



# James Caan CBE

**Investor | Entrepreneur | Philanthropist | TV star | Author**

CEO of Hamilton Bradshaw Private Equity, Recruitment Entrepreneur and The James Caan Foundation.

Founder and former Chairman of the UK Government Start-Up Loans Scheme.

Founder of multiple successful recruitment businesses.

Panellist for several prime time TV programmes including hit BBC show Dragons Den.

# Overview: James Caan CBE

## Philanthropist, Investor & Entrepreneur

James Caan was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the 2015 New Year Honours for services to entrepreneurship and charitable services.

One of the UK's most successful entrepreneurs, James has founded, scaled and sold a series of enterprises, including recruitment company Alexander Mann Solutions and executive head-hunting firm Humana International - which had a combined turnover of more than £1bn when sold.

James' most recent venture is Recruitment Entrepreneur - a global recruitment investment company which now has a footprint in 18 countries.

In 2012, James was head-hunted to set up and steer the UK government's Start-Up Loans Scheme, which has now created more than 55,000 jobs.

From 2007-2010, James starred as an investor on the hit BBC TV programme, Dragons' Den. He also starred in CNBC's The Business Class, Sky News current affairs programme, The Pledge and has been a columnist for The Sunday Times, The Daily Telegraph, and The Evening Standard.



# Alexander Mann: The World's Number 1 in Talent Solutions

**150+ Countries | 10,000+ Experts**

Alexander Mann was James' first recruitment company, and had a strong strategic focus on customer acquisition, customer retention, and managing and maximising the customer spend on recruitment and talent.

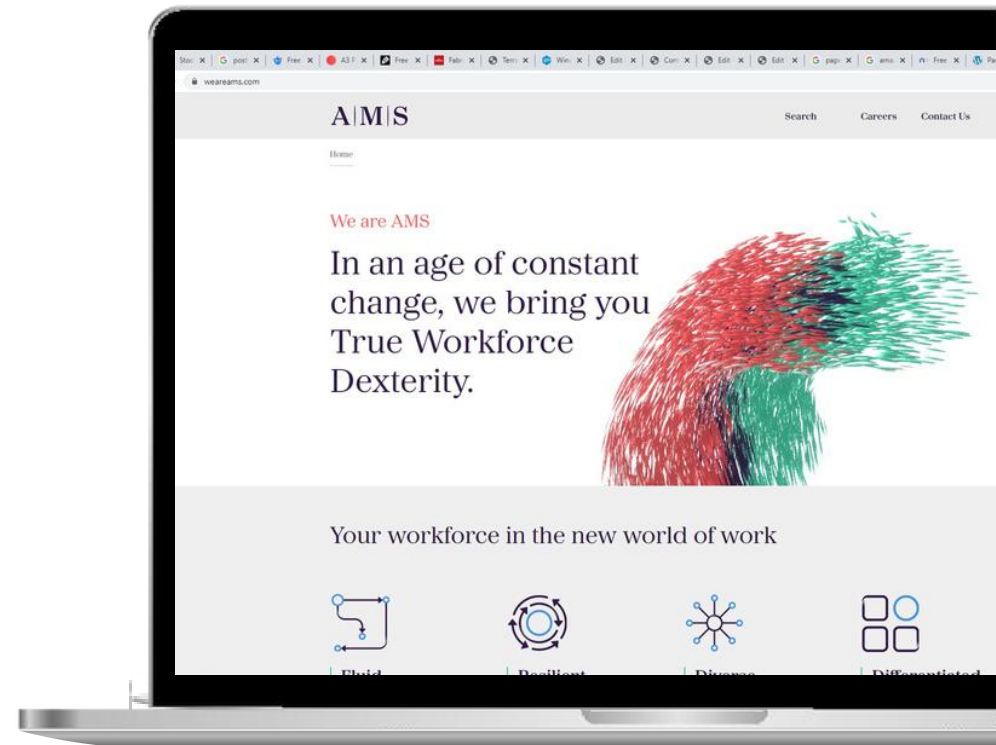
James started the company in a small cupboard-sized office in Mayfair and it's now the world's most respected talent solutions brand, boasting the highest percentage of the world's top 500 companies as long-term contracted clients.

