

# Rise mentor directory

Rise London



## About the directory

The following Rise mentors continue to give their time generously to support the FinTech Friday programme.

## About the programme

FinTech Friday is a monthly mentoring series for FinTech startups and scaleups. We match make founders with industry experts from across the sector. Our mentors come from a range of backgrounds and have a wealth of skills and experiences.

- One-on-one meetings
- Insights and problem solving
- Large span of subject matter experts

# Meet the mentors



**Afzal Amijee**

Solutions Director |  
Broadridge FCS

Product management experience with a deep understanding of B2B2C FinTech and product software.

#SaaS #DataPlatform  
#ClientSolutions #Product #ESG

[AfzalAmijee](#)



**Alex Barkley**

Global Head of Strategic Partnerships | HSBC Ventures

His experience includes leadership roles in the technology and defense sectors. As a self confessed "geek" Alex has a keen interest in the fields of machine learnings and cryptography.

#Business Development  
#CorpDev #M&A #CapitalRaising

[AlexanderBarkley](#)



**Allister Manson**

Partner, | Opus Business Advisory

Allister advises tech companies at all stages of their lifecycle, from startups to PLCs. His experience comes from being a co-founder of dLocal, which was listed on the NASDAQ, in August 2021.

#StrategicPlanning #Growth  
#BusinessDevelopment  
#Crypto #AI

[AllisterManson](#)

# Meet the mentors



**Alpesh Doshi**  
CEO | Fintricity

Alpesh is passionate about ai, data, blockchain, sustainability and building businesses to help drive enterprise transformation.

#AI #Blockchain #Sustainability

[AlpeshDoshi](#)



**Ani Petrova**  
Marketing Consultant | The Fintech Marketing Hub

Ani Petrova is an experienced fintech marketer and a passionate industry advocate. She is managing the UK retail marketing channels for a global investment management house with EUR 500 billion in AUM.

#Marketing #Branding  
#DemandGeneration

[AniPetrova](#)



**Anosh Malik**  
Head of Engineering | Nossa Data

Anosh has been a serial engineering early-hire in companies such as Tessian, BUMP and now Nossa Data from pre-seed to series A with responsibilities ranging from the multiple facets of product development to client support.

#Engineering #Product #UX

[AnoshMalik](#)

# Meet the mentors



**Antony  
Bream**

Managing Director |  
Rabbit Consulting

30 years specialising in B2B sales for cloud applications primarily into the financial services marketplace. Advising boards on strategy, governance, recruitment and go to market approaches.

#BusinessAdvisory  
#ExecutiveCoaching  
#SalesExecution

 [AntonyBream](#)



**Cat  
McDonald**

Investor | AlbionVC

Cat focusses on FinTech, security and B2B SaaS. Cat is particularly interested in software that is transforming big, legacy industries as well as tech solving core issues for society.

#B2B #Software #Fundraising

 [CatMcDonald](#)



**Chirin Dikou**  
Director | AIN

15 years wealth of global experience across Private Banking, Wealth Management, Relationship Management, Fintech and Entrepreneurship in both markets the UAE and the UK.

#PrivateBanking  
#WealthManagement  
#e-payment

 [ChirinDikou](#)

# Meet the mentors



**Chirine Ben Zaied**

Head of Innovation | Finastra

Chirine BenZaied-Bourgerie driving intrapreneurship activities at Finastra and inspiring Finastra's 10,000 people to innovate. Experience in projects focused on sustainable and inclusive finance.

#Finance #Innovation

 [ChirineBenZaied](#)



**Cinzia Rascazzo**

Founder | Artisans of Taste

Cinzia is an experienced business strategy coach specialising in helping founders and teams of tech startups get started and find their brand identity.

#Entrepreneurship&Mission  
Development #BrandDevelopment  
#ConsumerMarketing #DigitalStrategy

 [CinziaRascazzo](#)



**Daniel Lowther**

Head of FinTech | CCgroup

Daniel has more than 15 years' experience in B2B technology PR and heads up CCgroup's FinTech division. Daniel's passion is commercially-driven marketing communications that make a tangible impact on awareness, sales and overall company value.

