



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

USE
University of Sheffield **Enterprise**

 making
ideas
happen

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is 'Making Ideas Happen'?

'Making Ideas Happen' (MIH) is an interdisciplinary module worth 20 credits at undergraduate level or 15 credits at masters level, providing an introduction to the areas of enterprise, entrepreneurship and innovation, equipping you with the skills to generate and evaluate financially sustainable, socially-driven business solutions in teams of students with a range of disciplinary backgrounds and expertise. It focuses on ideas generation and development, and has group projects based around the development of social enterprise solutions to 'real-world' community-based problem scenarios. MIH is taught and assessed by University of Sheffield Enterprise (USE).

2. Who are University of Sheffield Enterprise (USE)?

USE is a Student Services department. We work alongside of your academic teachers to support them in redeveloping your discipline modules to include the opportunity to develop enterprise skills – Embedded Enterprise. We recognise that not all students have the opportunity to access this kind of embedded enterprise yet, so we run the Making Ideas Happen module to ensure that you all have the opportunity to develop enterprise skills which are so important to your future employability. We also support students and graduates to create opportunities for you to develop your ideas, whether it's selling T-shirts to raise money for a society, organising a gig or setting up a business. We provide a wide range of opportunities for you to pursue your interests, develop your skills and expand your CV.

3. Who is 'Making Ideas Happen' for?

MIH is available to students at Levels 2, 3 and 4/M. It's open both to students who have some familiarity with the concepts of enterprise and entrepreneurship and those students who don't yet have an idea but would like to know what to do with one in future. The knowledge and skills you develop in Making Idea Happen are equally transferable into the workplace and help you develop the skills you need in your future employment to innovate, transform and lead your organisation
Please note – if you have already studied MIH at Level 2, you cannot choose it again in Level 3 or Level 4/PG Masters-level.

4. Are there any prerequisites for studying 'Making Ideas Happen'?

There are no prerequisites for taking the module.

5. When is the module available?

MIH is available in either autumn **or** spring. **You choose which semester to study it.** The module is listed in the Directory of Modules, accessible from the SSiD web pages at <http://www.shef.ac.uk/ssid/course>

6. How do I register for the module?

If you wish to take the module, you can select it in the normal way through online module choice. Provided there is capacity on the module for students from your department, your request to register on MIH will be approved by a member of USE staff.

- Level 2 students should opt for USE201 and Level 3 students should choose USE301.
- Level 4 and PG Masters students should opt for USE601

Some departments use paper-based module registration forms. If this is the case for you, you will need to get a signature from a USE staff member to select USE201, USE301 or USE601 – in some cases, your department will send us the form to sign; otherwise you may be asked to bring it over to the Enterprise Zone to sign.

7. Online module choice has finished, but I still want to sign up to MIH. What can I do?

Once term has started, there may still be places on the course if you want to switch one of your other 20- or 15-credit modules. In this case, you should complete add/drop forms using the normal procedure for your home department, and visit the Enterprise Zone main office to get a USE staff signature in order to 'add' the module. Add/drop forms are available from the SSiD module choices web pages at <http://www.shef.ac.uk/ssid/forms/addrop.html>

Please note: USE will only sign Add/Drop forms up until the Friday of Week 1 of the semester in which the student wishes to study MIH. Any requests to join MIH after this date will not be accepted.

If you want to study MIH but have NOT completed an add/drop form before the start of the semester, you MUST still attend the first lecture.

8. Do I have to wait until the 'add/drop' period to sign up?

No! MIH is a popular module, so the sooner you complete your add/drop form and sign up, the better!

If there is still room for students from your subject discipline, you can sign up using online module choice, and we will endeavour to approve your place as soon as possible.

Even if the add/drop process is not complete, if you plan on taking Making Ideas Happen you should start to attend the lectures – see FAQ 9 for why.

9. Why does USE limit its add/drop period to Week 1?

Because of the distinct, interdisciplinary nature of the group project, we have to ensure that teams are made up of members from a balance of different subject disciplines. This gives you the chance to come into contact with, and learn from, peers you'd otherwise not have the opportunity to meet and work with, capitalising on the strengths of your own subject area and learning how to utilise your skills in a completely new context.

We like to put you in your interdisciplinary groups before the semester starts. In Making Ideas Happen we get you working on your group work straight away so you can get to know each other. If the groups are disrupted by members leaving or joining after the first week, this can make it more difficult for you all to progress.

This is also why we insist that ALL students MUST attend the first lecture – if you fail to do so, you will be asked to choose another module.

10. I don't have room in my programme for 'Making Ideas Happen' this year, but I'm interested in taking it next year. What happens next?

MIH is available in either the autumn or spring semester, so students will have a choice about when to take the module to fit in best with their degree programme. If you are a Level 2 student who does not have space this year, you might want to consider choosing to take USE301 in your third year.

If you are a Level 3 student, you can choose USE601 at Level 4 if your course is a four-year undergraduate Masters course. Alternatively, if you are staying at the University after you graduate from your undergraduate degree to do a one-year Masters course, you may also be able to study USE601 if you have room for electives.

