School of Business and Economics

For course descriptions, please use the course finder of Maastricht University and type course code below 'Search term' in the blue bar on the left.

Name minor: **Entrepreneurship**

Period of the full minor: **September - December (period 1 and 2)**

ECTS credits in total of this minor: **26 ECTS**

Language of Instruction: **English**

Period 1 (September / October):

Entrepreneurship: Theory and Practice (EBC2171) – 6,5 ECTS

The course Entrepreneurship: Theory and Practices aims at introducing students to a range of topics in the field of entrepreneurship and linking both entrepreneurial theory as well as practice. Critical questions like who, why, when and where start-ups embark on their entrepreneurial journey, are covered during this course. The course seeks to introduce the students to the vast literature about entrepreneurship and business start-ups and it challenges students to connect this literature to actual cases. The course covers aspects like entrepreneurial competences, regional eco-systems, opportunity recognition, appropriation, female and minority entrepreneurship, entrepreneurial success, etc. From a more practical standpoint, it explores how to put together an entrepreneurial team, develop approaches for evaluating the market reception, and discover the value creation potential of one's venture idea.

Female Entrepreneurship (EBC2172)– 6,5 ECTS

Across the globe, increasing numbers of women are striking out on their own and they set up new businesses. In OECD countries, more women than men start businesses. The number of women being educated to degree level and above has also risen internationally. With the growing interest in women's rights around the world, women's economic empowerment and the recognition of its relevance have notably progressed too. Taking the perspective of women and entrepreneurship, this course takes a different approach on the role of the individual in the entrepreneurial process. As long as the dominant paradigm is to distinguish between entrepreneurship and female entrepreneurship, one could make the claim that a classical entrepreneur is seen as a male subject. The course does not aim to bring down gender barriers or be a strong activist voice for gender equality. Rather this course acknowledges that there are differences between the way men and women go about being entrepreneurs. This course strives to teach students the best from both worlds. The course will do so by focussing on entrepreneurship with different gender, economical, and cultural contexts and explore which lessons one may draw from these different contexts, both from an academic as well as from a practical perspective. Rooted in a strong academic base the course will consider entrepreneurial concepts in different contexts leading to context-rich learning and a better appreciation of diversified entrepreneurial solutions.

Period 2 (October / December):

Social & Environmental Entrepreneurship (EBC2147) – 6,5 ECTS

Interest in the concept of social and environmental entrepreneurship has been sparked over the last two decades due to frustration with inefficient, ineffective and failed action of government and philanthropic bodies, as well as the socially destructive behaviour of many businesses. An explicit and central social/environmental mission, innovation, creativity and a strong market orientation are the distinguishing features of social and environmental entrepreneurship. Social and environmental entrepreneurs are committed to furthering a social and/or environmental mission, and rank social, environmental or cultural impact on a par with, or above, profit. At the intersection of business, government and not-for-profit organisations, these social and environmental entrepreneurs are now visible and having an impact on a global scale.

This course will provide you the opportunity to learn how you can apply your knowledge and skills to address complex social and environmental problems. This course is structured around experiential problem-based learning, providing you the opportunity to synthesise theory and practice as you develop an idea for your own social and environmental enterprises. Topics will include: critically reviewing concepts; user centred-design of social and environmental enterprises; frameworks for understanding and strategizing; understanding and reporting social and environmental impact; and cross-sector collaboration.

Commercialising Science & Technology (EBC2144) – 6,5 ECTS

The course Commercializing Science and Technology aims to help you understand and master core entrepreneurial challenges of turning science into products and products into businesses. In so doing, we will adopt a strongly entrepreneurial lens. That means that we will look at important technology commercialization activities through the eyes of a potential technology entrepreneur.

Adopting the view of technology entrepreneurs means that market-related aspects of science commercialization move center stage. In that, one of the most important tasks entrepreneurs have to perform is to understand their full opportunity space, i.e. the range of potential opportunities and the conditions of value creation within those opportunities. Opportunity validation and development becomes the key focus, all the while paying attention to the challenges of developing the technology in parallel. If this process is mastered it can be a highly rewarding task—not only for individual inventors and their team, but also for stakeholders such as future employees, research and other value chain partners, the region, and the country.

The competencies you will acquire in this course will help you prepare for your own entrepreneurial journey. They will also be extremely valuable should you choose a career in managing technology at an established firm or within a public or private research lab. In particular university labs and corporate R&D department rely increasingly on professionals that help bridging the gap between science production (conference presentations, scientific publications, and patents) and commercial value creation (revenues, funding for scientific and applied research). In both settings efforts in research and development need to be legitimized and be able to answer to which extent they will ultimately result in economic performance—a core learning goal in this course.