

Become a mentor for the Academic Startup Competition

For the Academic Startup Competition 2020, we are looking for experienced mentors. Our mentors are proven experts, either investors, (serial) entrepreneurs or work in corporate R&D in the tech industry. As a mentor, you will guide entrepreneurs to help them achieve their goals and realize their potential. You'll help guide them through some of the startups' biggest challenges, such as finding product-market fit, international scaling and getting to market. Founders and mentors are matched for the best fit and work together through the duration of the competition.

What does it entail to become a Mentor?

- **One on One Coaching:** During the programme, you will be matched with up to 3 startups that fit your profile and experience. You will meet the startup(s) on day 1 of the ASC "the selection day", April 22nd, and mentor them throughout the duration of the competition.
- **Share your contacts:** Connect the startups with your network to accelerate their success and to help them make meaningful connections
- **Be in the loop:** Our mentors become insiders with special access to our events and plans, associated companies and partners.

Why should I be a mentor?

- Pay-it-forward, by passing on your knowledge and experience over to start-up entrepreneurs you help the entire Dutch startup ecosystem grow and prosper.
- Contribute in a real and tangible way to unlock the potential that Dutch academic startups have to offer.
- Get insights from some of the brightest minds working on the challenges of tomorrow and guide them through a key stage in their career.
- A boost to your own career by adding mentorship to your skillset.
- An exclusive opportunity to scout and potentially invest in high potential entrepreneurs and businesses.
- Network with other dedicated business minds who will also be mentoring and are part of the programme.

What's the commitment?

We appreciate your time is limited. For a successful programme, we would ask your presence for 1 full day (April 22nd) and in addition a commitment of 5 hours of mentoring per mentee. You will be matched to a maximum of 3 startups. We will match mentors and mentees from different companies and backgrounds - based on your experience, interest and desired outcomes.

Apply now!

If you feel that you have the experience and track record to guide academic startups to success, we want to hear from you. Please apply by sending an email to Iris Visser (asc@vsnu.nl).

About the Academic Startup Competition

To maximize the full potential of academic startups, the (VSNU) and Techleap.nl (TL) organise the Academic Startup Competition. The 25 startups that are in the race for the 10 Dutch Pioneering Innovations from Science will participate in an intensive two-day programme of workshops, mentorship and peer to peer learning to help the founders to accelerate the growth and scalability of their business. They will be introduced to the innovation ecosystem, and help them to develop a network of peers, experts, and mentors.

About the startups

The academic startups are building scientific solutions to global issues, working hard to make a positive impact around the world.

- They have the ambition and potential to be disruptive and scale internationally within the coming 5 years. In the case of biotechnology, biomedical or medical projects, the company needs to be on the market within 7 years.
- They are a successful transfer from science/technology developed at a Dutch university, University Medical Center, KNAW or NWO institute
- They have been incorporated for less than 3 years.

Programme:

1. Expert day - April 22nd (for the 25 selected startups)

- Mentor sessions
- Workshop with expert
- Round table lunch
- Pitch to the selection committee

2. Mentoring

From April 22nd until the final event on June 17th, you will meet/Skype/call with your mentee(s) for one on one coaching sessions.

3. Final event - June 17th (*attendance for mentors is not essential*)

- Pitch Training
- Lunch with alumni
- Workshop: scaleup story by a serial entrepreneur
- Festive announcement of the 10 winners

4. Trip to the US

The 10 academic startups that won the competition are flying to the US to meet investors, entrepreneurs and potential customers.

About VSNU

In the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU), Dutch universities work together towards a strong university sector. The 14 Dutch universities within the VSNU show the outside world how they fulfill their social function, formulate shared ambitions relating to academic education and research and valorisation, and lobby for the preconditions needed to realise these ambitions.

About Techleap.nl

Techleap.nl is a non-profit organisation, funded by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, helping to quantify and accelerate the tech ecosystem of the Netherlands. Empowering Dutch leaders in tech to scale with programmes and initiatives for improving access to technology, market, capital and talent.