

University of Debrecen Innovation Ecosystem Center

CALL FOR TENDERS stUDinnovate Innovation Scholarship Programme

Debrecen
January 2023

RRF-2.1.2-21-2022-00003
Gyakorlatorientált felsőfokú képzések
infrastrukturális- és készségfejlesztése a Debreceni
Egyetemen



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1. Introduction, objectives of the Programme

The aim of the stUDinnovate Innovation Scholarship Programme (hereinafter: Programme) is to foster the further development of the selected ideas, validate the uniqueness of the idea, acquiring a detailed knowledge and understanding various aspects necessary for going to market and preparing business plans.

Besides, the Programme aims at developing the entrepreneurial competencies of the selected students, supporting their professional development, thus promoting an innovative entrepreneurial career path.

The Programme is organized by the Innovation Ecosystem Center (hereinafter: Center).

2. The form of the scholarship

Following an application procedure, support will be obtained in the form of a scholarship, which is paid to the participant's bank account.

The amount of the scholarship is HUF 100,000 per student per month, based on the schedule in Annex no. 1, starting from the foundation phase, depending on the time spent in the programme.

3. Eligibility criteria

Individuals with active student status are welcomed to apply to the Programme by submitting their application in English.

In respect of the same idea only one Fellow Student shall receive scholarship.

Eligibility criteria:

- students in the bachelor's programme, master's programme, single-cycle programme, PhD programme with active student status at UD (active student status must be verified by providing a Neptun code)
- in case of a student (Hungarian or foreign) participating in BSc studies or undivided training
 - has already acquired a university/college degree (diploma shall be submitted) OR
 - has acquired 4 or more closed semesters of the recent course at the University of Debrecen
 - in case of all applicants, a declaration is needed as should the Scholarship Recipient's active student status be terminated or suspended during the programme due to any reason, Scholarship Recipient shall also undertake to complete the programme, but they shall not receive a scholarship for the period following the termination of the student status.
- It is a condition that you have not previously participated in any programme which aimed at the further development of the given idea, with training content similar to stUDinnovate (HSUP Scholarship Programme, Proof of Concept). Previously acquired qualifications and completed programs do not grant an exemption from active participation.

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4. Programme management

Programme and related Application is launched by the Innovation Ecosystem Center of the University of Debrecen.

5. Submission deadline

Applications shall be submitted between 23 January 2023 and 24 February 2023. (Annex no. 1 of the call for tenders).

6. The structure of tenders, method and place/platform of submission.

Online Application Form:

1. *Motivation statement of the Applicant*
2. *Introduction of the idea based on predetermined questions.*
3. *Additional task to be developed (max. 2 pages): Developing and implementing a short summary “essay” on the topic defined in the application form (explaining a related problem and a proposed solution, as well as presenting the expected result)*

Introductory Video:

max. 3 minutes long, related to idea of the Applicant with the following content:

- *The problem, challenge, and the proposed solution*
- *The novelty of the proposed solution*
- *Social/economic/environmental impact of the proposed solution*
- *Other business aspects (e.g. competitors, market size, international potentials)*

Innovative project to be developed

Task: University of Debrecen offers the widest range of training for students in the country. This provides a huge opportunity to create ideas that combine the professional achievements and perspectives of several scientific fields, thereby providing more relevant solutions to inherent problems of our environment. Still, in many cases during the development of ideas there is no consultation between the students of different fields.

- *Identify one out of the many possible problems/challenges/reasons which could be behind failing to organize such negotiations.*
- *Explain what kind of innovative solution (measure, decision, act, etc.) could alleviate or terminate the problem.*
- *Describe what kind of outcome you would expect from this, these!*

The essay structure must reflect on the project (problem, solution, expected outcome).

7. Financing of the scholarship

The Scholar receives a scholarship during the scholarship period and does not have to submit financial accounts.

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To receive the scholarship, the Applicant shall possess a bank account with a Hungarian financial institution and a tax identification number until the conclusion of the Scholarship Agreement.

The Innovation Ecosystem Center enters into a Scholarship Agreement with the Scholar, which sets out the terms and conditions for the payment of the scholarship.

