



Enterprise Support Resources

This is a list of resources that we have come across supporting start-up businesses or independent workers.

They are mostly for resources or organisations that AUB staff and students have worked with or used but they cannot be taken as endorsement. Always do some research and test that you are comfortable with an organisation before committing or taking their advice.

This list also isn't comprehensive, there are lots of support options out there. If you have any resources you wish to suggest please contact us to suggest them.

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AUB Support

Outside of your course teams there are several staff on hand who can advise or signpost to available support.

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We also run several events throughout the year.

Entrepreneurship and Employment Skills Week

An annual week-long series of workshops, usually in March, bringing a mix of companies, support agencies and AUB alumni to look at how to set up your own business, how to raise finance, how to protect your IP and how to generate sales.

Enterprise Skills Workshops

Run in conjunction with Sam Howell Consultants, these workshops bring people with established businesses to talk about their struggles, failures and successes to help the next generation create their own business. Each workshop is themed around a topic and there is space and time for one on one and group discussions. AUB students can approach Sam Howell for free individual consultations. Sessions normally run December to March.

Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneurship Visa

If you are an international student who wishes to remain in the UK to start a business AUB can support your application. Details can be found here <https://aub.ac.uk/international/visas-immigration/working-after-study/>

Financial Support

AUB has some funding available to support businesses with research and innovation projects to develop new products and services. There are also opportunities to get access to AUB expertise and equipment. See <https://aub.ac.uk/about-us/industry/collaborate/> for more details.

Innovation Studio

Launching in summer 2019 the Innovation Studio will be a space to support students who want to set up their own business and develop a product, service and a business plan.

Local Support

Dorset Growth Hub

<https://www.dorsetgrowthhub.co.uk>

Offers free, impartial advice to business start-ups or small businesses looking to grow, improve digital capabilities and access finance and mentoring. They also aggregate news and funding opportunities from other providers across the region.

Outset

<https://www.outset.org>

Provide free start up advice and a programme of workshops, peer to peer support, e-resources and mentoring. Workshops include; business plans, finance, sales and marketing. **Get Set for Growth** is their business accelerator. Outset's activities are delivered by entrepreneurs and they're able to offer free advice thanks to EU funding.

Dorset Business Mentoring

<http://www.dormen.org.uk>

Dormen provide business mentoring for smaller businesses. The volunteer mentors are experienced business people from all walks of life. They recommend the service for people who have been trading 6 months or more. There is an annual fee of £200 payable after you have met mentor and are happy to proceed.

Silicon South

<http://www.siliconsouth.org.uk>

Support creative and digital businesses across Dorset. They offer a mentoring programme, regular events and workshops and occasional grant funding.

The Federation of Small Businesses

<http://www.fsb.org.uk>

The FSB provide member with a range of legal, advisory and financial support. Membership to gain access to networking events and basic advice is free. More detailed packages start at £129 per annum.

Sam Howell Consultants

<http://sam-howell.co.uk>

Local business consultancy that specialise in supporting start-ups and businesses looking to grow. Sam has worked with AUB on delivering business support.

Social Enterprise Link

<http://www.socialenterpriselink.co.uk>

Social Enterprises make their money from selling goods and services in the open market, but they reinvest their profits back into the business or the local community. The team at Wessex Social Enterprise Link have over 20 years' experience supporting Social Enterprises and cooperatives.

Peer to Pier

<http://peertopier.co.uk>

Dorset has a lot of informal networks, support groups such as **Meet Draw** for digital businesses, **B-Reel** for film and **UX** for design. Peer to Pier is a good place to see what groups operate in the area and when their next events are.

Women in Business Network

<https://www.wibn.co.uk>

With Groups across the country the WIBN offer regular events and networking to gain new business opportunities through collaboration.

The Boardroom Network

<https://theboardroomnetwork.com>

TBN run structured monthly breakfast meetings, a mix of 'short presentations, personal introductions and relaxed conversation'.

National Support

Not basing your business in Dorset? Most regions will have business support structures in place, most of which will be free and accessible to start-ups.

A good way to find what's available is to search your area + Local Economic Partnership. They should have a resource section which will outline their support.

It is also worth looking at your local university to see if they have any incubation facilities or small grants on offer.

Your local council should have an economic development team and they should be aware of the support networks in your area.

Outset have offices nationally.
The FSB will have a regional chapter as well.

Another good way to get connected is to look at Eventbrite for upcoming networking sessions and workshops in your area.

The Association of Independent Professionals and the Self Employed

<https://www.ipse.co.uk>

As well as lobbying government to make the lives of independent workers better IPSE also provide legal, accounting and other support and advisory services to their members. They offer networking sessions and events to connect you to other sole traders. The membership fee for students and those within 12 months of graduation is only £35 per annum. IPSE offer a free guide to freelancing via a short registration on their website.

