Homerton Changemakers Catalyst Fund Initiative 2024

A scheme for accelerating the development of student-led initiatives with capacity for making change in society, civics, education, business, policy.

Changemakers Catalyst Fund is an annual scheme to which Homerton students can apply for amounts £1000-£2000. Grants will be made for proposals for establishing a social enterprise, supporting an existing start-up or project, developing creative projects or campaigns, or supporting research towards a new enterprise. Proposed projects must be focused on increasing public good and societal impact and reflect the values of Homerton Changemakers - building collaborative efforts towards more just, sustainable, regenerative systems and futures.

The fund explicitly supports ventures at the start up stage, where seed funding of this kind will make a substantive difference to the likely success of the projects/products: e.g.: a new or existing start-up, social enterprise, or collaboration poised for success. You're expected to have a legitimate, genuine idea that you're committed to pursuing. Wherever possible, you will also be encouraged to explore the possibility of using innovative technology to achieve your aims (but not necessarily developing the technology itself during this stage), or to upgrade existing digital technology you are already using.

Why this Catalyst Fund?

Are there other schemes like this available to Homerton students? Not exactly. Seed funds exist via the Judge Business School, Cambridge Angels, and various schemes across the Cambridge ecosystem– entrepreneurs, angel investors, Maxwell Centre, Deep Tech Labs, Startus Codon, Babraham, and many more.

The Homerton Changemakers Catalyst Fund differs from other opportunities in that it is a) Homerton-only*, b) not restricted to entrepreneurial or business ventures - there is scope for creative and research projects leading to a change-initiative, and c) focuses explicitly on levers for change towards the common good, towards a more just, sustainable and regenerative world.

Conditions of possibility to enable success

The insights developed during your Changemakers experiences (from leadership to deep listening; systems change to social impact and innovation models; collaboration to inner development) can be directly applied to your work formulating a proposal and carrying it out.

Changemakers staff will be available to support the development of applications. You will also be directed to existing resources - e.g.: Ashoka Changemaker, The Skoll Centre - to help inform project design and ambition.

The scheme requires collaboration - a minimum of two people per project. Whilst this can be sometimes challenging, the strength and ways of working that teamwork requires often leads to stronger outcomes.

The scheme requires collaboration - a minimum of two people per project. The lead applicant must be a current Homerton student or Changemakers ambassador, or an ARU student working with a minimum of one Homerton student - see eligibility criteria below - but the rest of the team can be from non-homerton community. Whilst this can be sometimes challenging, the strength and ways of working that teamwork requires often leads to stronger outcomes.

Ahead of the Homerton Changemakers Catalyst Fund being launched, all potential applicants (including those from other companies or educational organisations) are invited to attend a development day/pre launch briefing (**6 Mar 2024**), hosted in partnership with members of the Cambridge tech ecosystem and Cambridge Wireless, our industry partner.

The Application will open on **11 Mar 2024** where applicants can work collaboratively and submit their proposals latest by **29 Apr 2024 5pm**. Successful winning groups will also be able to present their work to leading figures in the Cambridge innovation ecosystem at a Showcase Day (**3 Oct 2024** from 5pm onwards) and benefit from winning additional prizes to be awarded at the Celebration Dinner taking place on 4 Oct 2024 from 7pm. You'll benefit from a dedicated, experienced mentor drawn from the Cambridge eco-system of CEOs, entrepreneurs, investors, artists, & leaders throughout the programme

Winning groups will also be obliged to complete short surveys pre-project, mid-project and post-project (canvassing such things as self-confidence, understanding the problem domain, skill in collaboration), and to submit a final project report. These will be used to both help you engage more deeply with your own journey - you'll be sent a summary of their responses at programme end - and to develop impact narratives for the scheme.

Eligibility

At time of application, the lead applicant must be a current Homerton student or current Homerton Changemakers Student Ambassador and must have attended at least 5 hours of Changemakers events over the last 2 years (mentoring, residentials, workshops, conversations).

*From 2024 one Catalyst Fund grant will be sponsored by Anglia Ruskin University (ARU): the lead applicant must be from ARU, working with students from Homerton College (at least minimum of one student from Homerton). Homerton students will have opportunities to meet prospective ARU collaborators at the Catalyst Fund Development Day One (6 Mar 2024) and Catalyst Fund Day Two which is led by our industry supporters from TTP (11 Mar 22024)

Application process and protocol

Apply by application form and a 2-min video pitch* latest by **29 Apr 2024 5pm**.

