

## **Scotland's brightest young innovators announced**

*£74,000 given away to fund potential social enterprises across Scotland*

Thirty eight\* of the country's top future social entrepreneurs have each been awarded up to £2,000 as winners of this year's Young Innovators Challenge, funded by Scottish Government and part of the Scotland CAN DO approach. The competition is aimed at encouraging young people in Scotland to get into innovation and entrepreneurship.

The winners were shortlisted from 267 team entries\*\*, each tasked with developing concepts to help tackle social, health, environmental and infrastructure challenges currently facing Scotland. Highlights from this years' competition include:

- A team from the University of Strathclyde whose GPS app allows mobility impaired users to navigate more efficiently by recording disabled access routes which can be shared online for other people to use.
- A student from Queen Margaret University whose idea is to set up Scotland's first 'BorrowShop' to encourage us to become more economical with our resources.
- A team from the University of Glasgow whose idea is to design a lifestyle app to aid sufferers of dementia during their daily routine.
- A student from the University of Edinburgh who has developed software to improve the efficiency of Wind Turbines by acting on their control system.

Each winner will use their award funding to develop their ideas over the summer months. During this time they will also have access to expert advice and support through workshops, and will take part in an exclusive Young Innovators Challenge winners residential bootcamp in Dundee. These workshops and weekends have been designed to help them progress their idea into a position where they can either pitch for additional funding, or, start trading as a business.

Winners will be given the opportunity to return in August to pitch their ideas to judges for additional funding of up to £5,000.

Fiona Godsman, Chief Executive for competition organisers, Scottish Institute for Enterprise, said:

“Scotland is brimming with young entrepreneurial talent and the Young Innovators Challenge has proven to be an excellent platform to channel that talent in a way that helps benefit communities, towns, cities, industries and the environment.

“We had a record number of participants this year, and each idea deserved to be recognised. We would encourage those who haven't been successful at this stage to seek out help and persevere to move their ideas forward.”

Since launching in 2013, the annual Young Innovators Challenge has been seen as a springboard for social start-ups in Scotland to establish themselves on the Scottish business scene. Past winners include:

- Chris McCann, founder of Snap40 – a medical wrist band which monitors hospital patients’ vital signs. Since winning Young Innovators Challenge, Christopher has gone on to secure various levels of funding and his invention will be trialled in an NHS hospital later this year.
- Victoria Hamilton, founder of VH Innovation whose ‘recoil kneepads’ have received global attention as she looks to go to market with them this year.

Judges at this year’s competition included Josh Littlejohn, organiser of the Scottish Business Awards and creator of the Social Bite, Susan Aktemel, Director of Homes for Good and Graham Bell, chief executive of the Kibble Foundation.

Graham Bell, speaking for the judges, said:

“The standard of entries was inspirational. There was both variety and depth. As a group of judges we felt it truly uplifting to see Scotland’s young people not only identify real business and social issues, but also to bring potential solutions to those problems.”

**-Ends-**

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**Notes to editors:**

\*Although each individual winner was awarded £2,000, the awards were capped at £6,000 per team (3 persons).

Teams of four were therefore awarded £6,000

\*\*446 participants in teams of various sizes.

**Full winners list** (\*Denotes team entry)

<b>Name</b>	<b>University</b>
Abdallah Moh D, Olga Szewczyk, Romulo Freitas	University of Strathclyde*
Ajaya Kumar Malapati	University of St Andrews
Bethany Ripley	University of Strathclyde
Claire Wright	University of Dundee
Daniel Donaldson	Edinburgh Napier University
Danielle Amma Simpson	University of the West of Scotland (UWS)
David Boyter	Queen Margaret University
Henry Tracey, Tanita Sira, Gregor Skeldon	University of Edinburgh*
Ian Denev	University of Glasgow
Jeremie Warner, Stephen Spiers	University of Strathclyde
Jonathan Thomson	Glasgow School of Art
Juan Pablo Echenique	University of Edinburgh
Kirstin Lamotte	University of Strathclyde
Leon Balchin	Glasgow School of Art
Martha Beatriz Lopez Yrigoyen, Elena Lopez Bravo, Tiffany Tam	University of Edinburgh*
Matthew Bracchi, James McIlroy	University of Aberdeen*
Oonagh Mannix, Helen Williams	University of Edinburgh*
Patrick Renner, Rogelio Arellano, Susanne Mitschke, Gabriela Matic	University of Glasgow*
Rachel Thomson	University of Edinburgh
Ritti Soncco Zachmann, Barnaby Searle, Vladimir Kucera	University of Aberdeen*
Ryan Johnston	University of Dundee
Sam Multraí	University of Aberdeen
Scott Kerr	University of Strathclyde
Sylvester Sweeney	University of Dundee

**Competition timeline**

02 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Young Innovators Challenge 2015 opens for entries
08 <sup>th</sup> April	Closing date for entries
25-26 <sup>th</sup> April	YIC Residential Innovation Weekend for top 150 entrants 08 <sup>th</sup>
May	Closing date for updated submissions (1 <sup>st</sup> round winners only)
14 <sup>th</sup> May	30 winners identified
16-18 <sup>th</sup> June	Young Innovators Challenge 2015 Bootcamp for 30 winners
July – August	Two half-day idea development workshops for 30 winners
24 <sup>th</sup> August	Pitching to judges for additional funding of up to £5000
27 <sup>th</sup> August	Winners' showcase & networking event with invited guests