# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 years in numbers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advancing entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An entrepreneurship legacy</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current staff</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisory board</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research programmes</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Featured researchers</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research grants and assignments</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International guests</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting professors and fellows</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research events and action-oriented research</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current courses</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some events during the Master’s programme year</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni ventures</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student awards</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mentorship programme</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internship programme</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guest lectures by entrepreneurs</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five years – Five remarkable winners</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Entrepreneurship Education Workshop</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Entrepreneurial Society of Lund University</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International projects and contract education</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Looking back and moving forward</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2012 — FIVE YEARS — 2016

The numbers

142 publications
54 journal articles
9 books and edited books

29 book chapters
11 reports and popular press articles
37 conference papers
1 PhD thesis
1 licentiate thesis

4 donations:
SEK 55.5 million

7 research grants:
SEK 33.2 million

5 project grants:
SEK 6.8 million

Applicants to the Master’s Programme in Entrepreneurship:
4237 applicants

Registered students, Master’s Programme in Entrepreneurship:
255 students

Registered students, all courses:
2655 students

Registered students, contract education:
357 students

Currently active start-ups by former Master’s students
New Venture Creation: 46% (93)
Corporate Entrepreneurship: 15% (11)

Active mentors:
67 mentors

Internship companies:
23 collaborating internship companies

Guest lecturers:
101 entrepreneurs, intrapreneurs, and consultants

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Advancing entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship

The ambition of Sten K. Johnson Centre for Entrepreneurship is to advance both entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship research.

That means that we consider it our task to create knowledgeable entrepreneurs who are capable of starting and developing new ventures, but also to create interesting knowledge about entrepreneurship and innovation that can provide insights into the entrepreneurial process. Today there are 18 lecturers and researchers at the Centre, and we are currently recruiting two more members to our team. When we inaugurated the Centre in 2012, it consisted of six people that were mainly involved in education.

Obviously, a lot has happened during the past five years. We have managed to build a research environment at the Centre, and the number of publications and interesting results are increasing every year, as is the number of grants we receive from research councils and foundations.

In addition, we have built an extensive network in the region, with entrepreneurs, companies, and other stakeholders. Without this network we would not have been able to improve the courses and programmes that we offer, which has been another important task in recent years.

With regards to internationalisation, I am proud to say that the Centre has attracted a lot of international interest; as a benchmark, a research partner, a cooperative partner in education, and provider of contract education.

Our path forward contains both opportunities and challenges. The fact that we are part of a large and comprehensive university could be considered an opportunity because of its many students within different disciplines and with different skills, improving the possibility of coming up with innovative ideas and realising them. However, it is also a challenge as we need to reach out to all faculties to explain the advantages of cross-disciplinary education, which requires a lot of resources. So, looking forward, the Centre’s immediate ambition is to create stronger awareness and more interest among the faculties and students at Lund University.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you who have been involved in and supported Sten K. Johnson Centre for Entrepreneurship during the past five years. Without all of you, our progress would not have been possible. I sincerely hope that you will continue to be part of the Centre as we head into the future. We look forward to continuously advancing the Centre as well as entrepreneurship in general.

Marie Löwegren,
Director

Our path forward contains both opportunities and challenges.«
An entrepreneurship legacy

In January 2012, Sten K. Johnson breathed life into the new entrepreneurship centre at Lund University with his generous donation.

Behind the willingness to facilitate the establishment and development of the Centre was a personal and professional interest in entrepreneurship and business development. Sten was involved in publicly listed conglomerates such as Skåne-Gripen and Midway Holding, and his private holding company Tibia Konsult. To further promote new ideas, he started the Sten K. Johnson Foundation in 2012 – a foundation that since its inception has awarded around 230 grants in the fields of entrepreneurship, culture, education, literature, music, medicine, and technology, with approx. SEK 28 million in total.

Sten K. Johnson contributed to the establishment of the Centre with the aim that new and exciting research insights within the field of entrepreneurship would be developed, and a wish for an increased collaboration between the Centre and industry. His aim was also for the Centre to develop skilled and knowledgeable entrepreneurs that would start and develop businesses that would benefit society.

The speed of innovation increases all the time and we see new companies growing rapidly. Established companies also have the need to continuously reinvent themselves to stay relevant on the market. Research and education in entrepreneurship are therefore important to ensure that our society remains competitive. I hope the Centre will continue to expand its relationships with other faculties at the University and develop entrepreneurship across different areas. I also wish that the Centre will work both regionally and internationally to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and become an important hub for entrepreneurship in the Öresund region.

Anders Bergstrand,
Tibia Konsult

»His aim was also for the Centre to develop skilled and knowledgeable entrepreneurs that would start and develop businesses that would benefit society.«

Sten K. Johnson (1945–2013) playing the horn at the inauguration ceremony of the Centre.
Creavity, engagement, and quality. Over the years we have developed three values that permeate our work at the Centre.

We develop and test new ideas such as the online platform we created to improve student learning. We engage in student activities such as trade shows and venture cafés, and participate in international conferences such as those by the Academy of Management’s Entrepreneurship Division, Babson, RENT, and more. In everything we do, whether it be research, education or other activities, we strive for the highest quality. For instance, our Master’s programme has received an award for being a cutting-edge programme. All of this is thanks to our dedicated co-workers.
The Advisory Board has been a tremendous support over the years. The diversity of the board has given rise to fruitful discussions, making us see things from other perspectives. In addition, the Advisory Board has actively promoted the Centre, shared its networks and helped solve our challenges.

»It has been an interesting experience in which commercial aspects meet academia. We have not always thought alike, but over the years we have found consensus. As a result, Lund University has the potential of becoming one of the leading providers of education in entrepreneurship in Europe.«

Claes Kinell, Chair of the Advisory Board 2011–2015

Chair 2015—
Christer Thordson, founder of Legal Edge AB, board member Avicii Music AB, and stiftelsen Fryshuset. Lecturer Leiden University, The Netherlands. Former general counsel IKEA group.

