

QUESTIONS

ANSWERS

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| 1 | Do I need a business idea before speaking to the Student Enterprise Adviser? | Not at all! Many students and graduates come to us without a clear idea of what they'd like to do. We can help you explore your interests, assess your strengths, and identify opportunities - even if you're just curious about self-employment. |
| 2 | How do I know if self-employment is right for me? | Self-employment could be a good fit if you're independent, self-motivated, adaptable, and excited by the idea of being your own boss. It helps to be comfortable with uncertainty and willing to take initiative. You don't need all the answers to start—many people learn by doing. Try small projects or freelancing to test the waters, and speak to the careers or enterprise team to explore whether it suits your goals and strengths. |
| 3 | Isn't entrepreneurship for people like Richard Branson and Elon Musk? | Oh goodness we sure hope not! Seriously though, entrepreneurship isn't just about big tech start-ups or global empires - it's about spotting opportunities, solving problems, and creating value, on any scale. You don't need millions in funding or a world-changing idea to get started. |
| 4 | What if I want to make a difference, not just make money? | Then social enterprise might be your thing! It's all about using business to tackle social or environmental issues - so you can do good and earn a living. Whether it's mental health, sustainability, education, or equality, social enterprises are driven by purpose as well as profit. If you care about making an impact, this could be your perfect path. |
| 5 | What types of self-employment are possible as a student or recent graduate? Can I start a business or freelance while studying? | Yes, many students start small ventures while at university. It can be a great time to test ideas with low risk, especially with access to university support and a flexible schedule. You can freelance, offer services (e.g. tutoring, design, consulting), start a product-based business, create digital content, or even develop a social enterprise. Many students begin with small projects alongside their studies. |
| 6 | How do I register my business, manage finances and tax, and make sure I'm legally covered as a small business? | If you're earning money from self-employment, you'll usually need to register with HMRC as a sole trader or another legal structure. We understand that this area of self-employment can be difficult to wrap your head around! That's why we have access to a range of resources and can set you up with one of our amazing subject experts in everything from accounting, to IP. |

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| 7 | What if my idea fails - can I still use the experience in my career? | Absolutely. Even if a venture doesn't succeed, you gain valuable skills in planning, communication, resilience, and adaptability—all of which are highly valued by employers. Many successful entrepreneurs started with something that didn't work out the first time. |
| 8 | I don't necessarily want to be self-employed - can the Careers and Enterprise Team still help me? | We would love to! We can help you develop an entrepreneurial mindset to help you stand out to prospective employers. Skills like creative-thinking, problem-solving, leadership, and innovation are valuable in any career. Whether you're interested in working for an organisation, leading projects, or just exploring your options, the enterprise team can help you build confidence, develop transferable skills, and stand out to employers. |
| 9 | This all sounds great, but how do I actually get started? | Start small and explore what interests you. Think about your skills, what you enjoy doing, and whether there's something you could offer - like a service, product, or creative project. You can begin by freelancing, testing an idea, or getting involved in enterprise activities on campus. You can also book a 121 appointment with the Student Enterprise Adviser to talk through your ideas (or even if you don't have one yet). They can help you identify next steps, connect you with resources, and support you as you build confidence and momentum. |