According to point No. 3.2.6. of Annex No. 1 on tax-free income of Act CXVII of 1995 on Personal Income Tax the scholarship paid is tax-free.

Scholarship shall be granted only during active student status.

In case the active student status is terminated or suspended in the course of Programme, the applicant shall not be entitled to a remuneration after the termination or suspension of the active student status. In this case an unpaid engagement contract will be signed valid for the remaining period.

The scholarship period runs from 16 March 2023 to 30 June 2023. Based on the decision of a professional jury, it can be extended from 1 July 2023 to 30 September 2023.

8. Mandatory activities during the scholarship period

Participants are required to carry out the following activities during the scholarship period depending on the development of the idea:

Preliminary phase

Prior to concluding the Scholarship Contract, the students selected for the Programme will finalize their project plan with the help of the staff of the Center:

Implementation

- course attendance (participate at least 80% of the training sessions, missing any training session only in case of justified absence)
- preparing assignments for the training sessions
- creating a Business Model Canvas
- participating on Demo Day where the developed project will be presented.

Should the Scholarship holder not fulfil the commitments, he / she may be liable for repayment.

Further obligations of the Scholarship Recipients after the closure of the Programme:

- upon request the Fellow Scholar shall share his or her experiences related to the project and the Programme at least twice a year in a 2-year period following the closure of the Programme.

Shall an innovative enterprise be established in order to exploit market potential of the service/product developed in the framework of the Programme, especially in case of relevant contribution of the university, there will be an individual negotiation between the Fellow Scholar and UD Ventures Ltd (company 100% owned by University of Debrecen).

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9. Documents required for submitting the application

It is required to apply online by filling out an application form and submitting a video.
(Clause 7 of the Call for Application)

10. Formal verification and deficiencies

The submitted applications are accepted by the colleagues working in the scholarship programme of the Innovation Ecosystem Center and assigned a unique application identification number in the chronological order of receipt. After receipt of applications, the formal verification of the validity of the applications begins.

The Center will send electronically a notification with the application's unique identifier to the Applicant (to the e-mail address provided on the application form) of the acceptance of the application within 3 working days from the date of receiving the application.

During the formal inspection of the application should the Center conclude that the application is incomplete and that the deficiencies are of such a nature that the effected part of the application can be replaced or corrected in order to make the application formally adequate, the Applicant will be notified one time electronically to the e-mail address provided in the Application Data Sheet - by indicating the errors, deficiencies, and the way of filling the deficiencies at the same time – about the corrections with the deadline of no more than 5 working days from the sending of the notification, which can be extended once by an additional 5 working days upon request.

If the Applicant has not filled in the deficiencies, or has not complied with them in the manner or the deadline specified in the notice of deficiency, the Center will state the invalidity of the application and will send a notification to the Applicant indicating the reason for the invalidity via electronic means, without a substantive examination of the rejection of the application.

Applications will be rejected automatically in the following cases:

- Applicant has not submitted his or her application within the deadline specified in the Call for Tenders,
- Applicant does not meet the requirements set in this Call for Tenders,
- Applicant did not submit the Application Form and online and did not upload the video.

The Application is invalid if:

- The application is not in English language,

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- Contains misleading information,
- The Applicant did not make up the deficiencies in the way of or by the deadline defined in the call for correction,
- The application was not submitted by the entitled person himself.

There is no appeal against the rejection of the application for formal reasons.

11. Evaluation criteria

Verified and accepted applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Uniqueness of an idea: The Applicant can present sufficiently how his/her idea differs from the already existing solutions or the ones under development. (The Applicant plans to use different solutions from competitors on the market, may have a unique technology, applies product/service to a new target group or in a new area of utilization) .

Level of development:

- the Applicant verified his/her business idea (problem analysis, solution, etc.)
- mapped out market needs
- status of the idea (disposes prototype, business plan, MVP etc.)
- the idea/solution has social and/or environmental benefits or impact
- presentation of market potential

Presentation skills: the applicant is able to present his/her idea in an interesting and understandable way in English.

