

ACCELERATE

The UK Venture Conference

8 May 2025 | Andaz, London Liverpool Street

Agenda

Associate Sponsors

Cooley

**STEPHENSON
HARWOOD**

Drinks Reception Sponsor

@core
FUND SERVICES

Wi-Fi Sponsor

KIN
GROUP

Supported by

UKBAA
UK Business Angels Association

ACCELERATE

Agenda, 8 May 2025

08:30

REGISTRATION

Angel

09:00

Welcome

Chris Elphick, Head of Venture Capital, BVCA

09:05

Venture capital in the UK 2025

Keynote

Synopsis: Analysis from the BVCA on our Venture Capital in the UK 2025 report.

Suzi Gillespie, Head of Research, BVCA

09:15

Investment Day Zero - how to get it right at pre-seed

Panel sponsored by UKBAA

Synopsis: This panel will explore angel and pre-seed VC investment, from identifying promising startups to supporting growth and achieving successful exits.

Moderator: Rod Beer, Managing Director, UKBAA
Nick Button-Brown, Founder, The Games Angels
Sarah Finegan, Associate Partner, Antler
Oliver Kicks, Partner, Concept Ventures

09:40

Tipping the balance - lessons from the Investing in Women Taskforce Fireside

Synopsis: This Fireside will cover the latest developments from the Invest in Women Taskforce and the policies needed to drive change.

Moderator: Jenny Tooth OBE, Executive Chair, UKBAA
Debbie Woskrow OBE, Co-Chair, Invest in Women Taskforce

09:55

Emerging funds and emerging industries

Panel

Synopsis: This panel will examine how emerging VCs can stand out and distinguish themselves with new strategies and approaches.

Moderator: Dr Juanita Gonzalez-Uribe, Associate Professor in Finance, LSE
Chloe Dagnell, Principal, Isomer Capital
Sarah Drinkwater, General Partner, Common Magic
Brian Kinane, Co-Founder, Sure Valley Ventures

ACCELERATE

Agenda, 8 May 2025

10:20

From Founder to VC - lessons from the other side

Fireside

Synopsis: A Fireside discussion with the founder of Boxpark and Boxfund. He will provide reflections on his journey from successful founder to VC.

Speaker: Juliette Gerstein, Head of Public Affairs, BVCA
Roger Wade, Chairman, Boxfund VC

10:30

NETWORKING BREAK

Seed-Series A

10:50

Founder Fireside - seed

Fireside

Synopsis: A Fireside discussion with the founder of Urban Jungle and Eka Ventures.

Moderator: Camilla Dolan, General Partner, Eka Ventures
Jimmy Williams, CEO & Founder, Urban Jungle

11:05

From lab to market: accelerating UK spinouts

Panel

Synopsis: On this panel, the focus will be on translating academic research into high-growth companies and all the nuances involved in this process. Panellists will share insights on building strong university-industry partnerships, scaling spinouts in priority sectors like AI and life sciences, and addressing regional disparities in spinout success.

Moderator: Tom Nugent, Managing Editor, Sifted
Anne Dobrée, Investor Director, Parkwalk
Robert Higginson, Co-Founder, Par Equity
Andrew Scott, Managing Partner, 7percent Ventures

11:30

Keynote speech from the Shadow Secretary of State for Business and Trade

Synopsis: Keynote speech from the Shadow Secretary of State for Business and Trade

Andrew Griffith MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Business and Trade, Conservative Party

ACCELERATE

Agenda, 8 May 2025

11:45

Diversity and sustainability in the Trump era

Panel

Synopsis: This panel will focus on the current state of affairs for diversity and ESG, two focus areas which have been very prominent over the past decade. The question of how developments in the US could affect the UK and Europe's Diversity and ESG agendas will be discussed.

Moderator: Amy Abbott, Director, Industry Development, BVCA
Sarah Kunst, Managing Director, Cleo Capital
Amy Nauiokas, Founder & Group CEO, Anthemis
Meghan Stevenson-Krausz, Co-CEO, Diversity VC

12:10

NETWORKING LUNCH

Series A+

13:05

Welcome

Chris Elphick, Head of Venture Capital, BVCA

13:10

Squaring the circle - unlocking pension investment for venture capital

Fireside

Synopsis: A discussion regarding the latest developments with the Mansion House reforms and the outlook for unlocking greater investment in venture capital.