The concept was to own the entire talent solutions spend and manage all recruitment conducted by clients, both nationally and internationally. Now with over 7,500 employees in 27 countries, Alexander Mann has one of the most efficient delivery and sourcing engines in the world, with low cost resourcing centres in Eastern Europe and Asia employing over 1,000 people whose sole responsibility is sourcing candidates for its international customer base.

[www.weareams.com](http://www.weareams.com)

JAMES CAAN CBE

# A|M|S



# Humana International

**147 Offices | 30 Countries | 2000 Employees**

Humana International was an executive search company which enabled James to own senior and board level positions of key customers around the globe. The business model took off immediately and enabled James to build one of the largest executive search businesses in the world.

With more than 2,000 consultants spanning the globe, Humana International was able to win global mandates from key customers, and earned a strong reputation for quality and delivery.

Humana's key strength was the commitment it showed to the development of its consulting workforce. The consultants were some of the best trained in the industry, and its top consultants regularly billed over \$1 million in net fee income.

The business constantly attracted interest from its competitors around the world, and was successfully sold to a New York listed company, which integrated the business with its existing 600 offices.



# Dragons' Den

**James's most enjoyable career experience thus far has been his stint on the BBC's "Dragons' Den," marking his debut on television.**

The show's success quickly elevated James to the status of a household name, recognised as the compassionate yet decisively fair dragon. He was respected for treating aspiring entrepreneurs with dignity as they entered the den and for offering them encouragement upon their departure.

During his tenure on the show, James participated in 40 episodes, personally investing £1.4 million to support emerging entrepreneurs. These investments were aimed at helping them realize their business ideas and innovations.

Among his investments, the Chocbox stands out as his favorite. With James's financial backing and guidance, inventor Peter Moule was able to achieve millionaire status through his invention.



# Hamilton Bradshaw

## Leading Private Equity Investor in Recruitment Sector

After selling Alexander Mann, James launched Hamilton Bradshaw - investing primarily in recruitment businesses. Hamilton Bradshaw has become the UK's number one choice of investor in the human capital sector and has grown to 500 staff and a portfolio turnover in excess of £150 million.

Hamilton Bradshaw has unrivalled knowledge and expertise in scaling the businesses they invest in, bolstered by its expert network of more than 30 CEOs across its portfolio.

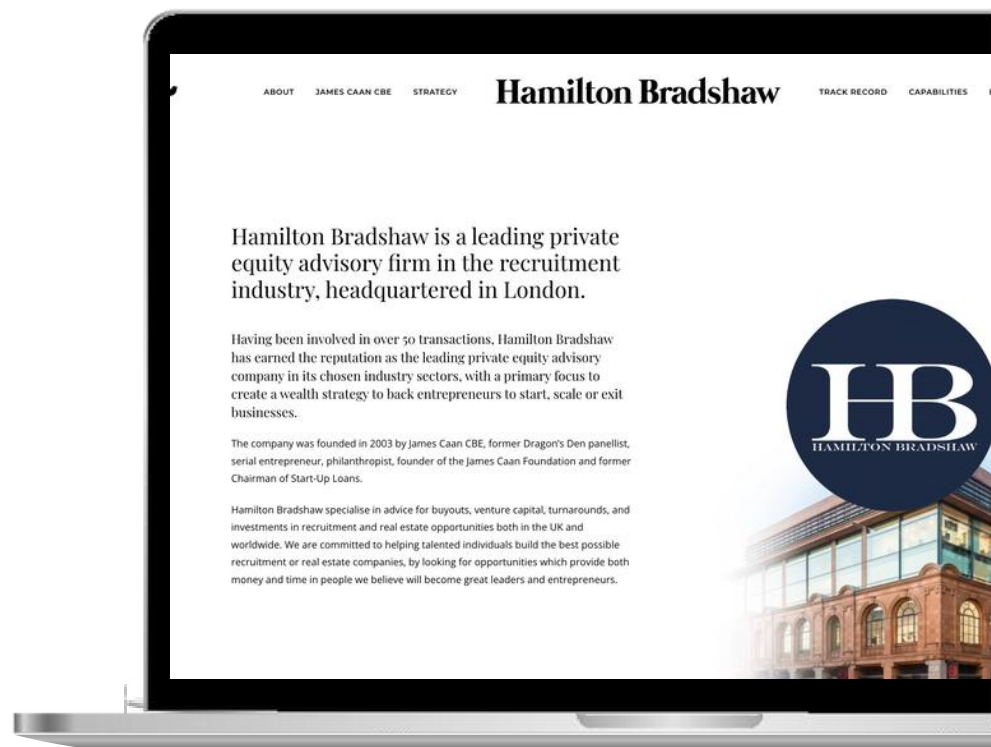
The Hamilton Bradshaw investment management team comprises significant in-house expertise across all business functions including Marketing, Accounting and Finance, Taxation, Legal, Social Media, Strategy, Leadership and Management.