Additional advantages

Feasibility of the project: The idea is technologically and financially feasible.

12. Decision and notification

Applicants will be notified electronically (via the e-mail address provided on the Application Form) by the Innovation Ecosystem Center no later than three weeks after the deadline for submission of applications on the decision to enter the preparatory phase. Selected Applicants must confirm their participation in the Programme within 3 days. The decision cannot be appealed.

13. Contracting

After the preparatory phase, selected Applicants will receive a scholarship. The Scholarship Agreement will be prepared and concluded by the Innovation Ecosystem Center of the

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University of Debrecen with the selected Applicant (Fellow Scholar), based on which the scholarship is paid.

Should the fact be known that the legal status (active student status) of the Applicant is terminated or suspended in the course of the Programme, the applicant will not be entitled to a remuneration after the termination or suspension of the active student status, for the period following the termination of the active student status commission contract without remuneration will be concluded at the same time.

14. Cancellation and suspension of the scholarship, termination of the Scholar status

Cancellation of the scholarship: The Scholarship Recipient may renounce the scholarship at any time, in which case he/she shall be obliged to repay the scholarship awarded up to that point. The Scholarship Recipient shall only be exempted from repayment obligation in exceptional cases (*vis major*). Cancellation of the scholarship must be requested in a letter explaining the reason for the request, addressed to the Innovation Ecosystem Center of the University of Debrecen. The Center shall decide on the validity of the request and the extent (full or partial) of the repayment obligation.

Suspension of the scholarship: In exceptional circumstances, in particular due to childbirth, illness or continuing studies abroad, the Scholarship Recipient may apply for the suspension of the scholarship. The suspension of the scholarship must be requested in a letter explaining the reason for the request, addressed to the Innovation Ecosystem Center of the University of Debrecen. The Center shall decide on the validity as well as the acceptance or rejection of the application.

Termination of the scholarship:

1. Should the Scholarship Recipient no longer meet the conditions of the tender, the Center may withdraw the awarded scholarship. In this case, the Scholarship Recipient is obliged to repay (fully or partially) the scholarship. The grounds for termination of the scholarship may include, among others, termination of student status, refusal to submit the reports prepared by Scholarship Recipient to document the progress in accordance with point no. 17 or rejection of the submitted report by the Center.
2. Should the Scholarship Recipient's student status be terminated, the Scholarship Contract will be automatically and immediately terminated. Should the Scholarship Recipient agree to complete the obligations undertaken under the tender as part of a separate contract, the Scholarship Recipient shall have no obligation to repay the scholarship. In all other cases, point no. 1 shall apply.

Should the applicants fail to complete the mandatory training courses and consultations, they shall be removed from the programme and be obliged to repay the scholarship. Scholarship Recipients may miss a maximum of 20% of the training sessions.

15. Publicity

During the programme and project activities, in all communications, related notices and publications, the Scholarship Recipient must include the following acknowledgement:

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„The <<.....>> is supported by the RRF-2.1.2-21-2022-00003 project co-financed by the European Union Recovery and Resilience Facility.”

16. Scholarship monitoring and its professional documentation

For the duration of the scholarship period, Scholarship Recipients are obliged to give oral reports on a quarterly basis on how they are progressing with the development of the idea/prototype.

17. Further information

Assistant members responsible for the scholarship programme of the Innovation Ecosystem Center:

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+36-30-303-1178

18. Annexes

Annex no. 1: Schedule and subject areas of training

1. Annex no. 1

(Estimated) schedule

- Launch of the call for tenders: 23 January 2023
- Application period: 23 January 2023 and 24 February 2023
- Selection of Applicants included in the foundation phase:
24 February 2023 – 05 March 2023
- Applicant’s feedback on participation: 05 March 2023
- Preparatory workshop: 08 March 2023
- Implementation period: 16 March 2023 - 31 July 2023
- Demo Day: 31 July 2023
- Follow-up: continuous

Subject areas of training:

- Product
- Definition of market: market validation, market segmentation and target market
- Business plan
- Financial design
- Project design
- Marketing knowledge
- Pitch

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