APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN STUDENT ENTREPRENEURSHIP WORKSHOPS**

The Accelerated Student Entrepreneurship Programme aims to support talented University of Bradford students to create successful commercial and social enterprises. The programme enables students to form entrepreneurial teams, encouraging links between home students, international students, and students from universities overseas (in particular, China). During a four-month, extracurricular programme, students will meet counterparts, develop ideas for joint new businesses and receive start-up support, whilst developing their personal entrepreneurial and internationalisation skills.

This application form will help the organisers to identify the best candidates for the programme. Successful applicants will receive extensive mentoring from experienced entrepreneurs and will attend two training workshops. The first workshop will focus on supporting students to meet and develop their entrepreneurial ideas. Once a new idea has been generated, students will receive support to develop this further. The second workshop teaches participants the skills required for running a successful business and how to raise funds, culminating in a ‘Dragon’s Den’ presentation pitch to real investors, for real funding, for a real start-up. Exceptional teams may receive seed funding from the University.

Please note, to take part in the programme, you must be available to commit to both workshops on the dates shown below.

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| **Workshop 1**  **Idea generation and matchmaking**  6th December 2021 | **Workshop 2**  **Business development & Dragon’s Den pitch**  28th March 2022 |
| * Home and international students meet, share ideas and identify opportunities. * They are then offered a period of support from an experienced mentor. | * Developing and refining business plans and associated skills. Preparing investment pitches. Expert masterclasses. Mentoring sessions with external entrepreneurs. * Pitching: Founder teams pitch to a Dragon’s Den, with real investors who can support the establishment of their business. |

*This programme is open to any students registered for full-time study at the University of Bradford. The programme is aiming for equal numbers of male and female participants. Students will have the opportunity to meet students from our partner universities in China as part of the programme and international collaboration is strongly encouraged.*

PLEASE E-MAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM, ALONG WITH AN UP TO DATE COPY OF YOUR CV, TO:

[open-innovation@bradford.ac.uk](mailto:open-innovation@bradford.ac.uk) BY NO LATER THAN 23:59 ON **SUNDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2021**.

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| Name: Oluwatoyin Dorcas Olajiga | Preferred first name: Dorcas |
| Gender: Female | Date of Birth: 30/07/2021 |
| Nationality: Nigerian | Mobile Phone: 07518788660 |
| BSc/MSc/PhD and title: MSc Applied Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics | |
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| *What is your main interest in applying for this programme? (500 words maximum)*  My name is Toyin Olajiga, I am a mother of one, a team member of a group of 3 in Nigeria called Weproject.  Weproject is simply a tech startup solution team, where we build creative and adaptive software solutions to problems around Nigeria, African and the world at large. With a vision to solve complex problems with simple and adaptive solutions. coming from a third world country we lacked the 3 major things necessary for a startup.  These major features are my major reasons for applying for the programme, and they are   1. Mentorship   My main interest in applying for this programme is majorly for mentorship.  Without doubt you will agree with me that we cannot possibly learn everything from school, the internet or the library. Sometimes the only way to advance is to learn directly from someone who knows - a mentor.  When we follow a mentor, we learn from their mistakes and successes.  It’s not easy to find a wise teacher, someone who will look out for you and guide you in the right direction. And because of their busy schedule it’s not easy to access most mentors especially in our field or case of interest.  Thanks to Accelerated Student Entrepreneurship Programme, me and my team would have access to specialist and Industry leading mentors who has gone ahead of us especially with our field or case of interest.   1. Collaboration   Having said that, we are looking forward to collaborations, as an African Nigerian, I have come to the realization that what most startup lack is collaboration.  By collaboration I mean the synergy and team work among Youth, corporations etc. I believe in the saying that “If you want to go fast, go alone, and if you want to go far go with a team”.  It’s time we embrace mentorship and collaboration, so as to build a strong and adaptive solution.   1. Support   Lastly, to scale our product or solutions to industry standard and take it global, we will be needing funds and support.  So once again, my major interest for applying for this program is to ensure that I access mentorship (learning from the best and experienced), collaboration (teaming up with bright minds) and support to scale up and produce a solid and adaptive solution. | |
| *What personal qualities do you possess (please give examples) that you believe would make you a successful international entrepreneur? (500 words maximum)*  What personal qualities do you possess (please give examples) that you believe would make you a successful international entrepreneur?  Some of the personal qualities that I posses and consider will make me a successful international entrepreneur are as follows;   1. Team Building   I have an eye for talents and skills, especially personalities, and because I understand that it’s the entrepreneurial team, rather than an individual, that drives a venture toward success. When starting building my own business, it’s critical to surround yourself with teammates who have complementary talents and contribute to a common goal.  Every great entrepreneur is aware of their strengths and weaknesses. Rather than letting shortcomings hold them back, they build well-rounded teams that complement their abilities.   1. Innovation   Innovation is not just the creation of new product from nothing it also the ability to make something good and improved from existing products or services and drastically improved them to meet the changing needs of the market.  However, it is important to note that innovation is a key quality and its in high demand in the marketplace.  I am very innovative and I believe my innovation comes from a curious mind, a creative mind full of imagination, always trying to improve on the status quote of everything I see.   1. I am not afraid of failure.   I always see failure as never the end but a lesson and ability to do it better but in a different way.  We live in a life that is prone to change, and its important to note that failure is vitae ingredient for success. I believe the word experience was founded on several failure and few successes.  Any creation, innovation or invention was built twice to say the least, because it was first built in our head (mind) before building it in reality, so I experiment on the idea first in my head, play around it with some prototype with some low cost to mitigate the risk and cost implication. That way I know I can manage the failures.   1. Adaptability   We live in time where the nature of business and models are changing on a fast paste.  Businesses are open to new challenges and opportunities every now and then.  Its nearly impossible to prepare for every scenario  Entrepreneurs need to evaluate situations and adapt so their business can keep moving forward when unexpected changes occur.  Its also note that my vison is not just to build a strong and reliable product but also to create a product or service that is adaptive.   1. Long time focus   Remember my vison is to build adaptive products, because I don’t dwell on the now, I always believe in building for tomorrow.  Entrepreneurship is a long-term endeavor, and entrepreneurs must focus on the process from beginning to end to be successful in the long run. | |



*Describe any relevant experience or interests you may have that would be relevant to this programme (500 words maximum)*

The relevant experience that I consider useful for this program are;

I worked with Cellulant Nigeria Limited, a multinational that specializes in fintech and agriculture.

During my years of service with this organization, I was opportune to serve in different capacity amongst which are;

1. Data analyst

As a data analyst I don’t just work with data I interpreted, studied and ensure I understand every data that passes.

To do this its important you understand the different products and projects, and to achieve this I worked with almost every department.

1. Project assistant

During the course of my service I was privileged to serve as a project assistant.

This role afforded me the opportunity to understand how the business model worked, I also worked in partnership with the tech team and it afforded me the opportunity to understand some of the software lifecycles and lastly the field work was great as I was able to see not just the ideation phase of the project but also the delivery phase on the field and users response.

Having said that, I was also part of a team called Weproject and working with the group gave me the opportunity to learn coding.

I learnt and wrote codes in Python , Html and css, Mysql.

I was able to understand in full the various software life circle and build applications too.

These Analytical, project management, people management, and software development skills are what I consider necessary experience relevant for this programme.

Thank you

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