As a strategic investor, Hamilton Bradshaw provides potential partners with financial investment and commercial expertise to implement strategy, facilitate growth and maximise shareholder value.

[www.hamiltonbradshaw.com](http://www.hamiltonbradshaw.com)

JAMES CAAN CBE

# Hamilton Bradshaw





# Start-up Loans: Starting over 50,000 businesses in the UK

James Caan was approached by the then prime minister David Cameron, who was concerned that the UK was not creating enough jobs, and his belief was that SMEs is what stimulates growth in the UK economy, what was required was a strategy to create more businesses. Start up loans was born.

The government provided James with £500,000,000 of capital to invest in new start ups. The strategy was to provide advice, business loans and mentoring to entrepreneurs across the UK.

Since 2012, 50,000 businesses have been backed, creating over 64,000 jobs. A new business is started every hour, averaging nearly 30 new businesses a day.

This was James' greatest achievement and the one which he is most proud of. He was recognised in the 2015 New Years Honours list and was invited to Buckingham Palace where he was awarded an CBE, Commander of the British Empire.



# Recruitment Entrepreneur

## Unique Global Investment Platform

**8 Countries | 45+ Portfolio Partners | 150+ Employees**

Established in 2014, Recruitment Entrepreneur is a global private equity investor partnering with recruitment business owners at all stages of growth - providing them with the capital, resources and support needed to grow, add value and scale to exit.

Clients benefit from RE's first-hand sector knowledge and access to mentorship, support and resources from a diverse senior management team of industry leaders and experts across the world - including James Caan CBE.

RE works alongside its clients to embed best-in-class infrastructure and processes - optimising operational strategy, back-office support, legal advice, marketing and talent attraction solutions, all of which enables them to flourish and build value.

RE clients also have direct access to experienced private equity personnel via Hamilton Bradshaw - a specialist within the human capital space.



JAMES CAAN CBE



# Top Speaker

Keynote Speaker for Google, Santander, Samsung and more and panellist for conferences and television shows.

Regular speaker at key business events including The Business Show, MADE festival and Global Entrepreneurship Week.

**A veteran entrepreneur and CEO of multiple global businesses, James energises and inspires his audiences with fun and insightful keynotes about entrepreneurship, motivating staff, scaling businesses and the impact of technology and social media on the business landscape. Most recently in February 2023, James engaged audiences at the tech and innovation LEAP conference in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.**

*"James' willingness and passion to address the issues he supports made him an ideal speaker for the Pendulum Summit. He exceeded our expectations on the day, giving our audience the benefit of his invaluable insight and proactive advice."*

Frankie Sheahan, Founder/Event Director, Pendulum Summit 2018

*"James was excellent, amusing and interesting in his views and I felt he dealt with the questions from the audience with charm and intelligent insight."*

David Henry, VP Marketing UK & Europe, Monster



# Online Social Presence

James mentors over 3.3 million people on LinkedIn through his weekly blogs. He is one of LinkedIn most influential recruitment professionals.