Board members
- Anders Berglund, founder of Algoritm AB, chair of the board at InfraSight Labs AB, board member of Mistbase AB
- Anders Holm, founder of Aqilles Invest. Currently CEO of Motala Verkstad Group AB.
- Charlotta Falvin, chair of the board at Lund University Faculty of Engineering and Ideon Open AB. Board member of several companies within the technology industry.
- Christine Jacobsen, Centre alumnus, co-founder and CMO of Nattaro Labs
- Claes Kinell, chair of the board at Muirfield Invest AB
- Hans Landström, professor, Sten K. Johnson Centre for Entrepreneurship
- Nina Lundberg Sellberg, CEO of Karolinska Institutet Information, adjunct professor e-health
- Suzanne Richter, operations manager, Sten K. Johnson Foundation

Co-opted members
- Eric Hamilton, Development Office, Lund University
- Marie Löwegren, director, Sten K. Johnson Centre for Entrepreneurship

Former Members
- Hans Möller, former CEO Ideon AB
- Håkan Nelson, CEO Nelicon AB
- Josephine Rydberg-Dumont, former CEO of IKEA of Sweden AB
- Sten K. Johnson, founder Tibia Konsult, chair Midway Holding AB
- Therese Karlsson, chair LMK Foundation, CEO LMK Industri AB
- Ulrika Nilsson, Development Office, Lund University
One of our goals over the last five years has been to strengthen the research at the Centre. We have achieved this by recruiting professor Frédéric Delmar, and three lecturers with strong research backgrounds as well as experience and interest in education. We have also admitted five PhD students and one research assistant. As part of developing a stimulating research environment, we have established an ongoing seminar series with invited guests. It should also be mentioned that we have been successful in attracting external funding for research, both from traditional research councils and from private donations. A high point was the donation of SEK 15 million from Tetra Laval for the Ruben Rausing chair in Ownership in Entrepreneurial Firms. The research efforts at the Centre have also received recognition in terms of conference awards, and we are by now represented on the boards of some the most influential international conferences and journals as well as in national committees.

»The company was founded in Lund, and to the company Lund is the heart. Furthermore we have a great interest in issues related to entrepreneurship. This is a large donation, relatively speaking. We work with many universities around the world as we are a global corporate group, and we are particularly pleased that this donation has ties with Lund University.«

Jörgen Haglind, Tetra Laval to HD-Sydsvenskan, 8till5.se, 28 April 2015
New venture teams in an entrepreneurship process

Programme director: Anna Brattström/ Frédéric Delmar

The purpose of the programme is to study the progress of new venture teams (NVTs), from their inception, through the entrepreneurship process, and into established firms. The novel aspects in our study are the emphasis on team cognition as well as the construction of psychological and social processes within NVTs. The approach is influenced by research in organisational behaviour and industrial and organisational psychology, including research on mental models (content, structure and accuracy), interpersonal communication processes (debate and conflict concerning a task), goal generation and goal striving (team processes). Our research contributes to the practical knowledge of how entrepreneurs behave in teams when developing new entrepreneurial activities – insights that are also valuable for policy-makers.

Entrepreneurial learning and education

Programme director: Diamanto Politis

The significant increase in supply of entrepreneurship education has led to a parallel growth in research with an interest in mapping the phenomena and contributing through debate and the exchange of knowledge concerning pedagogical approaches, assessment practices and curriculum development. The research programme aims to contribute with knowledge that benefits both the international scholarly community as well as develops and strengthens the entrepreneurship education offered at Sten K. Johnson Centre for Entrepreneurship. Our research is conducted within four different focus areas: evaluation and assessment of entrepreneurship education; experiential entrepreneurship education; university-based entrepreneurship education ecosystems; and entrepreneurship education in policy.

Immigrant entrepreneurship

Programme director: Craig Mitchell

The research programme builds upon what we already know about immigrant entrepreneurship in Sweden and attempts to contextualise previous international findings into a Swedish context. One aim of the research programme is to integrate mainstream entrepreneurship research with that of previous literature on immigrant entrepreneurship. Despite dealing with the same basic phenomenon of entrepre neur, rarely has previous immigrant entrepreneurship research adopted theories and insights from general entrepreneurship research. Particularly, the research programme aims to better understand business growth, marketing, entrepreneurial finance and the entrepreneurial process in immigrant-owned businesses. The research programme aims to contribute with critical insights that benefit both the academic community and surrounding society, as well as inform about policy and practise.

The roots of entrepreneurship research

Programme director: Hans Landström

"History matters in entrepreneurship research!" A thorough understanding of past contributions can help researchers create a necessary knowledge accumulation within the entrepreneurship research field. In addition, entrepreneurship is a multidisciplinary research field and a lot of concepts and theories are borrowed from other fields, it is important to consider that theories are products of the time and place in which they develop. Over the last couple of years the programme has included several projects: (a) the history of entrepreneurship research, (b) a historical review of the ENT Division within the Academy of Management, (c) a comparison between entrepreneurship and innovation as scholarly fields, and (d) the evolution of entrepreneurship research in China. A couple of new projects have been initiated including a project focusing on the discussion about rigour and relevance within the field of entrepreneurship research, as well as a project on “interestingness” in entrepreneurship research.

RESEARCH

Research programmes
Featured researchers

Frédéric Delmar

Professor

“My main research interest lies in the early development of new ventures as well as new venture growth. My current interest is in new venture team dynamics. I think about my research as ‘an-apple-a-day’ approach. I will not be able to solve any great mysteries, but I am able to develop research that allows entrepreneurs and their stakeholders to do better.

An example of the implications of my research is my work on the importance of motivation for self-employment and growth. Most theories and support agencies have looked at the financial aspect only. Another example is my work with Per Davidsson on high-growth firms which has been important to shape the agenda for many governmental agencies as well as research, when it comes to understanding and supporting high-growth firms in an economy.”

Diamanto Politis

Associate professor

“My research interests span over several areas; from entrepreneurial learning and entrepreneurship education to academic entrepreneurship and business angels. I find these topics interesting because they are all highly relevant in today’s society. Even though entrepreneurship is a rather popular research field that often is seen in a positive light in policy debates and scholarly discussions, I would like to emphasise the need for being critical when conducting research about entrepreneurship. In this respect, being critical means to accept the multifaceted characteristics of the entrepreneurship phenomenon, including both its pros and cons.

