

Business is fun. This might seem a strange statement, but it is a fantastic challenge to find a product that people want to buy and to solve the problems of producing it by working together. LEAP enables students to set up their own business or company during an academic year, usually from September until April, guiding you through the major steps of your company year.

Throughout the year you will learn many new skills and develop the ones you already have. You will learn teamwork, improve your knowledge of business, develop your confidence and gain a tremendous amount of experience to help you to be more successful in interviews for employment and/or university. You get out of LEAP what you put into it. You need to register the company and student members with LEAP. An invoice for the registration fee of £150 (this covers the insurance and organisation for the LEAP programme) will be sent to the registered email address. This must be paid by the end of October.

We request that one student is nominated as the person to register the company on the site and to manage this aspect of their company. We ask for email addresses for the company and one for the Managing Director. We assume a company will distribute information to other directors. We will also require your LEAP Enterprise Teacher's name and that of your Business Mentor (this can be added later).

CREATING YOUR TEAM

You need to decide which of your friends and colleagues you want to work with before you register.

It is important to consider however, that successful organisations require workers of many different skills to ensure all jobs are done well. It may be tempting to work with your friends, all of whom have similar skills and interests, but it is important to remember that in addition to being fun, running your company is somewhat serious business. It takes courage to approach people who you think might have skills which would help your business but who you don't know; taking the initiative to introduce yourself to them and gauge your mutual interest in working together may sound scary but it's a critical skill for successful entrepreneurs and will become second nature before too long.