James is active on all social media points including Facebook, X and Instagram.

With 30 years in the industry, James is dedicated to sharing expert business hints and tips with his followers.



**3.3 million**  
followers



**153.7k**  
followers

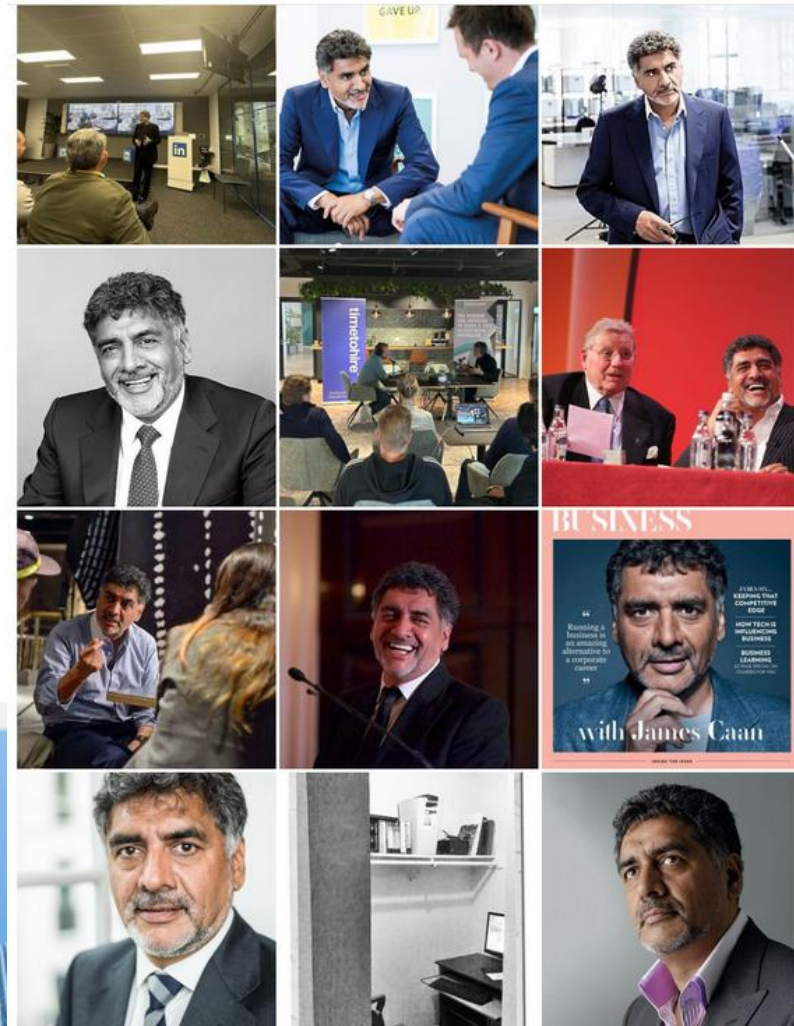


**22k**  
followers



**18.7k**  
followers

JAMES CAAN CBE



**James Caan CBE** · 1st

Recruitment Entrepreneur Chairman | Serial Entrepreneur | Dragon on BBC's Dragons' Den (2007-2010)

Top Voice

London, England, United Kingdom · [Contact info](#)

3,313,585 followers



Tom Willis, Emily Delacour, and 376 other mutual connections

Message

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Recruitment Entrepreneur





# TV & Media

James has made regular appearances on talkshows and news outlets both in the UK and internationally.

## Sky News - The Pledge

James was invited to join the panel of the Sky News show The Pledge on its debut. As a current affairs programme, the show has gone on to be a hit with a global audience tuning in every week. The lively show picks up topics of the week and has the panel debate the trending stories of the moment.

## CNBC - The Business Class

The business class was one of James' favourite shows as it enabled James to really be at his best when coaching and mentoring entrepreneurs about building their business.

The show identified a new business owner each week, and assisted by an expert guest from the sector, James broke down the business model and challenged the owner on their strategy for growth.