My research contributes with an enhanced understanding of entrepreneurship as a learning process, consisting of both successes and failures, and embedded in a variety of life and work experiences. Thus my application of experiential learning theory to approach entrepreneurship has resulted in valuable insights with respect to how enterprising individuals develop entrepreneurial competencies as well as how to organise entrepreneurship education in a way that facilitates and supports student learning.”
Tatyana Kolyaka
PhD candidate

“My research is focused on understanding how entrepreneurs access and manage resources necessary to start up and run their ventures. I look at entrepreneurial bootstrapping as a popular way of dealing with resource scarcity, and I am particularly interested in the ways entrepreneurs negotiate with their surroundings, to get the support they need at little or no cost.

I have a first-hand experience of starting up businesses, trying to access the needed resources by employing sometimes rather creative techniques.

As my experiences developed, I realised that struggles of similar sort are inevitable for all entrepreneurs. However, the possible ways to deal with resource challenges vary greatly, and there is still so much we don’t know about what actually happens in the process of gaining access to resources, and what kind of long-term effects this process might have.

My ambition is to break away from the statistical, numerical way of talking about bootstrapping ventures, and bring in more nuanced, deep insights into entrepreneurial resource acquisition as a process.”

Gustav Hägg
PhD candidate

“My research is focused on understanding how different teaching methods provide learning opportunities for students to become qualified entrepreneurs. The increased attention paid to entrepreneurship education is, to a large extent, fuelled by policy. This has resulted in a rapid expansion of entrepreneurial learning, inspired by activities outside academia. Accordingly, there is a need to understand how to balance an action-oriented perspective on teaching and learning with a conceptual understanding and the importance of reflective thought.

In my research I challenge past assumptions in entrepreneurship education, which have created a one-sided action perspective. A main contribution of my thesis is the integration of educational theory with previous ideas on learning from experience. I find learning and education very interesting and important. After all, the major part of our lives is about learning.”
Research grants and assignments

Research grants

2016
Frédéric Delmar and Anna Brattström, together with Tomas Karlsson (Chalmers University of Technology), Karin Hellerstedt (Jönköping International Business School), Martin Bäckström (Lund University Department of Psychology) – grant from the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation (SEK 3.8 million) for “A longitudinal study of entrepreneurial teams: Processes and outcomes”.

Frédéric Delmar, Anna Brattström and Alan Johnson, together with Karl Wennberg (Linköping University) – grant from the Swedish Research Council (SEK 5.2 million) for “A longitudinal project of new venture team: Processes and outcomes”.

2015
Frédéric Delmar – grant from Handelsbanken (SEK 2 million) for “New venture teams and the entrepreneurship process”.

2014
Craig Mitchell and Tobias Schölin in collaboration with Martin Klinthäll, REMESO, Linköping University – grant from the Marianne and Marcus Wallenberg Foundation (SEK 5.3 million), and Handelsbanken (SEK 2.4 million) for a project on “Strategies and Structures: A multi-disciplinary study of the preconditions for entrepreneurship among immigrants in Sweden”.

Diamanto Politis together with Åsa Lindholm Dahlstrand (Circle), Martin Andersson (Circle), Jonas Gabrielsson (Halmstad University), Olof Ejermo (Circle), Bo Carlsson (Circle), Torben Schubert (Circle), and Markus Grillitsch (Circle) – grant from the Swedish Research Council (SEK 8 million) for a project on “Entrepreneurial systems – A condition for growth”.

2013
Frédéric Delmar together with Ola Bengtsson – grant from Handelsbankens Forskningsstiftelser (SEK 2 million) for a project on “Financial contract theory and entrepreneurship”.

Frédéric Delmar in collaboration with Karl Wennberg – grant from the Swedish Research Council (SEK 4.5 million) for a project on “Entrepreneurship and its Link to Intensive and Inclusive Economic Growth”.

Editorial work

Diamanto Politis
- Academy of Management Learning & Education – member of the editorial board

Frédéric Delmar
- Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal – senior editor and member of the editorial board
- Organization Studies – senior editor and member of the editorial board
- Strategic Organization – member of the editorial board
- Entrepreneurship Theory & Practice – member of the editorial board

- Journal of Business Venturing – member of the editorial board

Hans Landström
- Venture Capital – member of the editorial board
- Entrepreneurship and Regional Development – member of the editorial board
- Piccola Impresa – member of the editorial board
- Revue de l’Entrepreneuriat – member of the editorial board

Tommy Shih
- Industrial Marketing Management – member of the editorial board

External assignments

Caroline Wigren-Kristoferson
- Member of the Swedish Rural Network, 2008–2013
- Member of the Steering Committee of Regional Policy Forum at Swedish Entrepreneurship Forum
- Lectures for Region Skåne on entrepreneurship and growth in the healthcare sector

Diamanto Politis
- Member of the Swedish Industrial Policy board, 2011–2012

Frédéric Delmar
- Member of the prize committee for the “Global award for entrepreneurship research”, Entrepreneurship Forum
Research grants and assignments

Hans Landström
- Board member of Fonden för Entreprenörskab – Young Enterprises
- Board member of the foundation Entrepreneurship in Lund
- Board member of CIRCLE at Lund University, 2004–2014
- Academy of Management, Entrepreneurship Division
  - Member of the Executive Committee
  - Historian within the Entrepreneurship Division
  - Chair of the Historian Committee
- European Summer University
  - Member of the Scientific Board
  - Member of the Doctoral Programme Board
- ECSB – European Council for Small Business and Entrepreneurship
  - Member of the ECSB Board

Håkan Lagerquist
- Participant in the EU project SSL-erate (Accelerate SSL Innovation for Europe)
- Participant in the EU project ENIGMA (Enlightenment and Innovation, Ensured through Pre Commercial Procurement in Cities)
- Lecturer at EFL – Executive Foundation Lund

Jörgen Adolfsson
- Lecturer at EFL – Executive Foundation Lund

Marie Löwegren
- Board member of the Herbert Felix Institute, 2013–2015
- Lecturer at EFL – Executive Foundation Lund

Research visits
– outgoing

Caroline Wigren-Kristoferson
- Queensland University of Technology, Australia, Jan–Feb 2015

Frédéric Delmar
- Queensland University of Technology, Australia, Dec 2013–Feb 2014

Hans Landström
- Visiting Professor at Institute for Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Vienna University School of Economics and Business, Austria, 2011–2014
- Visiting Scholar at Department of Strategy and Organization, EMLYON, France 2016
- IFI Fellow, Institute for Innovation Management, Johannes Kepler University, Linz, Austria 2016

Tommy Shih
- National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan, Aug–Oct 2013, 2016
RESEARCH

International guests

As we strive to become an international centre for entrepreneurship, we have encouraged visits from abroad. Some researchers have been invited for a single seminar; others have been here for a week or two in order to discuss research developments and opportunities. A couple have been appointed visiting researchers and fellows to engage in closer collaboration.

