

Press release

Thursday, March 9

The International Forum “Seed Entrepreneurship Summit” announces its third edition on March the 31st and April the 1st

[Seed Entrepreneurship Summit](#), the HEC Paris and the University of Paris-Saclay’s international entrepreneurial forum will open its doors at the BPI France Le Hub on the 31st of March and on the HEC Paris campus on the 1st of April. Dedicated to young entrepreneurs and students, the event will offer a day and a half of sharing experiences, meetings, workshops and pitch competitions. This year, the event has been renamed “Seed Entrepreneurship Summit” to accommodate both “HEC Seed” forum and the Entrepreneurial Students Day (JEE) organized by the University of Paris-Saclay.

The Seed Entrepreneurship Summit is a forum for anyone interested in the entrepreneurial ecosystem and is open to everyone. Organized by students from HEC Paris and the University of Paris-Saclay, it will bring together an audience of entrepreneurs, students, large companies, incubation structures and venture capital investment funds.

More than 10,000 startups have been set up in France over the last five years. Their biggest challenge was to gain credibility: not only to investors, but also to the general public. This is the Seed Entrepreneurship Summit’s main challenge: providing entrepreneurs with the opportunity to display their businesses, either by pitching their startups in front of a panel of investors or by enabling them to meet more than 800 participants, prospective customers or potential business partners.

A valuable program has therefore been offered to entrepreneurs and students to help them in this process:

- The pitch contest: each candidate will have less than 10 minutes to try to convince and win financial support as well as one on one mentoring. Four pitch competitions will take place and will aim to convince main collaborators and investors within Europe, including Partech Ventures, Axel Springer and Kima Ventures to name a few. Two pitch points will be presented in two themes: technological projects and digital projects. The “Concept” category will be aimed at the ante-creation start-up projects, while the “Validate” category will be for projects as well as start-ups under development with a current prototype or even early users.
- Workshops: these will be responsible for answering questions such as “Which management practices should be applied?”, “Which profiles should be chosen for my team?” or “Should you compete with major groups or rather, collaborate with them?”. The workshops will propose concrete cases and small group work sessions to interact with industry experts and entrepreneurial domains.

- Tips and testimonials from successful entrepreneurs: Ilan Benhaim, co-founder of Vente-Privée.com, Eric Labaye, Senior Associate Director at McKinsey, Jean-Marc Patouillaud, General Partner at Partech and Joerg Rheinboldt, Managing Director at Axel Springer Plug will all be in the forum's speakers this year. Participants will be able to ask all of these successful entrepreneurs to share their feedback at the event.

- The village of start-ups: the Seed Entrepreneurship Summit offers the opportunity to meet the entire entrepreneurial ecosystem in the same space. More than 80 young start-ups and accelerators will present their prototypes, business models and acceleration programs in an open space, conducive to networking.

To attend the Seed Entrepreneurship Summit and / or to get more information about the event, go to: <http://www.hecseedparis.com/>

About HEC Paris

Specializing in management education and research, HEC Paris offers a complete and unique range of educational programs for the leaders of tomorrow: Masters programs, Summer School, MBA, PhD, Executive MBA, TRIUM Global Executive MBA, open-enrolment and custom executive education programs.

Founded in 1881 by the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry, HEC Paris is a founding member of the Université Paris-Saclay. It boasts a faculty of 138 full-time professors, more than 4,400 students and over 8,000 managers and executives in training each year.

HEC Paris was ranked second business school in Europe by the Financial Times' overall business school ranking in December 2016.

About Paris-Saclay University

To meet the challenges of global competition in terms of education, research and innovation, 19 members (three universities, seven research centers, nine major engineering and business schools) decided to work together by pooling courses and research of the highest national and international standards and built Université Paris-Saclay.

Université Paris-Saclay offers a wide range of courses, from bachelor's degree to doctorate, all of a high international level, within the fields of natural, human and social sciences. Today, 65.000 students are part of Université Paris-Saclay's founding and associate members, including 9.000 Master's students, 5.500 PhD students and 5.500 engineering students.

Press contact

Julie Dobiecki - HEC Paris - +33.1.39.67.94.39 - dobiecki@hec.fr