#Payments #RetailBanking  
#DigitalIdentity

 [Daniel Lowther](#)

# Meet the mentors



**Elina  
Sokolovska**

Senior Product  
Manager | Shares

Elina has closely collaborated with start-up founders for the past 10+ years across companies of 5 to 300 people, initially in customer success and for most of it in product.

#ProductManagement  
#Growth

 [ElinaSokolovska](#)



**Evgeny  
Gokhberg**

Managing Partner |  
Re7 Capital

DeFi portfolio manager; ex Investment Management and Enterprise Blockchain.

#DeFi #Blockchain #Finance

 [EvgenyGokhberg](#)



**Gary Prince**

Chief Strategy Officer and Vice Chairman |  
SimplyPayMe

Strategic Visionary with Commercial Focus, with strong Technical Acumen, worked across all stages of the Product. Open Banking, PSD2 Evangelist and all things Payments, Mentor lifecycle.

#Payments #Commercial  
#ProductStrategy

 [GaryPrince](#)

# Meet the mentors



**Geoffrey  
Nicholson**

Managing Partner |  
Nicholson Partners  
Ltd

Geoffrey has been a consultant and financial adviser for 40 years in Europe and North America consulting to banks and insurers on strategy and technology issues.

#StrategicUseOfTechnology  
#BuildingCompetitiveAdvantage  
#BusinessModelSelection

 [GeoffreyNicholson](#)



**Gillian Kerr**

Founder, Director |  
The Value Equation

A C-level Business Executive with a global experience and a proven track record in building businesses and profit for MNCs, and SMEs. Board Advisor to start-up and scale-up companies on how to achieve their growth ambitions.

#Branding #Communications  
#ValueProposition #Strategy

 [GillianKerr](#)



**Hassan  
Waqar**

Founder and CEO |  
MoneeMint

Hassan Waqar has been recognised as one of the top 500 Global Leaders of the Islamic Economy for three consecutive years. Hassan and MoneeMint are helping write a new financial era.

#DigitalBanking  
#IslamicFinance

 [HassanWaqar](#)

# Meet the mentors



**Ian Rae**

CEO | WyzePay

Experienced leader in start up and corporate businesses. Mainly technology focused having operated at CIO level at global banks in Europe and Asia Pacific. Now leading a digital currency start up (WyzePay).

#Technology #FinancialServices



IanRae



**Jarek Dudko**

Manager |  
300Brains

Ex capital markets banker now brokering innovation in regional technology centers, universities and accelerators (i.e. Google for Startups).

#Fundraising #Valuation  
#Networking



JarekDudko



**Keith Bear**

Fellow | Centre for Alternative Finance,  
University of Cambridge

Many years at IBM, leading financial markets. Now a Fellow at Cambridge Centre for Alternative Finance, focusing on digital assets. Member of Bank of England's CBDC Technology Forum and the ESMA Consultative Working Group.

#DigitalAssets  
#BusinessDevelopment  
#FinancialMarkets



KeithBear

# Meet the mentors



**Kevin  
Mascarenhas**

Business Coach |  
Natural Flow  
Consultancy

Kevin supports tech startup CEOs create freedom to focus on the strategic while entrusting the team to take care of the tactical. Together we focus on leadership; teamwork and organisational design.

#Leadership #Teamwork  
#OrganisationalDesign

 [KevinMascarenhas](#)



**Kira  
Begunova**

COO and Co-founder | London Analytics

An award-winning entrepreneur, with 20 years in operations and data in FinTech and Energy corporate sectors, Kira provides executive coaching and mentorship to startups across multiple industries, advising on strategy and tech product design.

#Strategy #Operations  
#BusinessDevelopment

 [KiraBegunova](#)



**Lana Tahirly  
Abdullayeva**

Founding Director  
| Chez FinTech

Three decades in Tech & Fin internationally, across developed and fast-growing economies, creating portfolios of digital ventures to deliver impact - launching, investing and growing successful businesses.