International visits to our seminar series

• Alexander McKelvie, Syracuse University, USA
• Christoph Grimpe, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark
• Dries Faems, University of Groningen, Netherlands
• Eero Vaara, Aalto University, Finland
• Howard Aldrich, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, USA
• Isabella Hatak, Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria
• Jun Jin, Zhejiang University, China
• Marcel Bogers, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
• Matthias Fink, Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria
• Miguel Meuleman, Vlerick School of Management, Belgium
• Nina Granqvist, Aalto University, Finland
• Per Bylund, Oklahoma State University, USA
• Peter Klein, Baylor University, USA
• Phillip Kim, Babson College, USA
• Pia Arenius, Hanken School of Economics, Finland
• Sarah Jack, Lancaster University, UK
• Saras Sarasvathy, University of Virginia, USA
• Siri Terjesen, Indiana University, USA
• Timothy Folta, University of Connecticut, USA

Visiting researchers

• Dedy Sushandoyo, senior lecturer, Bandung Institute of Technology, Indonesia
• Howard Aldrich, professor, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, USA
• Johan Wiklund, professor, Syracuse University, USA
• Monder Ram, professor, Birmingham Business School, UK
• Siri Terjesen, assistant professor, Indiana University, USA
• Su Jing, PhD student, Tongji University, China
• Timothy Folta, professor, University of Connecticut, USA
• Zhai Quinghua, PhD student, Tongji University, China
RESEARCH

Visiting professors and fellows

Johan Wiklund

“I hope I can inspire scholars here (at the Centre) to do research that is deeply meaningful to themselves and to the field of entrepreneurship.”

Johan Wiklund is the Al Berg Endowed Chair and Professor of Entrepreneurship at the Whitman School of Management, Syracuse University (NY). In 2016 he became a visiting professor at Sten K. Johnson Centre for Entrepreneurship. Johan Wiklund has published over 50 articles on entrepreneurship research and been editor for a number of leading journals in the field. He has been awarded for his work with PhD students. In addition, he has worked with the OECD, European governments and the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth.

Although he started out studying the growth of small firms, Johan Wiklund’s research interests today include the performance, growth and, lately, entrepreneurship in connection with mental health.

Monder Ram

“The Centre is an impressive focal point for rigorous and relevant entrepreneurship research in Sweden. It is a shining example of excellent research that generates important knowledge and, at the same time, has clear implications for policy.”

Monder Ram is Professor of Small Business at Birmingham Business School and director of the Centre for Research in Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurship (CREME) as well as co-director of the Enterprise and Diversity Alliance (EDA). He was the Herbert Felix Visiting Professor at Sten K. Johnson Centre for Entrepreneurship 2011–2014.

Monder Ram has been named one of the most influential Asians in the UK by the Institute of Asian Professionals and is a leading authority on small business and ethnic minority entrepreneurship research. He founded the Ethnic Minority Business Conference, which has developed into the most important event for the dissemination of research on ethnic minority firms and policy-making.

Siri Terjesen

“I really enjoyed the practical exposure to the extremely successful one-year Master’s programme in entrepreneurship in terms of better understanding the pedagogy, and especially getting to know the Sten K. Johnson Centre faculty and the students themselves.”

Siri Terjesen is Chair of Entrepreneurship at the American University in Washington D.C. and was Visiting Fellow at Sten K. Johnson Centre for Entrepreneurship 2012–2015. Her research on entrepreneurship, corporate governance, and strategy has been widely published and featured in leading journals and media. She is currently the editor of three leading journals in the entrepreneurship field, and co-author of the 2016 Global Entrepreneurship Monitor’s Report on Social Entrepreneurship. In addition, she is Project Director of the Global Entrepreneurship and Development Institute’s Female Entrepreneurship Index. She has received numerous teaching awards from both student organisations and US national associations.
As part of our ambition to build networks as a way to advance entrepreneurship on a larger scale, we reach out to academics as well as wider society.

We organised two workshops with invited national and international researchers: First, there was the 3rd University Start-Up Seminar in 2015, hosted by Tommy Shih, where we invited scholars from industrial marketing, innovation studies and entrepreneurship to discuss research on networks and start-ups. The second one was a research workshop in entrepreneurial learning in 2016, hosted by Diamanto Politis. We also organised the ESU Conference in 2014, and we are involved as researchers in an INTERREG project run together with Danish partners, as well as a regional project called Urban Magma.

**ESU 2014 – European University Network on Entrepreneurship**

In August 2014, the European University Network on Entrepreneurship was hosted by Sten K. Johnson Centre for Entrepreneurship, gathering more than 60 PhD students and their supervisors from all over Europe to discuss the current core issues within entrepreneurship research. Keynote speeches were given by Mats Alvesson, on how to construct innovative research questions; Ester Barinaga, who talked about methodological issues; Carolina Palmqvist and Petronella Ericson, who discussed how companionship can be a forceful factor for becoming successful entrepreneurs, and journalist Andreas Ekström, who gave advice on the craftsmanship of writing. Finally, Alain Fayolle gave a speech on how to become published in the best entrepreneurship journals. Hans Landström was responsible for organising the conference.
Research events and action-oriented research

EU interregional collaboration – INTERREG

Sten K. Johnson Centre for Entrepreneurship is part of the INTERREG project called Nordic Entrepreneurship Hubs together with LU Innovation/VentureLab, Copenhagen School of Design and Technology (KEA) and SkyLab at the Technical University of Denmark. Through the collaboration between Sweden and Denmark, Nordic Entrepreneurship Hubs wants to contribute to more businesses started and developed by student entrepreneurs and an increased possibility for the students to work in an interdisciplinary environment through, for instance, the use of existing business incubators. Diamanto Politis, Craig Mitchell, and Marie Löwegren are involved in the project.

