



# A student proposal

Contributing to the Fontys Focus 2020 vision



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# Our ambition: Fontys Focus 2020



- We offer students the prospect of being able to discover their own talents and develop into start-ready professionals who accept social responsibility, contribute to innovations in their professional field and continue to develop optimally in their own way. – **Fontys**
- Fontys has a clear social assignment: offering inspiring, challenging and high quality higher vocational education and conducting practice-oriented research. Our education and research connect with the current and future questions and the needs of the student, the professional field and the (regional) society. We want to formulate, prioritise, research and, if possible, resolve the questions of the future jointly with our partners.  
– **Fontys Executive Board**

# Student Entrepreneurs Scheme

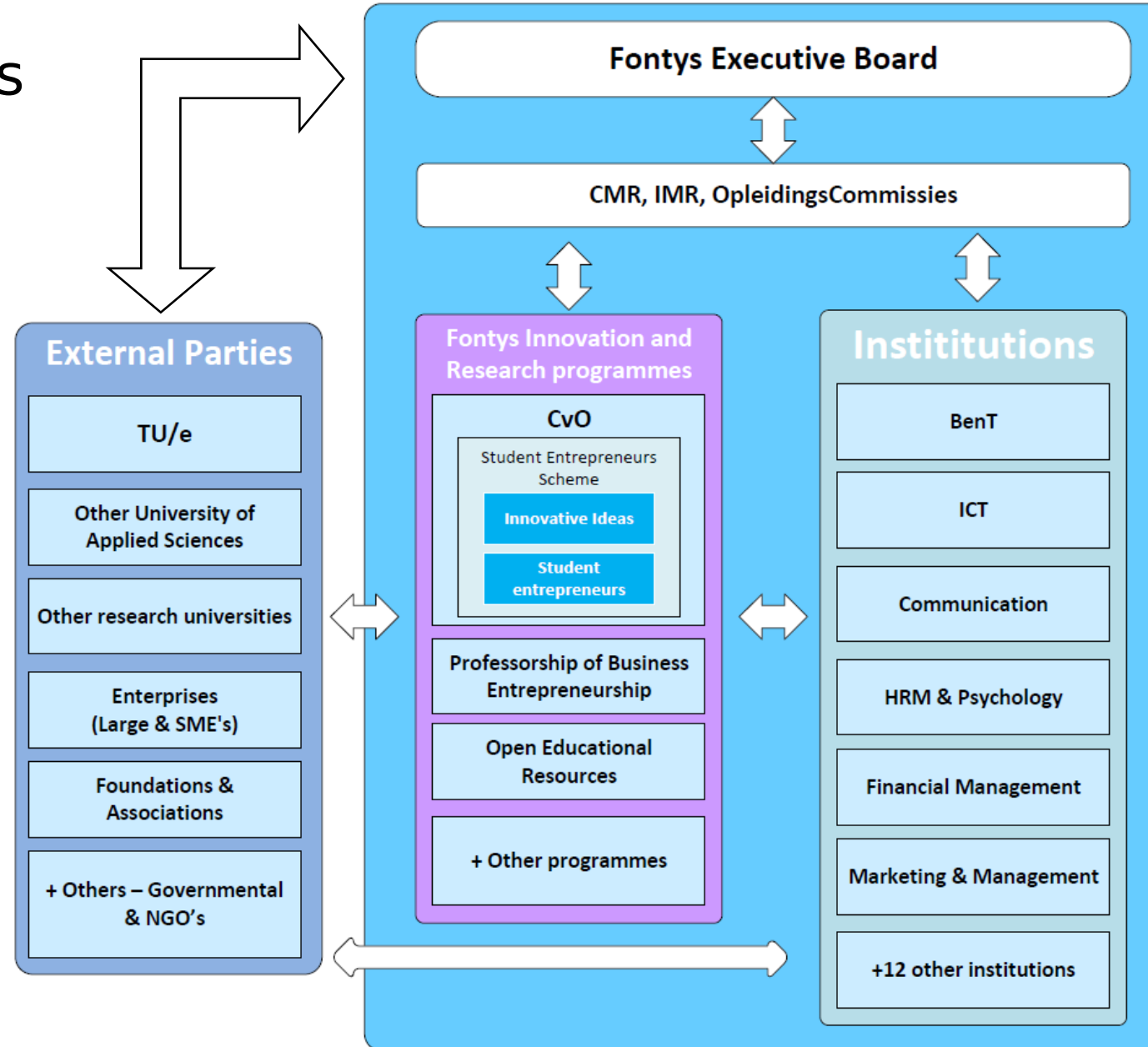


THINK  
BIGGER

- Fontys Student Entrepreneurs Scheme ensures that you as a student entrepreneurial business and study can successfully combine. Fontys creates a climate in which student entrepreneurs can grow and excel. Passionate, starting student entrepreneurs receive support in realizing their entrepreneurial dreams. Socially, it is indeed highly desirable to increase the number of starters. The Student Entrepreneurs Scheme Fontys students will stimulate the maximum out of themselves to develop, grow and grow both their company and their entrepreneurial behaviour. – Fontys CvO
- Student Entrepreneurs Scheme means that you may as a student entrepreneur under certain conditions be entitled to various facilities within Fontys. – Fontys CvO

# Relationships within the Fontys community and society

## Fontys University of Applied Sciences



This figure shows the layers and levels of the governance at Fontys

# The Proposal



## What?

The students at Fontys (44.000+) can contribute to **innovation** and **research** by collaborating on school projects with other students within their department or another department, student entrepreneurs' projects or projects by professors in the innovation and research programmes.

## Why?

- Students should gain innovation and entrepreneurship experience before graduating
- Companies now prioritise students with entrepreneurship, innovation and research experiences
- Student initiatives (entrepreneurial & innovative ideas) within Fontys have exposure to all other students at Fontys

## How?

- Credible projects are broken down SMART into detailed assignments and made available via the Fontys portal and/or *a student community network platform*
- At least 1 ECTS can be awarded to the student within the 4 academic years for their contribution to **innovation** and **research** by the school



# Benefits for the student

- Student collaboration
- Student community engagement
- Knowledge sharing
- Academic performance and growth
- Development of competences
- Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary approach to problem solving
