

The 2016-17 academic year was one of major expansion and significant impact for the Entrepreneurship Institute at King's College London. Its team grew from three to eight people, and it built a thriving entrepreneurial community of 10,000 students, staff, alumni and supporters.

Central to its success was the King's 20 accelerator initiative, which over 12 months helped 20 teams to get 380 hours of mentoring from experts in residence. These teams generated £430,000 of investment in that period and earned £227,000 in revenue. They have created 20 jobs, and six King's 20 entrepreneurs have won national awards. All the participants said that the initiative had boosted their prospects.

The institute also delivered an engagement programme that brought high-profile entrepreneurs, including former Anglo-American chief executive Cynthia Carroll and chef Heston Blumenthal, to campus, produced a magazine, supported student societies, and ran welcome fairs and ambassadorial programmes.

Its learning programme delivered skills workshops to 180 people, ran an idea generation competition that climaxed in an awards ceremony at the House of Lords, and created an online entrepreneurship learning space.

One eye-catching innovation was the UK's first "venture crawl" – a 12-hour "entrepreneurial" journey across London in a Routemaster bus – whose format has now been replicated by eight other universities.

Our judges praised the institute's "broad" and "inspirational" activities. "King's College London demonstrates the powerful impact that can be created by fostering an entrepreneurial mindset alongside a research focus," the panel said.