



Programas de Internacionalización Study Abroad 2021

Course title: Entrepreneurial Skills for International Business

Teaching period: July 5 to July 9, 2021

Teaching hours: 22,5

Academic coordinator: Raquel Antolín López

Knowledge area: Management, Entrepreneurship, International Business, Marketing

1. INTRODUCTION

Given growing globalization trends and the increasing dynamic and complex nature of markets, companies operate in different countries, employ an international workforce and face challenges that require innovation and creativity. They need professionals with entrepreneurship skills (leadership, creativity, innovation, market research in an international environment, etc.) applicable to international and changing environments.

In this course we offer a practical and applied perspective in order to develop these abilities. Interaction among students will be encouraged to obtain and apply entrepreneurship skills in international organizations, understanding the different roles and functions of entrepreneurs and managers and developing basic skills for these positions.

The different sessions will be taught by instructors specialized in Entrepreneurship at the University of Almeria and in the professional world. All the lecturers have teaching experience both in Spanish and English in different bachelor degrees and in Master/Postgraduate courses, including a MBA and a Master in International Business Administration and Modern Languages (in English). The teaching staff is also very active in research with publications in prestigious international journals such as *J. Business Ethics*, *Organization & Environment*, *Plos One*, or *Business Strategy & the Environment*; as well as international chapters or books. In addition, their works are presented in international conferences such as *Academy of Management*, *Babson College Conference*, *Strategic Management Conference*, *Academy of Management Science*, etc. Their research is multi-disciplinary and focuses on strategic management and entrepreneurship. It includes different levels of analysis: teams, enterprises, economic sectors and production systems.



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2. OBJECTIVES

The general objective is to analyze the role of the entrepreneur and innovation in business and develop the basic notions and skills needed to launch a new business project.

Upon successful completion of this course, students shall:

- Have increased knowledge and understanding of entrepreneurship and the process of new venture creation and product/service development.
- Have the knowledge, skills and abilities required to develop a business idea and assess its viability and feasibility.
- Learn how to present a business idea
- Understanding and developing competences for the creation of new company in an international context.

3. CONTENTS

The sessions are structured following the “Entrepreneurial cycle” that allows exploring and knowing the process of venture creation/product development from the beginning to the end. Specifically, the entrepreneurial cycle covers the following stages: the illumination stage (creativity and the generation of ideas for a business idea), the maturation (assessment of the attractiveness, viability and feasibility of a business idea), and Development and Implementation (Business model elements and design, etc.).

Sessions	• Introduction to Entrepreneurship
	• Business ideas generation: Creativity and Innovation.
	• Is my business idea attractive? Opportunity analysis
	• Opportunity exploration: Business models design
Company Visits	• Business idea competition: The investment forum
	• Clisol Agro
Seminars	• Young entrepreneurs panel



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4. METHODOLOGY

The methodology of this course will be eminently practical and will foster the active participation and interaction of students.

The contents are predominantly oriented toward the development of individual and team entrepreneurial skills. Consequently, students should interact in a particularly intense manner during the classes to reach the goals of the course. Both individual and team work are required.

The completion of the course will consist in the development of a business idea in teams, which students will have to present to the rest of the class and a committee in a competition shape session.

The teaching methods include short case studies, group dynamics, role plays, problem-based learning, group debates, and field visits among others.

The course is taught in English. All professors in this course have experience teaching in English at an Undergraduate and Master's level.

5. PROFESSIONAL VISITS AND COMPLEMENTARY ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES.

This course has an eminently practical focus and the theoretical lessons will be complemented with a visit to an entrepreneurial company that is considered a referent in the agricultural sector in Spain:

Visit to the headquarters of CLISOL AGRO, a local firm with an extensive experience in the field of Mediterranean agriculture and of international reference in the sector worldwide. It has collaborated with the BBC documentary entitled "Europe's Salad Bowl". This firm is a clear example of an agriculture company, which has focused on innovation and high qualifications of their staff as way to differentiate and compete in an increasingly globalized market, and with a higher number of consumers demanding higher quality products. Students will have the opportunity to know the business strategies being applied by the company for years, which have become it an international benchmark of quality.



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6. ASSESMENT

Final grade 0-100:

- Class participation: 10 points
- Class activities: 40 points
- Evaluation activities: 50 points
- The overall pass mark is 50 and a minimum of 80% of attendance is required.