Moderator: Isobel Clarke, Director of Policy, BVCA
Veronica Humble, CIO, Natwest Cushon Master Trust
Harry Raikes, Investment Director, Schroders Capital

13:25

Beyond the AI goldrush - where next for series A

Panel sponsored by Cooley

Synopsis: This panel will focus on helping investors identify the most promising sectors within AI while addressing risks such as over-saturation, ethical dilemmas, and regulatory challenges. Key questions will be addressed here including discussions on what is needed to galvanise these sectors and does the UK's domestic "Growth" agenda go far enough in positioning the country to be a winner in the AI space.

Moderator: Eric Davison, Partner, Cooley
Josh Bell, General Partner, Dawn
Itxaso del Palacio, Partner, Notion
Stephen Nundy, Partner & CTO, Lakestar

ACCELERATE

Agenda, 8 May 2025

13:50

Fireside discussion with Doug Gurr, Interim Chair of the CMA
Fireside

Speaker: Leo Ringer, Founding Partner, Form Ventures
Doug Gurr, Interim Chair, CMA

14:05

Innovating at the intersection: deep tech, life sciences, and the future of health
Panel

Synopsis: This discussion will dive into the convergence of deep tech and life sciences in healthcare. From personalised medicine to game-changing startups, the panel will explore how emerging technologies are shaping the future of health and what it takes to build successful ventures in this rapidly evolving space.

Moderator: Carmine Circelli, Director of Direct Life Science Investments, British Business Bank
Simon Goldman, Partner, AlbionVC
Dr Jonathan Hepple, Partner, Rosetta
Dr Pamela Walker Geddes, Founding Partner, Thena Capital

14:30

Fireside

Michael Moore, Chief Executive, BVCA
The Rt Hon Peter Kyle MP, Secretary of State DSIT, Labour Party

14:55

NETWORKING BREAK

Series A+

15:20

Investing in security - the future of defence tech in the UK and Europe
Fireside

Synopsis: Panel discussion focussing on developments in defence and dual purpose technologies. They will discuss on whether more VCs will enter this space and what can government do to support investment.

Moderator: Edmund Phillips, Senior Investment Partner, NSSIF
Dr Daniel Carew, Partner, Defence & Strategic Technologies, JOIN Capital
Ian Lane, Partner, CIC
Nicola Sinclair, General Partner, Twin Track Ventures

ACCELERATE

Agenda, 8 May 2025

15:45

How to scale with venture debt - from early stage to growth

Fireside

Synopsis: Panel discussions looking at the latest developments in venture debt.

Moderator: Leon de Bono, Managing Director, Industry Development, BVCA
David Bateman, Managing Partner, Claret Capital
Stephen Fahy, Partner - Venture Debt, Salica Investments

16:00

New Model VC - what does venture need to evolve?

Fireside

Synopsis: This panel will examine potential disruption to the VC model from AI and new investors such as pension funds. Panellists discuss sector specialisation, hybrid investments, and ESG integration in Series A+, driving innovation and shaping the future of VC.

Moderator: Christine Hockley, Managing Director, Funds,
British Business Bank
Douglas Hansen-Luke, Executive Chairman, Future Planet Capital
Kiu Kim, Investment Director, Beringea
Anna Slemmings, Partner, MMC

16:25

Raising Series A and beyond - lessons from a repeat founder

Fireside

Synopsis: A Fireside discussion with a founder who has successfully raised a series A round and looking to grow. They will cover the impact of AI on software, the company's future growth/expansion plans and what more the government can do to support founders.

Speaker: Stephen Chandler, Managing Partner, Notion Capital
& Chair, BVCA VC Forum
Ben Peters, Founder, Cogna

16:40

The final push: from VC, to growth, to exit

Panel sponsored by Stephenson Harwood

Synopsis: This panel will explore the critical phase of scaling companies beyond Series A, navigating late-stage growth, managing strategic investments, and optimising for a successful exit. Panellists will discuss the challenges of sustaining momentum, balancing profitability with expansion, and choosing the right path (IPO, acquisition or alternative exits).

Moderator: Adam Crossley, Partner, Stephenson Harwood
Keith Davidson, Partner, SEP
Olav Ostin, Managing Partner, TempoCap
Henry Sallitt, Co-Founder & Managing Partner, FPE Capital

ACCELERATE

Agenda, 8 May 2025

17:05

Closing remarks

Michael Moore, Chief Executive, BVCA

17:15

NETWORKING DRINKS

18:30

CLOSE

ACCELERATE

The UK Venture Conference

8 May 2025 | Andaz, London Liverpool Street

**British Private Equity &
Venture Capital Association (BVCA)**

3rd Floor, 48 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1JF
+44 (0)20 7492 0400 | bvca@bvca.co.uk | www.bvca.co.uk

Find us on

