

University of Debrecen Innovation Ecosystem Center

CALL FOR APPLICATION stUDinnovate Scholarship Programme

Debrecen
September 2025

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 overall goal of the program is to strengthen the innovative mindset among students at the University of Debrecen, spread startup culture, and promote innovative entrepreneurial career paths.

Besides, the Programme aims

- a. further develop student ideas as follows:
 - i. in the case of ideas generated by students, proof of opportunity (verification that it provides a meaningful solution to an actual problem/challenge),
 - ii. establishing a business foundation for student ideas, including team formation
 - iii. where relevant, preparing a roadmap for the technological validation of student ideas
- b. shaping students' business and entrepreneurial mindset while developing the skills necessary to promote their ideas for market or social impact.
- c.

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,

3. Eligibility criteria

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

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

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(HSUP Scholarship Programme, Proof of Concept). Previously acquired qualifications and completed programs do not grant an exemption from active participation.

4. Programme management

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

The submitted applications will be evaluated and ranked by the staff responsible for implementing the Innovation Ecosystem Center's scholarship program, in accordance with the criteria specified in this Call for Applications. Where justified, the head of the Center may invite external experts to evaluate the applications.

There is no right of appeal against the funding decision.

5. Submission deadline

Applications shall be submitted between September 23, 2025, and October 5, 2025. (Annex no. 1 of the call for application).

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

Online Application Form:

1. *Motivation statement of the Applicant*
2. *Introduction of the problem/challenge underlying the development.*
3. *Introductory Video*

Introductory video of no more than 3 minutes in length, as follows:

- What problem/challenge interests you and what is your personal connection to it (if any)
- Have you explored the topic in detail, discussed it with your peers or other communities, and thought about specific solutions?
- What aspects did you consider when brainstorming? Present 3 different aspects.
- Which of your proposals do you find most interesting?
- Have you ever participated in any innovation programs or hackathons?
- What do you expect from an idea development program?

7. Financing of the scholarship

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

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.

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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 the Programme, the applicant shall not be entitled to 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 November 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026.

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:

Implementation

- Training sessions every two weeks
 - Participation in training sessions (min. 80%),
 - Homework assignments, development of a business plan and BMC, preparation of an implementation plan, etc.
- Participating in mentoring sessions: review of idea development using the knowledge acquired during the training sessions;
- Submission of one-pager/project plan in January (requirement for signature and credit)
- Demo Day presentation. (requirement of the completion of the scholarship)

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).

9. Documents required for submitting the application

It is required to apply online by filling out an application form and submitting a video.
(Clause 6 of the Call for Application)

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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,
- 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:

- The validity of the problem/challenge
- Social, economic, or environmental usefulness
- Market potential and growth opportunities
- Presentation skills, English language skills
- Feasibility of the idea; the idea is technologically and financially feasible.

There will be 12 participants selected based on these criteria.

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

The Scholarship Agreement will be prepared and concluded by the Innovation Ecosystem Center of the 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.

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

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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. 16 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:

„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 submit a one-pager in January 2026 and to give oral reports monthly 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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18. Annexes

Annex 1: Schedule (estimated)

- Launch of the call for applications: 23 September 2025
- Application period: 23 September 2025 – 5 October 2025
- Selection of Applicants: 5 October 2025 – 10 October 2025
- Implementation period: 1 November 2025 – 31 March 2026
- Demo Day: 31 March 2025

Annex 2: Training topics

Problem identification

- The difference between global and local problems
- Symptoms vs. problems
- Tools for defining problems (root cause analysis, 5 Whys method, Problem Statement Canvas)

Discovering ideas

- Criteria for a good business idea
- Where do ideas come from? Methods and tips for finding good business ideas.

Entrepreneurial team

- The importance of the entrepreneurial team in launching a startup. Leadership and team roles, identifying team roles.
- Self-awareness, my role in the team

Value proposition and business model

- How do we define our value proposition?
- Brief overview of the elements of the Business Model Canvas (BMC), the role of the model in building a business model.

The customer and the market

- Identifying market segments
- Target market and customers. (Persona model)
- Determining the size of the market
- Distribution channels and customer relationships

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Competitors

- Competitors and competitor analysis – Identifying competitors and determining the competitive advantage of the product/service.

Financial planning

- Cost elements – The cost structure of the business, its most important costs (Cost-driven or value-driven business models; fixed and variable costs.)
- Revenue sources – How does our value proposition influence customers' willingness to pay? How much do each revenue source contribute to total revenue?

Presenting business idea (pitch)

- Learning and practicing pitching as a form of presentation.
- Types of pitches (elevator pitch, sales pitch, investor pitch)
- The structure of a pitch – its elements and key messages

Demo Day

- Presenting achievements