7. LECTURERS

PhD. Raquel Antolín López is an associate professor of Entrepreneurship at the University of Almeria. In addition, she collaborates in several projects with Indiana University, University of Colorado at Boulder and the City University of New York. Her main research interest lies at the intersection of sustainability, entrepreneurship and institutions. Her lines of research also include innovation, public policies, renewable energy and environmental strategy. The quality of her research has been recognized with different awards. On a teaching side, she teaches in both english and spanish, Entrepreneurship and Managerial skills and, and Multi-cultural competences in the Official Master of International Management and Modern Languages.

Justo Alberto Ramírez Franco and **Jose Manuel Torrente Galera** are the founders of Pair of Jacks, a consulting company for entrepreneurs and start-ups. They provide consulting services and training for the creation and acceleration of new ventures. They have relevant practical experience that includes training in entrepreneurship, economic and financial viability of new business projects assessment, research market and business plan skills. Justo Alberto Ramirez Franco is also a part-time lecturer in the department of Management at the University of Almería.

Organiza:

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APPENDIX: DETAILED CONTENT AND READINGS LIST BY SESSION

Session 1: Introduction to Entrepreneurship. Business ideas generation: Creativity and Innovation workshop

Content

1. Introduction: Why entrepreneurship and innovation are important for companies?
2. The entrepreneurial cycle
3. Opportunities: Their nature, discovery, and creation
4. Creativity as an engine of ideas: recognizing business opportunities
 - 4.1. Creativity process
 - 4.2. Creativity types
 - 4.2.1. Eureka creativity
 - 4.2.2. Secondary creativity
 - 4.3. Creativity techniques: cases and examples
5. From creativity to innovation
6. Practical guide: Improving entrepreneurial and innovation skills
7. Teamwork Activity: Generating a business idea for the team project
8. Final remarks

Learning objectives

- Explain the importance of the general environment as a source of ideas and an innovation engine
- Understand creativity types and know how to apply different creativity techniques
- Generate/Identify business opportunities through creativity
- Develop creativity and lateral thinking skills to solve organizational problems
- Be able to promote innovation and new ideas in the workplace



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Bibliography

- **Books**

Baron, R. A., y Hmieleski, K. M. (2018). *Essentials of Entrepreneurship: Changing the world, One idea at a time*. 2nd ed. Edward Elgar Publishing. Cheltenham (UK). Chapter 2 and 3. ISBN: 9781788115889.

De Bono, Edward (1985). *Six Thinking Hats: An Essential Approach to Business Management*. Little Brown and Company. ISBN: 9780316177917.

Lussier, R. N. (2018). *Management Fundamentals: Concepts, Applications, and Skills Development*. 8th ed. Sage. Springfield College, USA. Capítulo 6. ISBN: 9781506389394.

- **Recommended readings**

“Wonderbly: Sensing, seizing, and transforming an international entrepreneurial opportunity” en Zucchella, A., Hagen, B., y Serapio M. G. (2018). *International Entrepreneurship*, p. 87. Edward Elgar Publishing. Cheltenham, UK. ISBN: 9781785365461.

- **Videos**

“A powerful way to unleash your natural creativity” (TEDxFindhorn): Tim Harford. https://www.ted.com/talks/tim_harford_a_powerful_way_to_unleash_your_natural_creativity

“Tales of creativity and play” (TEDxFindhorn): Tim Brown. https://www.ted.com/talks/tim_brown_tales_of_creativity_and_play

- **Activities**

Antolin-Lopez, R. (2016) *Idea Generation & Creativity: The Mysterious Box*. *Experiential Entrepreneurship Exercises Journal*, 2(1), 43-50.



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Session 2: Is my business idea attractive? Oportunity analysis

Content

1. Idea attractiveness assessment: Is my business idea a business opportunity?
 - 1.1. Business idea vs. Business opportunity
 - 1.2. Idea attractiveness assessment: the specific environment
2. Idea validation
 - 2.1. Product/service feasibility
 - 2.2. Organizational feasibility
 - 2.3. Industry attractiveness analysis
 - 2.4. Financial feasibility
3. Short cases: Examples of product failures
4. Teamwork Activity: assess the attractiveness of your project idea
5. Final remarks

Learning objectives

- Be able to assess if a business idea is a business opportunity
- Understand and know how to apply tools for idea feasibility analysis
- Understand the importance of refining and maturing business ideas

Bibliography

- **Books**

Kuratko, D. F. (2016). *Entrepreneurship: Theory, process, and practice*. Nelson Education. Chapter 6.

Kampira, A. (2018). *Feasibility Studies: New Product Development and Launch* (Vol. 1). Abisha Kampira. Afregarde Strategies (Pty) LTD. ISBN 9780620787031.