Urban Magma

Caroline Wigren-Kristoferson from Sten K. Johnson Centre for Entrepreneurship contributes with research insights and knowledge to the Urban Magma project. Urban Magma was appointed a Regional System of Innovation by Vinnova and aims for developing innovations that address local sustainability challenges. The vision of Urban Magma is for southern Sweden to be a leading international location for the development of products and services intended for urban technology related to energy, water and waste. Municipalities, companies and academia together formulate the cities’ needs and the companies are then matched against those needs and contribute by developing the products and services required.

»KEA – Copenhagen School of Design and Technology, wishes to establish closer relations with other institutions of higher education, and other actors seeking to strengthen the entrepreneurial environment in the Öresund region. By creating a network of Nordic Entrepreneurship Hubs we believe that we can give our student-entrepreneurs greater support when they want to work product-oriented and/or create a business of their own. From our side we contribute with a number of labs and facilities, e.g. MakerLab and Material Design Lab, which we hope can be useful for a wide range of students with entrepreneurial ambitions.«

Lotta Salling, Project Manager, KEA
Five years ago, the Master’s programme in entrepreneurship was already in place, as were the courses on the subject offered at various faculties at Lund University. We had also developed a teaching model based on action and reflection which is still used in all our courses. In 2014 we started to develop an online platform that simplified both teaching and learning. We are very grateful for the donation from Lars Jeppsson who made it possible.
The action-oriented learning approach comes from research in entrepreneurial learning and is highly appreciated by our students who feel they learn more when theory and practice are combined. To further enhance learning, students on the Master’s programme track New Venture Creation are also assigned their own mentor during the development of their business projects, and the students on the Corporate Entrepreneurship and Innovation track get guidance from a mentor at their internship company.

Over the past five years, some courses have been discontinued or replaced by others, and some new ones have been added, such as the course “Social Innovation – A Strategy for Sustainability”, developed together with the School of Social Work and the International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics (IIIEE). Within the Master’s programme, there has been a continuous development, for instance with the introduction of new cooperative partners from the Faculty of Law and Design Sciences at the Faculty of Engineering. The consultation from students from other faculties has proved to be mutually beneficial – these students are given an opportunity to practice their consulting skills while the entrepreneurship students receive valuable advice. In addition, we have opened up our competition “Dragons at the University” to include the students who are part of the VentureLab incubator, and next year, it will open to all students at Lund University. Finally, we are truly pleased to note that the Master’s programme in entrepreneurship and innovation has every year since its inception been the most popular programme in entrepreneurship and innovation in Sweden. We are delighted to see an increase in applications from all over the world, from 501 in 2012 to 992 in 2016. We appreciate the support from StayAt, who donated a tuition fee scholarship for an international student in 2016.
EDUCATION

Current courses

Undergraduate level

For students from all faculties
• Entrepreneurship and Project Management
• Social Innovation – A strategy for Sustainability

For students in business administration
• Entrepreneurship
• Innovation Management
• Bachelor’s Degree Project

For students in humanities
• Project Management and Entrepreneurship

For students in fashion studies
• Project Management and Entrepreneurship for Students in Fashion

Graduate level

For students from all faculties
• Master’s Programme in Entrepreneurship and Innovation
  – New Venture Creation
  – Corporate Entrepreneurship and Innovation

For students in business administration, economics or sociology
• Small Business Economics, Regional Development, and Entrepreneurship

Post-graduate level

For students from all faculties
• Classics in Entrepreneurship Research
• Entrepreneurship – Commercialising Your Research

Julia Selander
Alumnus from the course
Entrepreneurship and project management, CEO at VentureCup
Sweden

“To me, the course made a huge difference – I would definitely not have taken this path in life if it wasn’t for that semester back in 2011. Before taking it, I thought that entrepreneurship was kind of dorky, only for guys in suits and not at all for me. Five years later, I am now the CEO of the largest start-up competition in Sweden.”

Julia Karner
Alumnus from the Master’s programme in entrepreneurship, track Corporate Entrepreneurship and Innovation

“I am currently employed at a small consultancy called Odd Agency, and in many ways I get to experience intrapreneurship from the clients we are working with while working in an entrepreneurial company myself. In my daily work I apply the skills I learned in everything I do, especially as I consult on business development and corporate innovation. What I learned is too extensive to jot down in a few words but it is safe to say that it permeates the majority of what I do – from choosing projects, conceptualising ideas, to forming partnerships.”

Mahmoud Hmouz
Alumnus from the Master’s programme in entrepreneurship, track New Venture Creation

“A very good programme which begins by teaching you the theory behind entrepreneurship, as well as the tools needed to succeed as an entrepreneur. I really liked the fact that we started with 4 months of knowledge building, which helped me understand the things to consider when starting a venture.”

Alumni students from the Corporate Entrepreneurship and Innovation track currently work at companies like Google, Klarna, Boozt, Probi, Qlik, TEDx, Axis, Ikano, Hewlett Packard, TUI Travel, Sony Mobile, Orbital Systems, Danske Bank, among others.
Some events during the Master’s programme year

Dragons at the University

“Dragons at the University” is a competition where students from the Master’s programme in entrepreneurship and innovation and the VentureLab incubator pitch their business ideas to venture capitalists.

The event started at Sten K. Johnson Centre for Entrepreneurship in 2010 as a part of the Master’s programme, with inspiration from the television show “Dragons Den”.

So far, a total of 58 students have participated in the competition finals. Over the years we have cooperated with Ideon, Minc, LRF Konsult, LU Innovation, LundaEkonomerna, and VentureLab. The prize is a small amount of venture funding, sponsored by PwC or SEB.