- Contributing to innovation and research
- Connection within the wider Fontys student community and society
- Student puts into practice the Fontys 'Think Bigger' motto
- Key quality to have on Curriculum Vitae

# Student collaboration



Both in curricular and extra-curricular activities are some examples of student initiatives below

Payment App



- Financial Management Department
- ICT Department

Extra-curricular  
project

Improving health  
monitoring device



- People & Health Department
- Electrical & Electronics Engineering Department

Curricular  
project

Student Stress  
Zero Group



- People & Health Department
- Social Studies Department
- HRM & Psychology Department

Curricular project

Student  
Community  
Network Platform



- BEnT Department
- ICT Department
- Marketing & Management department

Extra-curricular  
project



# Contribution to the School



- Become the First or one the first Higher Education institutions in The Netherlands that stimulate innovation and practical research within the school community and society in such manner.
- Become a school known for its entrepreneurial activities in The Netherlands and the European region
- Successful students and entrepreneur alumni
- Successful innovation and practical research initiatives by students and professors
- Very high recruits of Fontys students by leading companies in their respective industries
- Fontys becomes innovation focus by allowing the students to develop competences for readiness in the future competitive labor market
- Fontys will attract talented students from all over the world who seek to develop their potential in innovation and practical research
- Better collaboration in innovation and practical research with external parties

# Conclusion



- Students should gain innovation, entrepreneurship and practical research experience before graduating
- Increase in the innovation and entrepreneurship activities at Fontys (Think Bigger)
- Students' engagements within their departments and the entire school, the student community and society through innovation and practical research are rewarded academically (1 ECTS)
- Innovation and research by students (school projects), student entrepreneurs (through the scheme's committee screening) and professors are given credibility and are facilitated by the school to be successful

- Smart companies fully understand that if they don't innovate, they won't exist in the future. By recruiting young entrepreneurs, they bring new perspectives and youthful ideas into the workplace.
  - When speaking to employers about this phenomenon, some of the top executives said that they would rather hire a student with entrepreneurship experience over a student that had five internships. Entrepreneurs naturally develop soft skills, such as communication skills and teamwork skills that employers are desperately looking for right now as they scout to find the next generation of leaders at their companies.
- Dan Shawbel, *managing partner of [Millennial Branding](#), a Gen Y research and management consulting firm.*