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- **Recommended readings**

Bouquet, C., Barsoux, J. L., & Wade, M. (2018). Bring your breakthrough ideas to life. *Harvard Business Review*, 96, 102-113.

- **Activities**

Ramirez-Franco, J., Antolin-Lopez, R. (2016). Idea maturation: The wooden egg. *Experiential Entrepreneurship Exercises Journal*, 2(2), 38-47.

Session 3: Opportunity exploration: Business models design

This session is divided in two parts. First, students learn about business models design, and then, later we visit an entrepreneurial local firm to learn more about sustainable business models.

Part 1. Lecture

Content

1. Introduction to business models
2. Business Model Generation
 - 2.1 Study Case: Diverxo
3. Canvas Model: 9 Building Blocks
 - 3.1. Customer Segments
 - 3.2. Value proposition
 - 3.3. Channels
 - 3.4. Customer Relationships
 - 3.5. Revenue Stream
 - 3.6. Key Resources
 - 3.7. Key Activities
 - 3.8. Key Partnership



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3.9. Cost Structure

4. Lean canvas

4.1. Customer Segments

4.2. Problem

4.3. Value proposition

4.4. Solution

4.5. Channels

4.6. Revenues streams

4.7. Cost structure

4.8. Key metrics

4.9. Unfair advantage

5. Strategy and flexibility in business models

5.1. Organization flexibility

5.2. Productive flexibility

5.3. Work flexibility

6. Teamwork activity: Applying model design to further develop their business idea

7. Final remarks

Part 2. Firm visit

Visit the headquarters of CLISOL AGRO, a local sustainable firm with an extensive experience in the field of Mediterranean agriculture and of international reference in the sector worldwide. It has collaborated with the BBC documentary entitled "Europe's Salad Bowl". This firm is a clear example of entrepreneurial business model with a strong focus on innovation as way to differentiate and compete in an increasingly globalized market. Students will have the opportunity to know more about innovative business models and sustainability innovation, as well as, know an interesting local company.



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Learning objectives

- Understand what is a business model and its elements through the Canvas tool
- Know how to apply the Canvas method to develop, describe and analyze a business model
- Learn about the differences about the canvas method and the lean startup canvas
- Be able to apply the lean startup method to a business idea to develop the business model
- Explain the concept of Strategic vision and the importance of flexibility in a business model
- Learn about new business models (e.g., collective business models, sustainable business models)
- Be able to graphically represent a business model

Bibliography

- **Books**

Osterwalder, A., & Pigneur, Y. (2010). *Business model generation: a handbook for visionaries, game changers, and challengers*. John Wiley & Sons.

Ries, E. (2011). *The Lean Startup: How Today's Entrepreneurs Use Continuous Innovation to Create Radically Successful Businesses*. ISBN-13: 978-0670921607

- **Recommended readings**

Mollick, E. (2019). What the Lean Startup method gets right and wrong. *Harvard Business Review*, 10, 1-4.

Amit, R. and C. Zott. (2012). *Creating value through business model innovation*. *MIT Sloan Management Review* (Spring): 41-49.

Antolin-Lopez, R., & Lopez-Cruz, A. (2020). Alternatives to Capitalism: Learning From Pro-Social Collective Business Models. In *Handbook of Research on Approaches to Alternative Entrepreneurship Opportunities* (pp. 266-290). IGI Global.



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- **Videos**

“Business model innovation: beating yourself at your own game” (TEDx BCG Berlin):
https://www.ted.com/talks/stefan_gross_selbeck_business_model_innovation_beating_yourself_at_your_own_game.

“The Business Model Canvas: Alexander Osterwalder:” (Stanford Technology Ventures Program)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FumwkBMhLo>

“Competing on Business Models: Alex Osterwalder” (NBForum Norway)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIxs_BY6r6I

Session 4: Business idea competition: the investment forum

In this session students will have to apply all the knowledge and skills learn in the previous sessions. In the first part of the class, students join their teams to prepare a presentation of their business idea, validation results and how their business model would look like. In the second part of the class, students have to present their ideas in front of a committed and the result of students. We emulate an investment forum format.

Content

1. Introduction: Teamwork and Idea development
2. Develop an innovative business Project
 - 2.1. Generate and describe an idea
 - 2.2. Assess the attractiveness and viability of the idea
 - 2.3. Develop a business model
 - 2.4. Design a presentation of their Project
3. Presentation and competition

Learning objectives

- Identify or generate business ideas



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- Assess the attractiveness and feasibility of a business idea
- Develop an effective business model for the business idea
- Be able to present a business idea and convince investors in a successfully and synthesized way
- Know how to prepare an elevator pitch