Trade Show

As part of the course “Entrepreneurial Project”, our New Venture Creation Master’s students exhibit their innovative projects and business ideas during a final trade show.

Since 2015 we have invited participants of the VentureLab incubator to join the exhibition. Students are asked to invite their stakeholders as well as the general public to the event, and practice their sales skills and their ability to present their projects.
Alumni ventures

PowUnity

Based on an avid enthusiasm for skiing and sports, PowUnity was developed with the aim to protect the investments that customers make in expensive sports gear.

The vision was developed into NeverLose, a versatile recovery and anti-theft device easily mounted to skis and connected to the user via a smartphone app. At the end of the winter season, the NeverLose device can be easily transferred to other sports gear, such as a bicycle.

PowUnity was founded by Master’s students in entrepreneurship Stefan Sinnegger and Grega Gostinčar together with Christian Strassl. The company is currently based in the heart of the Alps in Innsbruck, Austria. Thanks to funding from an Austrian investor, PowUnity has been able to use Bluetooth technology from Lund to develop the product. The company is growing steadily and is followed with great interest by stakeholders within skiing, e.g. skiing schools and companies working to increase the safety in skiing.

Nattaro Labs

Nattaro Labs is a research-based company, co-founded in 2011 by Master’s student Christine Dahlman Jacobsen.

The company develops and offers services and products that prevent, identify and effectively treat bed bug infestations. Nattaro Labs has been awarded extensive financial support and was named “one of Sweden’s 33 hottest technology companies in 2016” by Ny Teknik and Affärsvärlden.

No less than 104 of our Master’s students are still running their ventures. Although our courses and programmes focus more on developing the individual than the actual start-up, we are proud of the entrepreneurs that have chosen to continue with their ventures after graduating.

EDUCATION
Nordgröna

Nordgröna offers high-class moss panels for interior decoration and acoustic absorption.

The panels are made of reindeer moss, which is a natural, maintenance-free and ideal material for absorbing acoustics. The moss is harvested in northern Scandinavia with consideration of environmental standards, and the panels are manufactured at the company’s premises in Arlöv, Skåne. Nordgröna was founded by Carl-Oscar Pressfeldt, Sander Oudendijk and Joris Oudendijk during the Master’s programme in entrepreneurship of 2013–2014. Nordgröna has grown to become the major supplier of reindeer moss products in the furniture industry.

YOU++

YOU++ is an online coding education platform aimed at primary school kids age 9–14, teaching children about computer programming with modern courses and lesson plans.

Caroline Mensch and Tim Van Dijk, from the Master’s programme in entrepreneurship of 2015, have received the awards “Idea with most potential” and “The audience award”, and were named the overall winners of the competition “Dragons at the University” in 2015, where venture capitalists assess the business pitches made by students on the Master’s programme. YOU++ has been implemented in schools in Sweden and the Netherlands, and the team is currently applying for funding from ICT companies.
At the graduation ceremony in June, one student from each track of the Master’s programme is presented with a prize for “Best Student”. In 2012 the prize was donated by Hans Pihl, Deloitte; in 2013, by Sten K. Johnson Centre for Entrepreneurship; and since 2014, by Qgroup for the New Venture Creation track, and by Talentia for the Corporate Entrepreneurship and Innovation track. The Best Student award is given to students for their excellent performance with regards to both their projects and their academic work.

Winners of the Hans Pihl Award for Best Entrepreneurship and Innovation Student
› 2012: Karin Holmqvist, New Venture Creation
› 2012: Tanja Woldenga, Corporate Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Winners of the Sten K. Johnson Centre for Entrepreneurship Award for Best Student
› 2013: John Wealer, New Venture Creation
› 2013: Sven Kock, Corporate Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Winners of the Qgroup Award for Best Student Entrepreneur
› 2014: Gabor Kiss, New Venture Creation
› 2015: Grega Gostincar and Stefan Sinnegger, New Venture Creation
› 2016: Selina-Marie Voss and Ida Elen Mogstad, New Venture Creation

Winners of the Talentia Award for Best Student Intrapreneur
› 2014: Samuel Stöhr, Corporate Entrepreneurship and Innovation
› 2015: Julia Karner, Corporate Entrepreneurship and Innovation
› 2016: Wiebke Jasmin Lachmann, Corporate Entrepreneurship and Innovation

»I think entrepreneurial skills are crucial in order not to stagnate but to survive. With this prize we want to emphasise the possibility of intrapreneurship as a career step – that you can be awarded for your potential as a future intrapreneur. I like that the programme really tries to establish close ties with the private sector; that although it’s academic, there is a close connection to what lies beyond, basically«

Geraldine von Celsing, senior consultant and partner at Talentia

»I hope the award will give the students recognition and inspire them to continue on their journey of becoming great entrepreneurs! I hope that Sten K. Johnson Centre for Entrepreneurship will continue on its current path – new stars graduate from this programme every year!«

Mikael Kretz, founder and executive partner of Qgroup
Mentorship programme

The mentorship programme, led by Lottie Olsson Norrsén, is highly appreciated by both the mentors and the mentees. We are impressed by the devotion shown by our pool of 67 mentors – apart from mentoring the students, they also engage in the development of the mentorship programme by suggesting improvements. It is now a structured process with learning opportunities for both the mentees and the mentors.

Lisbeth Böhm

Mentor on the programme since 2009

“In my role as a mentor, I listen to the students and what they want to achieve with their studies and their business projects. In my experience, every student is different. Some are very focused on the business idea, and some just want to finish their studies. Some feel that this is a good time to reflect on the transition from life as a student to life as a professional, which changes your role as a mentor. It’s up to the students – they get to set the agenda.”

Sally Mansour

Mentee

“I think it (the mentorship programme) is one of the best features of the Master’s programme because, in a way, it gives you an outside perspective […] it’s not a random person you meet just once or twice, but someone who keeps track of your progress and coaches you throughout the programme. And I think that was very useful. The best part was the feeling that there is someone there for you, who you can call up and ask for advice, whether it is business advice or advice on personal development.”
An important part of the Corporate Entrepreneurship and Innovation track of the Master’s programme is the internship during which the students undertake innovation projects in established companies. Every year, we offer a wide range of companies, representing different sectors, and today we have no less than 23 internship companies with committed mentors in our network. Companies are now taking the initiative themselves contacting us to be part of the programme.

