

STOCKHOLM SCHOOL OF
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Nomination: 2018 GCEC Award for Outstanding Contributions to Venture Creation

We hereby nominate the Stockholm School of Entrepreneurship (SSES) for its outstanding contributions to venture creation since 1999.

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About SSES

The Stockholm School of Entrepreneurship (SSES) is a joint initiative by Sweden's leading universities, the Karolinska Institute (KI), the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), the Stockholm School of Economics (SSE), the University College of Arts, Crafts and Design (Konstfack) and Stockholm University (SU). Founded in 1999, we deliver education, training, incubation and inspiration in interdisciplinary entrepreneurship. We offer a curriculum of courses and co-curricular activities where students from the member universities study the art of entrepreneurship in an immersive environment.

Quick Facts about Stockholm School of Entrepreneurship

1999	SSES was founded
15.000	Students have participated in our activities
40%	Of our students start companies
1.500	Active companies founded by alumni
100%	Yearly growth in applications for our incubator
Notable Alumni	SoundCloud, Klarna, iZettle

To date, more than 15.000 students have graduated from courses at SSES. Our portfolio consists of ECTS accredited courses at the MSc and PhD level, offering approximately 20 courses annually, examining around 800 students. Our academic portfolio includes all steps in the entrepreneurial process, from ideation and execution to social entrepreneurship, negotiations and design thinking. A firm belief within SSES is that people learn and develop in different ways, some prefer a classroom setting, others a participatory dialogue and some a more hands-on approach. As a result, we provide students with the ability to actively incubate and accelerate their ideas outside the walls of academia. Built on nearly two decades of pioneering practical and theoretical entrepreneurship knowledge, our programs are based on an academically rigorous, yet novel, methodology, borrowing ideas from a wide set of disciplines in order to design offerings that are tailor-made to the unique needs of each individual.

Our Purpose and Goal

The purpose of SSES is to offer students a sandbox in which they can explore and realize their ideas and aspirations with people from a diversity of disciplines, backgrounds and cultures. This confluence of ideas usually results in fresh perspectives, a humility with regards to one's own "truth" and unexpected friendships. Interestingly enough, these mashups also result in venture creation, with an astonishing 40% of all students graduating from SSES, starting their own company. Having realized that individuals were coming to SSES as students and leaving as entrepreneurs, we consider it our duty to continuously improve our activities in order to make sure that we offer the optimal conditions for successful venture creation.

The goal of SSES is to equip students with an expansive entrepreneurial mindset, one that is open and curious to spot opportunities, resilient enough to thrive from setbacks and deeply conscious of the impact his or her idea might have on the larger system and society as a whole. Our target audience consists of students and alumni from our member universities who are curious about what

lies beyond their own discipline and interested in cultivating their innate entrepreneurial capacity in a maximum-diversity environment.

Our Incubation and Acceleration Programs

We offer students and alumni of our member universities the ability to validate, incubate and accelerate their ideas free-of-charge, in an interdisciplinary environment, housing approximately 150 entrepreneurs annually. We currently offer students three different programs; The Fellowship, The Affinity and The Validator.

The Fellowship Program

Founded in 2015, our pre-incubator welcomes creative minds to meet, develop, iterate and reflect upon their early-stage ideas in close collaboration with our team of advisors and personal mentors. All Fellows receive tailor-made coaching and extensive skills-training throughout an intensive 12-week program, created with the aim of turning their “thinkup to startup”.

The Affinity Program

Founded in 2017, The Affinity Program is a self-designed and tailor-made accelerator, serving to connect cutting-edge entrepreneurs with world-class advisors and experts from diverse backgrounds to enable cross-disciplinary innovation. As part of Affinity, participants get access to a wide array of resources including free-of-charge office space, one-on-one sessions with our network of top-industry and academic experts, helping them persist through challenges that arise on the journey. The program is highly selective and only accepts ideas with great business potential, a great level of complexity requiring multiple disciplines and a clear, positive social impact. The program has no rigid structure and is instead designed in collaboration with the team and the advisory board around the specific challenge. We accept a maximum of 8 companies per year to the Affinity program and the duration depends on the needs of the entrepreneurs, ranging from one month to two years, taking place in Sweden or abroad.

