Universität Basel
Weiterbildung

WEITERBILDUNG

Course Description

Short Course:

From Industry to Entrepreneur. Leadership, Innovation and Venture Design in Life Science

Date: 30.09.2026

Note: This English translation serves information purposes only. The original German version is the legally binding document.

1. Background

Together with the Continuing Education Regulations of the University of Basel (*Weiterbildungs-Ordnung der Universität Basel*) and the Regulations for Continuing Education Studies at the University of Basel (*Reglement für das Weiterbildungsstudium an der Universität Basel*), this course description constitutes the regulatory basis for this continuing education course.

2. Content

The course is built around the reality of the pharma-to-founder transition. Most senior professionals in life sciences have exceptional expertise in their field but have never had to translate it into a concrete venture hypothesis, a customer conversation, or an investor-ready framing. This is exactly the gap that this programme addresses: combining personal mindset work, rigorous business case design, and direct access to the Basel life sciences ecosystem in one compressed, high-value experience.

In this high-intensity three-day course designed for senior life sciences professionals who want to move from thinking about entrepreneurship to actively doing it, participants will make a shift to a more enterpeneurial mindset, stress-test their ideas, and leave with a concrete personal roadmap and their first public commitment.

The course is structured as follows:

- Day 1: Who you are now – Mindset, Ecosystem and Opportunity
- Day 2: What you could build – Venture Design and Business Model
- Day 3: What happens next – Funding, Roadmap and Commitment

The course includes a preparatory phase with self-paced pre-work and a mentoring session.

Each of the three days in presence is built around three core components:

- Expert-led sessions drawing on real life sciences founder and investor experience
- Hands-on workshops where every framework is applied directly to your own situation or venture idea
- Critical assessment by peer group and pitch practice in a high-trust cohort of equally senior professionals

Participants may join with or without their own venture idea (see admission criteria).

3. Duration

3 days, 9 am – 5.30 pm.

Please consult the document “class schedule” (see website) for the specific dates and times.

4. Target group

The course is of interest for both Venture Builders (those with a concept to develop and validate) and Venture Enablers (those seeking a co-founding, C-level, advisor or board role in an existing venture).

Participants will focus on developing entrepreneurial skills, understanding startup operations, learning how to evaluate and join ventures and contributing functional expertise (regulatory, clinical, commercial, operational) to a team.

5. Course leadership

Anna-Elina Pekonen, Head of Entrepreneurship Education, Innovation Office, University of Basel

Mauricio Campos Suarez, Engineer & Executive MBA, Founder, Coach & Consultant

6. Sponsorship

Services Weiterbildung, University of Basel

7. Admission criteria and terms of payment

Costs: CHF 3,500. **Early bird fee** (deadline see website): CHF 3,150. Excludes travel, accommodation, and personal expenses.

Once accepted in the course, the full course fee is due. Payment is due 30 days after receipt of the invoice.

The following minimum **admission criteria** are required:

- Professional Background: Minimum ten years of professional experience in the life sciences sector.
- English Proficiency: Fluency in English (written and spoken) is required. No formal language test is required; proficiency will be assessed during the application interview.

Eligible applicants must submit the following documents to eleonora.disapia@unibas.ch (course coordinator):

- A CV (max. 2 pages) highlighting life sciences experience and leadership roles.
- A short motivation and expectation statement (max. half a page) considering what transition is intended and what result participants aim at by attending this course.
- A brief description (5–10 sentences) of the venture idea otherwise a short statement of the intended role (co-founder, CEO, board, investor).

Shortlisted applicants are invited to a brief intake call to assess whether they fit into the course and prepare them for the pre-work session. Selection is based on the application dossier (CV, motivation letter and venture idea) and the applicant's suitability for the course.

The cohort is limited to a maximum of 25 participants to ensure high-quality peer interaction and individual coaching.

8. Remarks

Certificate of attendance: Upon successful completion, participants receive a certificate of attendance from the University of Basel.

9. Contact

Eleonora Di Sapia

Innovation Manager

Innovation Garage

Kreuzstrasse 4

4123 Allschwil

Mail eleonora.disapia@unibas.ch

Anna-Elina Pekonen

Head, Entrepreneurship Education

Innovation Garage

Kreuzstrasse 4

4123 Allschwil

Mail annaelina.pekonen@unibas.ch

Mobile +41 77 923 67 37