Thomas Davidsson
CEO WACKES AB

“Young people today are very knowledgeable and creative. All our projects have been for real. The students have opened up our eyes for new angles, and many times we have followed their recommendations with great results.”

Peter Nährstedt
CEO Probi AB

“I can see several partnership benefits for Probi as we have been able to apply the results from the projects directly in our business. Also we have been exposed to a talent pool of international students, which in one case has led to a direct recruitment. Finally, the networking and exposure to other companies’ projects is very valuable to us and serves as an input for further strategic thinking in developing our business.”

Joakim Winborg
Programme director, Corporate Entrepreneurship and Innovation Track

“Many established companies run the risk of focusing too much on existing products and services and forget about the necessary future development and renewal. This is why there is a great need for people with the ability to work with entrepreneurial initiatives in established companies. For the students, it is very important to learn from differences and similarities in different sectors and contexts. We put a lot of effort into the selection process to lay the foundation for a great student group that shows variation in terms of experience and background. This variation is very important for creating a dynamic learning environment and for matching students with internship companies.”

Sten K. Johnson Centre for Entrepreneurship · 5-year report
An important part of our education consists of the lectures by visiting entrepreneurs. They serve as examples and role models, and have practical experiences from their various industries. Their experiences are important for the students to reflect on in relation to their own experiences and the theoretical frameworks presented in academic lectures. We have expanded our network over the years, and now we have 101 entrepreneurs and consultants involved in our courses.

Guest lectures by entrepreneurs

Sean Duffy
Founder and CEO of Duffy Agency

“I think we need to discuss the aspects of ‘being entrepreneurial’ more, especially as in the future more people will need to create their own jobs and value as there will be fewer major employers and less security.”

Björn Flintberg
Founder and CEO of Eloso AB

“Many believe that entrepreneurship is just passion and talent. It’s so much more – it’s a skillset that can be trained and taught. Of course, it still needs that energy from within, as nobody can be an entrepreneur without wanting to. Having an academic education that provides real skills is really useful to legitimise entrepreneurship and bring about a trainable set of skills, not just talent and passion.”

Hampus Jakobsson
Co-founder of TAT, angel investor

“I think we need to discuss the aspects of ‘being entrepreneurial’ more, especially as in the future more people will need to create their own jobs and value as there will be fewer major employers and less security.”

Elisabeth Lagerstedt
Founder and CEO of Inquentia Group AB

“Entrepreneurship education to me is a great way for future entrepreneurs to learn and test relevant tools and frameworks before ‘going live’. Entrepreneurship as such, as much as intrapreneurship, is in my view necessary to empower not only individuals but also to help developing organisations and our society to the next level. It’s a source of creative problem-solving, future promise and growth, as much as it fosters the individual entrepreneur on the way.”
Outreach activities are important for Sten K. Johnson Centre for Entrepreneurship. We arrange our own conferences and seminars to disseminate entrepreneurship knowledge, and take part in international projects and capacity building too. We feel it is important to engage in, and contribute to, society – locally, nationally, and internationally.

Annually, since 2012, Sten K. Johnson Centre for Entrepreneurship has been awarding an individual or an organisation who has contributed to the improvement of entrepreneurship education in Europe. We established the award in 2012 because we wanted to:

1. highlight the importance of teaching and learning in the area of entrepreneurship in Europe;
2. further stimulate and promote innovative teaching methods within the field;
3. disseminate the latest and the best of entrepreneurship education among scholars, policy-makers, practitioners, and people involved in entrepreneurship education at the university level.

The European Entrepreneurship Education Award is a great honour, and come with a diploma as well as a grant of SEK 100 000.
Professor Allan Gibb, University of Durham, UK, was awarded for his pioneering work within entrepreneurship education at European universities.

Professor Alain Fayolle, EM Lyon Business School, France, was awarded for his fundamental role in building a community of scholars with an interest in entrepreneurship education in Europe.

Professor Paula Kyrö, Aalto University, Finland, was awarded for her pioneering work in bridging pedagogy and entrepreneurship, emphasising that entrepreneurship can be regarded as a form of teaching.

Professor Bengt Johannisson, Linnaeus University, Sweden, was awarded for his contributions to our knowledge of the content and teaching approaches in entrepreneurship education.

Professor Paul Hannon, Swansea University, UK, was awarded for his crucial role in the development of the entrepreneurial university concept in Europe, as well as his work to promote entrepreneurship education within the university and in policy systems over the last 35 years.

Five remarkable winners
The European Entrepreneurship Education Award is presented in connection with the European Entrepreneurship Education Workshop. At the workshop, researchers, educators and policy-makers interested in entrepreneurship come together to advance our understanding of how entrepreneurship is best learned and taught. Over the years, more than 200 researchers and teachers have participated in the workshop.

Caroline Wigren-Kristoferson
Project manager of EEEW and EEEA

“I am convinced that there needs to be an ongoing discussion about why and how we teach entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship is a topic of our time and we see an increased interest in entrepreneurship education. However, there are surprisingly few arenas where we discuss what we do in the classroom and how we do it. Over time, when we develop new knowledge and insights about entrepreneurship education and entrepreneurial learning we might realise that our courses can be developed in new and different ways. For example, using Sarasvathy’s research on effectuation, we modified and changed our way of approaching entrepreneurship in the classroom – but is there a drawback of being too influenced by the effectual logic? This is the type of ongoing discussion for which I hope that EEEW can serve as an arena.”