11. I'm planning to do a Masters course next year and am interested in choosing 'Making Ideas Happen'. Will I be able to enrol on it?

You can study a Level 4/Masters instance of the module, USE601, which is available in both semesters.

We are also working with academics from departments across the University to put enterprise into the curriculum. Ask your home department whether there are any other 'embedded enterprise' modules available to Masters students.

If no enterprise modules are available in your department or you do not have space to choose USE601, why not develop your skills by getting involved in extra-curricular enterprise/entrepreneurship activities offered by USE? Visit <http://enterprise.shef.ac.uk/opportunities> for more information.

12. Can I get more information about the curriculum and course content?

We can provide module outlines to you on request – please contact Shirley Riley-Lake, MIH Course Administrator on 0114 222 0912 or e-mail mih@sheffield.ac.uk. We'll give you a full Module Guide and Assessment Guide at the beginning of the semester when you start the module.

13. Can I work on my own business idea for the 'Making Ideas Happen' assessment?

No – unless, of course, you have an existing idea which also happens to meet the project brief set by our external partner organisation, and that all your group members are happy to work on.

The group projects are based around you working together with students from other subject disciplines to develop a new, social enterprise idea to solve community-based problems. By tackling a social project, you will get to engage with the city of Sheffield in a meaningful way, whilst still working on all the skills and attributes associated with being an entrepreneur.

In tackling the project, studying the weekly MOLE topics, and developing your individual reflection, you will be equipped with the tools and knowledge to develop your own business idea in future. USE can also provide additional support with this, in the form of advice and small grants – visit <http://enterprise.shef.ac.uk/opportunities> for more information.

14. How is 'Making Ideas Happen' assessed?

For undergraduates (Levels 2 and 3), the assessment consists of:

- A **group business advertisement and pitch** (20% of final module mark):
- A **group business plan** (50% of final module mark)
- **Individual coursework** (30% of final module mark), comprising two *skills audits*, 10 weekly *reflective blog* entries, and one final 1,200-word *individual reflection*

For undergraduate Levels 4 and postgraduate M-Level, the assessment consists of:

- A **group business advertisement and pitch** (20% of final module mark):
- A **group business plan** (40% of final module mark)

- **Individual coursework** (40% of final module mark), comprising two *skills audits*, 10 weekly *reflective blog* entries, and one final 1,700-word *individual reflection and research report*

15. How is the module taught?

The subject content of MIH is taught using online learning material topics in MOLE and weekly taught workshops with scheduled time for team work, a specialist advice session in Week 7, and your team's pitch presentation slot which you must attend. All teaching sessions are timetabled for early evenings so they are available to as many students as possible.

16. Why is the course taught in the evening?

Because we are offering the module to students from many departments across the entire University, we are trying to avoid too many timetabling clashes, so we can make it available to as many students as possible. You are welcome to bring food with you eat in the sessions.

17. Will there be enough support for me when I'm studying MIH?

There will be plenty of support for group projects from USE staff and specialist external advisers, and there will be teaching and administrative staff keeping in regular communication with all students studying the module. Each MIH student is also entitled to request feedback from module staff on blog posts on two separate occasions, and all teams are also entitled to make appointments with USE's professional Business Advisor.

18. Why should I bother with a module that's outside my core subject area?

You might be worried about choosing a module that isn't part of your core subject. But it still contributes towards your degree, and to work effectively in a multi-disciplinary team requires confidence and mastery of your own subject area. As well as providing an additional opportunity to develop transferrable skills, MIH will also help you understand the relevance and value of the skills you have gained from studying your core degree subject.

MIH students from 2010 onwards have given a wealth of different examples of how they have applied learning and skills developed through the module to their own discipline – examples include decreases in performance anxiety among Music students after having taking part in the elevator pitch exercise, and the use of tools and techniques from the business world applied to the analysis of literary or philosophical texts.

When you enter a job, or become self-employed, you won't just be working with others from the same background as you. This module gives you the opportunity to set yourself apart from those around you who have yet to gain such experience. Because part of the assessment involves reflecting on what you have learned and the skills you have developed, you'll learn how to articulate yourself in a way that will be of great benefit when you're applying for jobs, marketing your own skills and expertise, or promoting an idea.

19. I'm a final year student and I don't have room in my programme for 'Making Ideas Happen'. Is there anything else I can do?

Some students do not have room in their programme to choose an additional 20 credits of unrestricted modules. You might be interested in the idea of paying additional fees to take extra credits.

If this isn't feasible but you do have any enterprising ideas – or if you want to develop your skills in general – USE does have a whole range of other, extra-curricular services, facilities and resources on offer. Visit <http://enterprise.shef.ac.uk/> or come to the Enterprise Zone to find out more.

20. Who can I contact for more information?

Please contact Shirley Riley-Lake, MIH Course Administrator (phone 0114 222 0912; e-mail mih@sheffield.ac.uk). Shirley can answer your questions, or put you in touch with other USE staff who teach the module.