Having unearthed some of the potential road blocks and challenges faced by the entrepreneur, James helped in putting forward a clear plan for the business and setting up the entrepreneur for success.

JAMES CAAN CBE





# UK & International Press

James' willingness and passion to speak out about the issues he supports makes him one of the most sought after entrepreneurs to give their opinion on today's news - whether it's about entrepreneurship, the economy, employment, and SME businesses.

He has had weekly columns in the Sunday Times, the Daily Telegraph, the Evening Standard, and a variety of publications championing the SME, start-up and entrepreneurial communities as well as addressing the important events like Brexit or changing regulation facing businesses.



JAMES CAAN CBE

## Dragons' Den's James Caan on AI: 'The UK needs to act now or risk losing out'

INTERVIEW

Ex-Dragons' Den star James Caan warns a 'grave shortage' of AI skills is stifling productivity and innovation in the UK



Recruitment entrepreneur James Caan wants to see AI embedded in the education curriculum (Photo: Simon Dawson/Bloomberg/Getty)

## James Caan: Dragons' Den star talks business and job hunting during the Covid-19 pandemic

Entrepreneur is making his Amazon bestselling book 'Get The Job You Really Want' free for digital download

ENTERPRISE By Alistair Houghton Business Live Editor  
00:01, 19 NOV 2020 UPDATED 11:46, 20 NOV 2020

Bookmark



Businessman and TV dragon James Caan (Image: Daniel Lynch)

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# Giving Back

## Promoting education and entrepreneurship

James has a long history of supporting charitable projects and in 2004 he launched The James Caan Foundation after visiting his birth town in Lahore, Pakistan. The Foundation funds multiple projects including the Build a Village Project and the Abdul Rashid Khan school, which educates more than 400 children each year in a rural village outside Lahore.

"I wanted to provide other kids with the opportunity that my father never had. When I built the school, my vision was to transform the lives of everyone in the village and the community. When I was there a couple of weeks ago, I spoke to one of the teachers who was teaching English, and she had been a student at the school and had come back to teach in the school after going to university. And that was amazing!" - James Caan

**The Big Issue | The Princes Trust | The British Asian Trust | Patron of The Catalyst Club | Mosaic | Comic Relief | Give A Man A Fish | The Kashmir Earthquake Fund | Pakistan Recovery Fund | NSPCC**

**James was Chairman of The Big Issue, Enterprise Fellow for the Princes Trust, Patron of The Catalyst Club and was part of the Leadership Team for the Pakistan Recovery Fund. He is also Ambassador of The British Asian Trust and was a board advisor for the NSPCC Full Stop Campaign.**

JAMES CAAN CBE





# Achievements

James graduated Harvard Business School in 2003, and remains deeply involved in sponsoring and nurturing entrepreneurship at colleges and universities in the UK and worldwide. In 2009, James worked with Lord Drayson and the UK government to create and launch the iAwards - which support and recognise innovation in the UK.

Business and leadership awards include:

- BT Enterprise of the Year
- PWC Entrepreneur of the Year
- Entrepreneur of the Year (Asian Jewel Awards)
- Chairman of the Year - International Business Awards

**James has worked with UK and international government departments including Department of Business Innovation & Skills, Ethnic Minority Task Force, Department for International Development. He also advised Enterprise UK, Business Link and the Rowlands Growth Capital Review - providing recommendations to help small and medium businesses access capital for growth.**





# Books by James Caan CBE

## The Real Deal

An Amazon best-seller since 2008

Charting the remarkable rags to riches story of James' life from Brick Lane to £million dollar entrepreneur, The Real Deal is a gripping read packed with insight, emotion and advice.

## Start Your Business in 7 Days

The book that caught Lord Young's eye!

A hands-on guide to entrepreneurs starting out - helping them ask all the right questions from the beginning.

Get the Job You Really Want

Reached No.1 on Amazon charts!

## Get the Life You Really Want

Selected for the Quick Reads Campaign

A compilation of insights from his life and times in business, aimed at helping and inspiring others to achieve their life goals.



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