

Venture Forward

Connecting Innovators to Capital

Application Webinar

By:  Mountside Ventures  Foundervine



**STRONGER
STORIES**

Supported by:



Innovate
UK



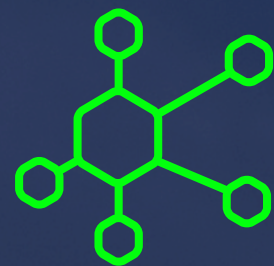


Webinar Housekeeping Guide

- This webinar is scheduled for 1 hour.
- Please keep your camera ON throughout the webinar.
- We will walk you through all of the key points in a 20-30 min presentation.
- All attendees will be muted throughout the webinar but you can post questions using the chat function.
- We will answer a selection of these questions at the end of the presentation.
- The webinar will be recorded and the recording will be available to view afterwards on the GC Angels website - [Venture Forward | GC Angels](#)



Webinar Presenters



Marc Shirman

Head of Equity Investment

Marc brings over 20 years of investment experience, with a strong track record in scaling and launching equity funds. He was formerly Co-Head of Muzinich Private Capital Strategies, where he raised the firm's inaugural UK fund, and played a key role in establishing the Manchester office for transatlantic VC firm Beringea. Marc also served as an advisor to Northern Gritstone, supporting efforts to build a more integrated and effective startup ecosystem across the North.



Ranvir Singh

Investment Manager

Ranvir was an equities trader at Deutsche Bank and Royal Bank of Canada before founding his own B2B saas business with £250k angel investment. He exited successfully at Series A after 10 years. Post exit, Ranvir worked as an investment readiness advisor for Innovate UK, helping early-stage businesses raise over £20m over 4 years as well as being an IUK assessor for grant competitions.

Executive summary



GC Angels are the early-stage equity investment vehicle for the Growth Company – a social enterprise supporting economic growth across GM for over 30 years

Cohort #	20-30 founders per programme
Duration	8-week programmes
Geography	UK-wide
Stage	Pre-seed to pre - Series A
Sector	All sectors
Focus	Under-represented founders

As part of an Innovate UK programme we are part of a unique consortium of five expert organisations including Foundervine, Mountside Ventures, FirstPort, and Stronger Stories - collaborating to deliver a series of investment readiness accelerators for underrepresented founders across the UK

Our ambition

We will support 160 underrepresented founders from diverse backgrounds, equipping them with the necessary tools, resources, and investor connections to raise funds and scale their businesses successfully.

Our approach



Innovative support

A new collaborative approach where 5 different organisations deliver a common syllabus - with the combined support from all parties and joint support for founders

Nationwide Fundraising Accelerators

Investment Readiness support with a geographic spread covering 76% of the UK early-stage ecosystem, a first-of-its-kind initiative targeting underrepresented founders at scale

Best-in-Class Fundraising Tools

A suite of comprehensive, investor-backed resources made accessible to all participating founders and the wider UK startup community

Underrepresented Investor Charter

A groundbreaking initiative aiming to engage 100+ UK investors in supporting underrepresented founders through measurable commitments to meetings and engagement, leveraging our consortium's 3,000+ investor network

Inclusive Structure

Tailored to even out the playing field and opportunities available to non-London-based founders, accommodate founders with primary care responsibilities and various backgrounds

Applicant Criteria

The programme is for companies that:



Are led by underrepresented founders including women, people from non-traditional education backgrounds, people from low socioeconomic backgrounds or people with primary caring responsibilities



Registered in the North of England



Have a minimum viable product



Looking to raise funds in the next 12 months



Validated early-stage PMF

Programme Delivery Timeline

Events and Programmes – 2025/2026



Manchester Programme 1

Manchester Programme 2

Sep

Oct

Nov

Dec

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr



Founder Meetup



Investor Day

Programme Structure

The programme is designed to give you the tools to optimise your next round of funding, with **fundraising workshops, 1 on 1 support**, and **investor pitch days**
At the end of the programme upto 3 companies will receive investment from £50-150k