Caroline Wigren-Kristoferson moderating a panel discussion at the EEEW in 2015.
The Entrepreneurial Society of Lund University

We want to gather entrepreneurs in the region for a mutual exchange of knowledge. Therefore, we established the Entrepreneurial Society of Lund University in 2013. Each meeting has been dedicated to a specific theme with invited guest speakers. The participants at the events have for instance met Martin Gren from Axis Communications and Guido Barilla from the Barilla Group who, together with researcher Jonas Gabrielsson, engaged in a discussion about ownership, moderated by Charlotta Falvin. Another time the theme was how innovation disrupts industries, and Professor Howard Aldrich shared his knowledge in the area together with Lars Montelius, who discussed the opportunities and challenges that LED light may bring to the lighting industry.
Tempus

In 2012, Sten K. Johnson Centre for Entrepreneurship received funding within the EU cooperation Tempus for a 3-year project entitled “Support of innovations through improvement of regulatory framework for higher education in Ukraine”. The project, which was coordinated by the Centre, contributed to the development of Ukraine’s new rules for IP protection and commercial use of research outcomes from universities, as well as the development of TTO offices at major universities in Ukraine. The project was run together with partner universities in Ukraine, Poland, Portugal and the UK. Hans Landström was the project manager, and Craig Mitchell the project assistant.

INTERREG – Science for Society

In January 2016, the 3-year INTERREG project “Science for Society” started. Together with LU Innovation, Region Midtjylland, Aalborg University, Aarhus University, Oslotech AS, Oslo University, we received funding to develop courses and activities that motivate PhD students and postdocs to use their knowledge and talent to explore the option of starting their own businesses or working together with existing companies with innovation and development. LU Innovation is the project manager, and Hans Landström and Marie Löwegren are involved in the project.

Capacity building in South Eastern Africa

In 2012, we started a collaboration with the ESAMI Business School in Arusha, Tanzania. Our aim was to implement our Master’s programme at ESAMI and make it available for students from countries in the south-east part of Africa. When the project ended in 2015, Maria Aggestam and Marie Löwegren had completed four rounds of the programme in collaboration with local teaching staff, and educated 89 students from Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe.
Capacity building in Indonesia

In 2014 we made a proposal to Government agencies in Indonesia about helping them reach their goal to create a national innovation system and establish 100 Science Parks all over the country. Later on the number of Science Parks to be established decreased, but we still were contracted, through Lund University Commissioned Education who managed the project, to deliver educations in entrepreneurship and science park management. The project is still running, and up until now we have welcomed 68 Indonesians to Lund and our education. Craig Mitchell, Jörgen Adolfsson, and Marie Löwegren are involved in the project.

»When I arrived in Lund, I was very sceptical of entrepreneurship in general. I actually did not agree that it could be taught as I did not see it functioning in Indonesia. After the first week, with intense theory with Craig Mitchell from Sten K. Johnson’s Centre for Entrepreneurship, I started to understand and see what entrepreneurship was about. I understood that with the right form of teaching, and with adequate methods, entrepreneurship can be taught. For me this was very inspiring and it is something I am taking with me back home to Indonesia.«

Reiza Mutia, age 27, lecturer, and head of the Innovation Centre in Pelalawan, Indonesia

Capacity building in Poland

In the autumn of 2015 we offered a two week course called “Soft Skills and Entrepreneurship” to 200 Polish PhD students. The course was commissioned by the Polish Ministry of Education via Lund University Commissioned Education, and orientated towards the commercialisation of research. Everyone arrived at the course with a business idea and we put a lot of effort into understanding what kind of value these ideas created.

»We encouraged the students to form teams which led to team compositions made up of physicians, veterinarians, musicians and economists, and that was really exciting to be part of. I feel that the course sparked the students’ interest in entrepreneurship as an outlet for research beyond academic publications.«

Craig Mitchell, lecturer on the Soft Skills and Entrepreneurship course

»The course went well beyond my expectations. Before coming here I was like ‘meh’ and now I am like ‘yay!’«

Polish PhD student in the course evaluation
Two major donations made in the end of the 1990s became the starting point for the interest in entrepreneurship and innovation at Lund University. One of the donations came from Tetra Laval in the form of the Ruben Rausing Chair in Innovation, and the other came from the Teknikbrostiftelsen foundation for its Chair in Entrepreneurship. I was appointed to the latter.

The two chairs and a couple of professors at Lund University established CIRCLE, which became a successful centre for innovation research. However, there was still a lack of entrepreneurship education at Lund University, a fact that provided a basis for me and Marie Löwegren to initiate different courses in the area. The first undergraduate course “To work with innovative projects” was introduced in 2004. The Bologna process created new possibilities, and was the starting point for us to work towards a new Master’s programme. The Master’s Programme in Entrepreneurship was launched in September 2007. In 2009 we applied for a Swedish grant for “cutting edge” study programmes in entrepreneurship. The applications from eleven universities in Sweden were evaluated by an international review committee, and we, together with Chalmers University, were awarded the grant to further develop and sustain the programme. This funding has made a substantial difference to the progress of the programme. In our application we stated that one of our goals was to establish a centre for entrepreneurship education and research. Thanks to the generous donation from Sten K. Johnson, this was made possible in 2012.

One of the reasons for establishing the centre was to become more autonomous, which presumably would facilitate collaborations with other departments and faculties at the University. Our goal was to be a resource in entrepreneurship for the entire University.

I think the centre has made significant progress from its 4–5 employees in 2008–09 to about 20 today. All in all, this has been a “growth business” that supports growing ventures. I believe that the greatest potential of the centre lies internally as it strives to become an increasingly important part of the University – and I think we are on our way to create that stronger platform.

Hans Landström,
Professor of Entrepreneurship and founder of Sten K. Johnson Centre for Entrepreneurship

Looking back and moving forward

»Our goal was to be a resource in entrepreneurship for the entire University.«
APPENDIX

Publications

Articles

2016


Schölin, T., OHLsson, H. & Broomé, P. (2016): The role of regions for different forms of business organizations, Entrepreneurship & Regional Development.


2015


APPENDIX

Publications

2014


2013


2012


APPENDIX

Publications

Books and Edited books

2016


2015


2014


Book Chapters

2016


2015


APPENDIX

Publications


2014


2013


2012


Reports and popular press

2016


APPENDIX

Publications

2014


2013


2012


2016

Conference papers


Shih, T., & Huang, Y.Y. (2016). Entrepreneurship education in the context of technology commercialization – A case from Taiwan. International Conference on Entrepreneurship and Business Management (ICEB), Tainan, Taiwan.


2014


APPENDIX

Publications


2013


2012


PhD thesis


Licentiate thesis


Photographers

Apelöga
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