



The
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USE

University of Sheffield **Enterprise**

Social Enterprise Student Profiles

The support we offer at USE for socially driven ideas is available to all students – no matter what your background – and you'd be surprised at the diverse range of students who look to start their own social enterprises.

Over 6 months we were approached by a range of students with very different ideas, which all had a community focus. Here are some profiles on a few of them, which should demonstrate just how open social enterprise is, as well as the benefits of getting involved in our Labs.

Rose is a PHD student who attended our Enterprise Bootcamp. She later had a meeting with our Enterprise Officer about a project idea based around care in the community, where she was prompted to think further about how she could also support those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Rose wants to explore how she can do this, whilst still making her business financially successful.

The Social Innovation Lab will provide Rose with the guidance and support required to test out different business models and see which is the best option for her project.

Katerina has a degree in architecture and is interested in developing a project that locates Sheffield's derelict buildings and identifies how these spaces may be used for community projects.

Katerina's focus is on community impact, and she says she does not want to make any money from her project.

Hopefully, the Lab might help Katerina see the benefits of running the project as a financially sustainable business.

Lauren is a journalism student working with a friend on a web-based project that reviews bands whilst helping journalism students build their live portfolio. The website is currently up and running, but now needs to make money. They have ideas about selling advertising, but will also need a more sustainable model.

Perhaps the Lab could help Lauren think about framing her project in terms of social innovation, with community benefits and a view to securing further funding/support.

Joyce is from Cameroon, with strong NGO connections. She is looking to set up a co-operative model where young women working in Cameroon can make products to sell in the UK, as well as taking UK students to projects in Cameroon. Predominately, she wants to use micro finance and loan retrieval. Joyce wanted some advice on setting up a foundation.

The Lab may help Joyce think about her project in terms of outcomes, and would allow her to apply for the Social Innovation Accelerator in February where she could access further advice and support around specific areas.

John is studying engineering and enjoyed the module where they developed a wheelchair to help a boy who had cerebral palsy. He is interested in finding out more about social innovation, though he doesn't have a specific idea in mind.

The Lab will give John the opportunity to hear other ideas and work on them to develop his skills and knowledge about establishing successful social enterprises.