



**MEDIA INFORMATION**  
**9<sup>th</sup> August 2011**

**ARORA HOTEL DRAGON'S DEN STYLE STUDENT AWARDS**

Students at Royal Holloway University of London will get the chance to bid for funding to support innovative business ideas in an annual entrepreneurial competition funded by Arora Hotels.

The luxury hotelier has pledged to support the Arora Awards for Enterprise and Arora's Den, a competition similar to the popular BBC TV show Dragon's Den, for the next 10 years.

Representatives from Arora Hotels and Royal Holloway attended an official ceremony on Monday during which Surinder Arora, founder and CEO of Arora Hotels, and the Principal, Professor Paul Layzell signed the official agreement for the new awards scheme.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr Arora said: "I'm delighted to strengthen my relationship with the student entrepreneurs of Royal Holloway, a university for which I have had great respect during our twenty year association."

Professor Layzell added: "This establishment of the Arora awards builds another bridge between Royal Holloway and successful business, working together to inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs."

The new Arora Awards for Enterprise and Arora's Den competition will be run by Royal Holloway Entrepreneurs, a student-led society that encourages and supports student entrepreneurship, and the College's careers service.

Luka Blackman-Gibbs, President of Royal Holloway Entrepreneurs, said: "This generosity and support will help the Royal Holloway Entrepreneurs go from strength to strength in the coming year, as well as offering the key support to students who are in need of some seed funding to take their ventures from ideas to successful businesses. I very much look forward to working more closely with such an inspirational entrepreneur during this next year, and thank Mr Arora again on behalf of all our students for joining us in our efforts to spread the entrepreneurship bug throughout Royal Holloway..."

- Ends -

## **Note to editors**

### **About Arora Hotels – [www.arorahotels.com](http://www.arorahotels.com)**

Arora Hotels is an independent hotel company owned and founded by Surinder Arora in 1999. It is the UK's leading specialist hotelier to the airline industry and one of the fastest growing private hotel companies in the UK.

The company has made a name for itself through the design, construction and operation of luxury hotels, with exceptional levels of hospitality.

The portfolio currently comprises 6 hotels with over 2,200 bedrooms. Prime locations include the Arora Hotel Heathrow, Arora Park Heathrow, Arora Hotel Gatwick/Crawley, Arora Hotel Manchester, the flagship 605-bedroom Sofitel London Heathrow, directly connected to Terminal 5 and Sofitel London Gatwick at the North Terminal. Both Sofitel hotels are operated under a franchise agreement with Accor Hospitality.

At The Kia Oval, Arora is currently working in partnership with Surrey County Cricket Club on the development of a four-star, 168-bedroom hotel and is also preferred partner for the new 212-bedroom Royal Ascot Hotel opposite the world famous racecourse.

Each of its hotels is Investors in People accredited.

The property arm of the Arora Group – Arora Management Services – is involved in property asset management of a portfolio of landmark office buildings at key UK airports.

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