The scoring criteria can be found as a downloadable material on the website

1) [APPLY by filling in the form provided](#) on the website and submit a 2-minute video pitch* *

The video pitch can be a summary of all of these points; a single message; or an introduction. It's up to you. The task is to interest the judges, persuade them of the seriousness of your initiative, and to communicate something about you and how you will work. Any standard video file format is acceptable; and the file can be shared via email by file transfer (WeTransfer, Dropbox, G-Drive etc). Please email to changemakers@homerton.cam.ac.uk

2) Applicants can request between £1K - £2K per project. The budget can be used for expenses (travel and accommodation), to test specific aspects of technology, to buy technology, to develop materials, to run a campaign, to undertake a specific project with another partner organisation, or to pay interviewers or researchers. Funds may not be used solely as travel grants, to cover regular living expenses, or to pay for time whilst volunteering.

3) Applications must be submitted via the online form and by email/file transfer (video pitch) to changemakers@homerton.cam.ac.uk by **29 Apr 2024 5p**m. Late applications will not be dealt with.

4) Project groups must comprise at least 2 people (maximum 6) and can include people from other Colleges and organisations(please take note the eligibility criteria above)

5) The judging panel will include members of Homerton Fellows and industry members from the Cambridge ecosystem (including a representative from our industry partner from Cambridge Wireless).

6) All successful project groups will be informed by mid-June 2024 and will be introduced to their mentors soon after.

7) All successful project group members will be required to complete a pre- and post-project survey; and to submit a post-project report (proformas will be supplied).

8) Projects may also be featured on Changemakers social media, website and reports.

9) All successful project groups must be available for the following dates:

   ○ Tips on Pitching (online: **5 Jul 2024 2-4 pm**)
   ○ Coaching for Showcase presentations (online: **13 Sep pm**)
   ○ Showcase evening (in person**: 3 Oct 2024 from 5pm** onwards)
   ○ All winning groups will also be invited to a Celebration Dinner, **4 Oct evening** when the winners for the **additional prizes** would be announced

10) Winning teams are obliged to complete pre and post project surveys, and to submit an itemised expenses narrative accompanied by receipts at the project end.

Timeline

Proposed Dates for 2024 (subject to further discussions, these dates may change slightly)

Dates	Activity
6 March 2024, 15.20-19.30 pm	Pre-launch Development Day One (all students from other colleges and universities invited) consisting of talks, workshops and networking
11 March 2024, 15.30-20.00 pm	Pre-launch Development Day Two (a team bonding/collaborative exercise via a hackathon),tbc
11 March	Call opens -internal team using this time to finalise the scoring criteria for judging *
29 April 17.00 pm	Closing Date
30 Apr	Homerton Changemaker Team: Shortlisting Applications and emailing the applications to the Judging Committee*
14 May lunch time, 12-2pm	Decision Making with the Judging Committee over working lunch at Homerton College.
20 May	-Inform winners and firming up the Mentors. Projects don't start until mid-June 2024 - HC to assign the Mentors in mid-June. Tech mentors are nominated by Cambridge Wireless. Non-tech mentors are nominated by AJW and SJ
7 June	HC to introduce Mentors to Catalyst Fund winners with the mentoring protocol
Mid- June	Announce winners on the website and promote on social media
June- Nov 2024	Initiatives underway. Mentoring taking place online or in person, possibly once a month until the submission of

	the final report (tba) ● Winning Groups would have to submit progress and final reports to Homerton Changemakers Team ● Mentors will support their groups to refine their thinking and help their groups to prepare for the presentation on the showcase day on **3 Oct 2024**. If any of these mentoring sessions are taking place in person, Homerton Changemaker will be able to provide a meeting room with refreshments provided
5 July pm (online)	An online session on 'Tips on how to pitch' for all finalists
12 Sep 14.00 - 16.00 pm (online)	Coaching on group presentations for the Showcase Evening by Pooya Kamvari and one other, supported by Soraya Jones
3 Oct evening from 5 pm onwards (buffet dinner, wine and snacks will be provided)	Big Showcase Day for the winning groups—stakeholders, judges, mentors, VIP guests and students are all invited
4 Oct	Celebration Dinner where further additional prizes are announced
30 Nov	Final Report Submission

To maximise the benefits for the Seed Fund Winners, a scoring criteria has been developed based on the information requested in the application form. A committee of judges will assess applications and decide on the winners. This will ensure that the winners can work on areas where they feel they have to improve, and the non-winners can understand better why they were not successful. The judging panel will include members of Homerton Fellows and industry members from the Cambridge ecosystem.