The Validator Program

Founded in 2018 with generous support from the Swedish Innovation Agency, Vinnova, The Validator is a grant that gives individuals the chance to test their early-stage idea without any financial risk. The target group for the Validator are those who completed a master’s degree from a Swedish university maximum 5 years ago, the reason being that this group has shown to be highly innovative while fairly risk-averse. After participating in the program, we help them soft-land their idea into the broader innovation ecosystem and encourage them to apply to the Fellowship program to take their proven idea to the next level.

In addition to the programs mentioned above, we have launched two other incubators, *SSE Business Lab*, founded in 2001 for the Stockholm School of Economics and *Transit*, founded in 2004, for Konstfack in order to support startups within the creative and cultural industries.

How we engage with the wider community

At SSES, everything is interconnected. The faculty that teaches our courses also serve as mentors and advisors for students in our incubation and acceleration programs, our alumni act as both expert advisors to new ventures and regular participants in our training activities. Part of what makes SSES

unique compared to other educational institutions, is that you never have to leave. Once you are part of our universe, you are here to stay. After having graduated university, individuals can still apply to our incubation and acceleration programs, still participate in our lectures, events and workshop and even join us for an international bootcamp tackling wicked problems (for a visual representation see Appendix). We enable - and encourage - lifelong learning, where the end of formal education is seen as the beginning of a quest venturing beyond the walls of confined disciplines.

Today, we are recognized as a one-of-a-kind catalyst for interdisciplinary collaboration, connecting the world of academia, business and government with a cherry-picked community of faculty, alumni, industry experts and mentors, expansive in scope yet sharp in intent, who are all highly engaged with our budding entrepreneurs. They offer coaching to improve and iterate ideas, serve as guides to help people navigate a creative, knowledge-rich environment and connect the entrepreneurs with their own unique networks. Serving as a neutral and well-connected facilitator within the local and global innovation ecosystem, we enable a constant exchange between academic and corporate hubs, introducing entrepreneurs to a host of international markets through exclusive visits, academic exchanges and soft-landing programs. We have on numerous occasions been invited to consult and share our experiences regarding venture creation around the globe, recently travelling to Amsterdam with HRH Prince Daniel of Sweden to inaugurate Epicenter Amsterdam. Earlier this spring Business Sweden and The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth also invited us to bring one of our ventures, Sana Labs, to be part of their high-level delegation to Japan. Moreover, we recently teamed up with a group of engineers from the Royal Institute of Technology, launching AIDA, an artificial intelligence platform, which uses AI to analyze the entrepreneurial capabilities of an individual. This enables us to further engage with the community, offering anyone the ability to test and improve their entrepreneurial mindset.

Achieved outcomes

Number of participants

Since 1999, more than 15,000 students have participated in our academic programs. Numbers of participants increase with roughly 20% per year. Around 250 individuals apply to our incubation and acceleration programs today, a number that increases with roughly 100% every year.

Awards granted to students

SSES students have won the “Big 5” international competitions, including “Idea to Product Competition Global”, “Global Social Venture Competition”, “Venture Challenge Global”, “European Business Plan of the Year Competition” and “Entrepreneurs’ Open Challenge”.

Number of startups generated

Approximately 40% of all SSES graduates found companies and around 1500 companies are today operated by alumni. Since 2011 companies founded by alumni have raised more than \$250 million of venture capital. Through our Fellowship program, we incubate approximately 120 individuals per year and through Affinity, we accelerate around 10 companies per year. Notable companies founded by SSES alumni include SoundCloud, with \$125 million+ raised in venture capital, Klarna, a unicorn valued at \$2 billion and iZettle with an estimated \$500 million valuation to date.

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SSES

**“Broaden
your
horizon**

**transcend
your
discipline”**

A community of curiosity

Who we are

SSES is a global platform for interdisciplinarity. Throughout our twenty-year history we have been elevating minds, generating ventures, forging connections and inspiring new ways of thinking. Today, we are a global network of silo-busters, system-thinkers and change-makers who work to question the taken-for-granted and make things better.

Offering people a space to make sense of a constantly emerging reality, we are determined to push the boundaries of the future, engage people in civic dialogue and spur interdisciplinary collaboration.

What we offer

A universe of ideas

From the cutting-edge of science, we provide free of charge courses, workshops and idea acceleration for students and alumni of Stockholm's leading universities.





