Entrepreneurship and Startup · 2026

A program in Entrepreneurship for all PhD students and young scientists

INSTRUCTORS

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w| https://research.dii.unipd.it/me/scent

OBJECTIVES

Since 2014, the program has continuously **evolved** to meet the increasingly complex and sophisticated needs of its participants. In the **2026 edition** you will learn how to:

- Develop an **entrepreneurial mindset** that can be applied across different contexts, from business to research.
- Explore how **your research can be transformed into innovation** and potentially into a new entrepreneurial venture.
- Experience and practice **team dynamics**.
- **Use generative AI** to systematically develop and evaluate the different aspects of an innovation and entrepreneurship project.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND THIS PROGRAM

- The course is open to **all PhD students and young scientists** at the University of Padova.
- The course is an interdisciplinary initiative, valuable to young scientists of **all disciplines**.
- The course is held **in English**.

WHEN

From 14th January to 25th February 2026

Every Wednesday, 7 classes, from 9:30 to 12:30

WHERE

Location will be announced at the opening of the enrollment process (about one month before the first class)

Content and learning journey

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- A clearly defined process for developing an innovation and entrepreneurship project
- How to identify and clearly articulate the real-world problems your research can address.
- How to select a field of interest and discover relevant problems to solve.
- How to translate your scientific expertise into practical, impactful solutions.
- The principles of building and managing an effective team.
- How to collaborate effectively in multidisciplinary teams by leveraging diverse expertise.
- To work effectively in a team with individuals from other disciplines, leveraging varied expertise.
- The essentials of intellectual property rights, patents, and strategies for bringing research-based innovations to market.
- How to use Generative AI (ChatGPT) more efficiently and effectively.
- How to combine your creative insights with Generative AI to shape, refine, and refine every aspect of your project.
- The basics of startup financials.

BENEFITS AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Develop an Innovation and Entrepreneurship project to showcase in your portfolio.
- Develop entrepreneurial thinking and a resilient entrepreneurial mindset.
- Bridge the gap between academic research and impactful solutions.
- Build the confidence to pursue entrepreneurship or take on innovation-focused roles in industry.
- Strengthen leadership, problem-solving, and innovation skills

MAIN CONTENTS AND TOPICS

- Characteristics of a technology and innovation-based startup.
- Characteristics of an effective founding team.
- Defining and evaluating a product and/or service concept.
- Intellectual property protection and related processes.
- Evaluating the market aspects of a business idea.
- Defining the profile of the target users / customers
- Designing and evaluating different business models.
- Understanding and developing the economic and financial elements of a startup.
- Evaluating different fundraising strategies.
- Understanding how professional investors evaluate investment proposals.

HOW YOU WILL LEARN

- You will develop your own project in team using Generative AI, with clear guidelines on each step and practical tips on prompt engineering.
- Every session blends a dynamic theoretical introduction with a collaborative, hands-on workshop to bring your ideas to life.
- Working in teams, you'll apply what you learn directly to your project—and at the end of the program, each team will submit their final innovation project.

Organizational details

CALENDAR

Classes are **weekly** and held on **Wednesday's morning**.

14 January 2026	9:30 – 12:30
21 January 2026	9:30 – 12:30
28 January 2026	9:30 – 12:30
5 February 2026	9:30 – 12:30
11 February 2026	9:30 – 12:30
18 February 2026	9:30 – 12:30
25 February 2026	9:30 – 12:30

REQUIREMENTS

Participants are required to:

- Attend all classes in person to maximize learning outcomes and engagement.
- Collaborate in teams of 3–4 members.
- Develop a unique Innovation and Entrepreneurship project.
- Share their results to foster mutual learning and exchange ideas.

HOW TO ENROL

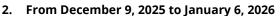Scan the QR code or visit the webpage of the program:

https://research.dii.unipd.it/me/scent-education/ES2026

Given the high number of participants in past editions and to optimize the choice of venue, the registration process is organized in four steps:

1. **Until December 8, 2025**

   Expression of interest and confirmation of availability on the scheduled dates.

2. **From December 9, 2025 to January 6, 2026**

   Pre-registration via the application form (limited places, first come, first served).

3. **January 7, 2026**

   Publication of the complete list of pre-registered participants in chronological order, with the maximum seat limit highlighted.

   Those within the capacity-threshold are officially enrolled and may attend the first class. Those beyond the capacity may be admitted by email notification in case of other applicants' cancellations.

4. **January 14, 2026**

   Final registration on Moodle during the first day of class.

   Organizers and participants will greatly appreciate your collaboration. Thank you.

OPEN BADGE

Participants who have met the requirements in terms of attendance and assignment will be awarded the open badge for the course.

https://bestr.it/badge/show/2670

239 participants already received this badge

What former participants said in previous editions

This course has been held under different titles since 2015.

- *It introduced me to a very stimulating world that I completely didn't know.*
- *I found a lot of experience and practical cases which have a significant value on my skill and attitude. It adds a lot to me.*
- *It was a new topic for me, I'm glad it has been well explained and presented.*
- *A good idea is not enough, and a scientist Is often not used to think about the market needs.*
- *This course has been a link between my dream and reality. Got to learn a lot about challenges that can come on the way and how to face them.*
- *I really appreciate having this high-quality course, I also liked the schedule that didn't break my plans.*
- *Thank you for having had an amazing experience. I don't have anything to complain about.*
- *I appreciate the lectures that give me so much knowledge I did not know before. It's thought provoking.*
- *Extremely useful to enter a different mindset.*
- *It introduces the researcher to topics that are otherwise neglected in academic education.*
- *Engaging, focused, inspirational.*

i

To stay up to date with course information, visit the page

https://research.dii.unipd.it/me/scent-education/ES2026