Business is Great

<http://www.greatbusiness.gov.uk/>

Government backed site for those wishing to start up a business

Creative and Cultural Skills

<https://ccskills.org.uk/careers/develop-your-career/starting-a-business>

Advice on freelancing, starting and growing a business as well as finance, funding & legal considerations

GOV.UK

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/business>

Useful information on setting up in business

Prospects

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/self-employment>

Useful advice on starting a business

RTS Futures

<https://rts.org.uk/resource/how-survive-freelancer>

A freelance guide for those working in TV

Creative Boom

<https://www.creativeboom.com/tips/freelancing/>

An online magazine that celebrates, inspires and supports the creative community. The site includes some useful articles on freelancing.

Intellectual Property

CopyrightUser

<http://www.copyrightuser.org>

An online resource aimed at making UK copyright law accessible to creators, media professionals, entrepreneurs, students, and members of the public.

Intellectual Property Office

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/seeking-intellectual-property-advice>

This gives an excellent overview of current IP legislation and the different types of IP protection available. It also contains some activities and examples to help you decide what protection you need.

British Library

<https://www.bl.uk/business-and-ip-centre/protecting-your-ideas#>

Free resources that give a basic introduction and overview of what different IP protections exist and how to decide what protection you need. A good place to start.

Anti-Copying in Design (ACID)

<https://www.acid.uk.com>

Begun by designer Dids McDonald after seeing her designs used without her permission ACID offers legal advice, and access to support networks. They also lobby government on behalf of designers. Membership is currently £950 per annum though you can purchase template IP agreements as a non-member (approx. £75 in 2018) and some resources, such as the newsletter are available free.

The Society of Authors

<http://www.societyofauthors.org>

The SOA is a trade union for writers, illustrators and translators. Members get access to free legal advice and support on costing work, finance and career issues as well as contract negotiation. Membership for under 35s currently £72 per annum. They also provide advice guides on copyright issues along with general business support to non-members for a small fee at <http://www.societyofauthors.org/Advice/Guides>

The Design and Artists Copyright Society (DACS)

<https://www.dacs.org.uk/about-us/what-is-dacs>

Established by artists for artists, DACS is a not-for-profit visual artists' rights management organisation.

Tools

Accounting Software

<https://www.waveapps.com/>

Free accounting software. Easy to use and presents data in an intuitive way.

Other resources are available, this has been recommended by several small businesses we know.

<https://www.xero.com/uk/try/accounting-software/>

Subscription model accounting software.

Funding

The Business Finance Guide

<https://thebusinessfinanceguide.co.uk/>

An interactive tool that helps you decide on the funding you'll need for your business.

The Prince's Trust

www.princes-trust.org.uk

Support for entrepreneurs aged 18-30

Technology Strategy Board

www.innovateuk.org

The UK's innovation agency, helping businesses develop new products and services. Has some funding to support graduates.

Creative and Cultural Skills

<https://ccskills.org.uk/supporters/advice-research/article/find-funding>

Ideas for sources of funding

Creative Industries Federation

<http://www.thecreativeindustries.co.uk/media/322389/creative-industries-routes-to-finance.pdf>

A guide to sources of funding for arts, cultural and creative organisations

Jerwood Charitable Foundation

<http://www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org/>

Make grants to organisations and individuals through open funding streams.

Paul Hamlyn Foundation

<http://fundingforartists.org.uk/artists/>

Funding directory for visual artists and composers

Shell LiveWIRE

<https://www.shell-livewire.org/>

The Shell LiveWIRE programme supports innovative young entrepreneurs in the UK with ideas that meet the energy and resource needs of a fast-growing population.

Climate-KIC

<http://www.climate-kic.org>

Europe wide public-private innovation partnership focussed on climate change. Climate-KIC provide business support, funding opportunities and incubation for businesses serious about sustainable development and clean technology.

Business Plans

Business Model Canvass

<https://strategyzer.com/canvas/business-model-canvas>

A free downloadable resource to help support the business planning process. Really useful to get you think about what your business is and could be.

NESTA

<https://www.nesta.org.uk/publications/creative-enterprise-toolkit>

An enterprise resource toolkit contains methods for developing enterprise skills in creative individuals who are thinking about setting up a business.

GOV.UK

<https://www.gov.uk/write-business-plan>

Download free business plan templates and find help and advice on how to write your business plan.

Business Survival Toolkit

<http://business-survival-toolkit.co.uk/>

The Princes Trust

<https://www.princes-trust.org.uk/help-for-young-people/tools-resources/business-tools/business-plans>

Business plan templates and general advice

Start Up Donut

<https://www.startupdonut.co.uk/>

Various articles and tools offering advice on starting a business.

Start Up Loans

<https://www.startuploans.co.uk/an-essential-guide-to-starting-a-business/>

Advice on:

- Conducting market research on customers and competitors
- Choosing a company structure
- Figuring out your insurance and tax requirements
- Developing your business strategy and sales forecast
- Writing your business plan