Education

Courses

We transcend disciplines and invite students from medicine, technology, economics, design, and the humanities in order to accelerate cross-disciplinary action.

Our courses are recognised as internal at all our member universities and provide you with ECTS counting toward your degree.

Workshops

At the very forefront of knowledge, we provide workshops, lectures and bootcamps designed to give you the skills needed to thrive in a constantly shifting reality. All experiences are co-created with our network of experts from around the world.

Design in Hong Kong 2017

Looking into The Future of Luxury at BODW, Asia's leading annual event on design, innovation and brands.

Antidisciplinarity in New York 2014

Investigating the Future of Mobility in collaboration with Parsons and the Ford Foundation.

Trendspotting in India 2013

Exploring the topic of Authenticity in collaboration with the National Institute of Design.

Ventures

We take ideas seriously, but we also believe in the power of failure, and failing forward. That's why we offer you an explorative space to test, develop and sharpen your ideas in order to turn your vision into reality.

**APPLY NOW
TO OUR
VALIDATOR,
PRE-INCUBATOR
OR OUR
ACCELERATOR.**

[www.sses.se/
ventures](http://www.sses.se/ventures)

Validator

Validator gives you the support to validate and test new ideas without incurring financial risk, making your idea more resilient. We'll be handing out a total of 75 grants of up to 50.000 SEK each, so your idea can hit the ground running.

Those accepted are then encouraged to apply to our Fellowship program to take their idea to the next stage.

Fellowship Program

Through our 12-week pre-incubator program, Fellowship, you receive tailor-made coaching and extensive skills-training.

Affinity

If you are one of the lucky ones to get accepted into our cutting-edge accelerator, Affinity, you will gain access to personal consultation with world-class advisors and experts from all over the world who are determined to help you take your business to the next level.

**“ Expand your
mind - diversify
your network ”**

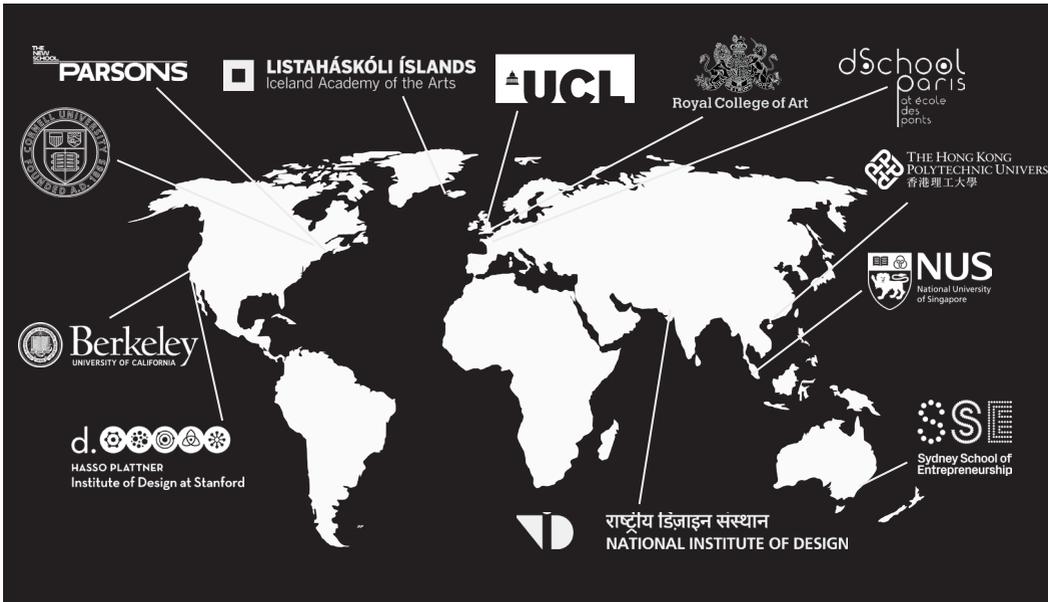
HOW WE WORK

Local friends

We are proud to gather a majority of actors in the Swedish Innovation ecosystem in our network, creating knowledge exchange between a variety of stakeholders.

Global impact

A one-of-a-kind catalyst for interdisciplinary collaboration, we have a strong global network connecting the world of academia.





**Uncertainty is
an uncomfortable
position. But
certainty is an
absurd one.”**

Voltaire