#Innovation #Strategy  
#DigitalEconomy #Investor  
#Advisor

 [LanaTahirlyAbdullayeva](#)

# Meet the mentors



**Michele  
Cuccovillo**

VP of Growth |  
Datacamp

VP of Growth for VC-backed tech startups and an angel investor. Michele managed teams of up to 100 people and budgets up to \$25m/year, scaled companies to \$50m ca and generated revenues in excess of \$100m.

#Growth #MarTech  
#Advertising

 [MicheleCuccovillo](#)



**Michael  
Pearce**

Managing Director |  
Pearce Hillman

30+ years as a CFO in major banks, 19 of which with CitiBank. Focused on enabling success for founders/startups, mentored with Rise by Barclays and Black Founders Programme, Lloyds Immerse, AusTrade FinTech academy.

#Advisory #FounderEcosystem  
#KeyConnections  
#InvestorCatalyst

 [MichaelPearce](#)



**Nicholas Lenz**

Mentor | Advisor |  
NED | Cetom Ltd

Nic is a strategic advisor in the technology start-up space and holds a number of non-executive board positions. He has been involved in successfully raising funds.

#Fundraising #GoToMarketStrategy  
#EnterpriseEngagement

 [NicLenz](#)

# Meet the mentors



**Nigel  
Brahams**

Partner | Collyer  
Bristow

Nigel specialises in supporting growing tech firm and have specific experience of crypto, digital assets, payments, trading apps and PropTech.

#FinancialServicesRegulation  
#CorporateLaw  
#CommercialAgreements

 [NigelBrahams](#)



**Peter Finch**

Partner | Fox  
Williams

Peter is a Partner in the Fintech and Financial Services team. He helps FinTech companies at all different stages of growth - from authorisation to launching new products and auditing current processes.

#ConsumerCredit #Loans  
#BNPL #Cards&Overdrafts  
#Mortgages #Payments

 [PeterFinch](#)



**Reginald De  
Wasseige**

Investor |  
Augmentum Fintech

Experience in private equity and later went on to explore entrepreneurship through founding a data security software company.

#CapitalRaising  
#VCnetworkBuilding  
#FinancialModelling

 [ReginaldDeWasseige](#)

# Meet the mentors



**Richard Holling**

Managing Consultant | Illuminet Solutions

Financial Services and technology veteran, with over 35 years of experience in the Fintech sector. He has worked for large technology companies, Business Process Processing companies, large banks.

#Sales #BusinessDevelopment  
#Management #Consulting

 [RichardHolling](#)



**Richard Leslie**

CEO | The Sourcing Hub

Provider of outsourced software development services to trusted partners across Eastern Europe.

#SourcingStaff #Growth  
#SoftwareDevelopment

 [RichardLeslie](#)



**Sandipanee Samantaray**

VP Product Strategy | Global Processing Services

Data driven product strategist with more than a decade experience working with startups and enterprises globally from Seed to Series+.

#ProductStrategy #Payments  
#Ecosystem

 [SandiSamantaray](#)

# Meet the mentors



**Satish  
Gaekwad**

Director | Psony

Experience in leadership roles in B2B Technology Sales & Marketing, Product development & Operations for over 20 years developing & selling Enterprise (including SaaS) business Software, Solutions & Professional Services.

#GoToMarketStrategy #B2B #Sales  
#DeepTechProducts

 [SatishGaekwad](#)



**Steven Smith**  
FinTech Consultant

Steve Smith is a messaging and management coach. A former journalist, he has helped many firms strengthen and clarify their messaging and pitches.

#ClientOrientedMessaging  
#CoachingTeaminess  
#EasilyUnderstoodMetrics

 [StevenSmith](#)



**William  
Lorenz**

Payment Strategy  
Director | Modulr

Williams' specialisms include all things Fintech, Operations, Forex, Payments, Prepaid cards, E-commerce, Fraud & AML controls, Product Definition, Buy-side Negotiation, Financial modelling, Management Consultancy, Mentorship.

#Payments #Partnerships  
#Products

 [WilliamLorenz](#)

Interested in becoming a mentor?

Fill out this [form](#) and we'll be in touch!

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