



# THE POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME IN INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN ENGINEERING

**Innovate, design & create**

## Why choose this postgraduate programme?

- You will get a unique introduction to the industry by means of an innovation project;
- You can build an individualised training programme geared to your own interests;
- You will receive intensive one-on-one coaching both from working professionals and from teachers;
- You will get the chance to actually develop and implement an idea (maybe your own), either on your own or as part of a team;
- You will develop technical skills as well as innovation and professional competences;
- You will be in a better position to make the right career choice and to enter the field at a higher level.

### THE IDEAL BEGINNER

The personality and personal qualities (soft skills) of graduates are more important than their hard technical skills. Serving an internship also increases their potential in the job market. This is according to a study conducted among HR Managers of companies in twenty countries.

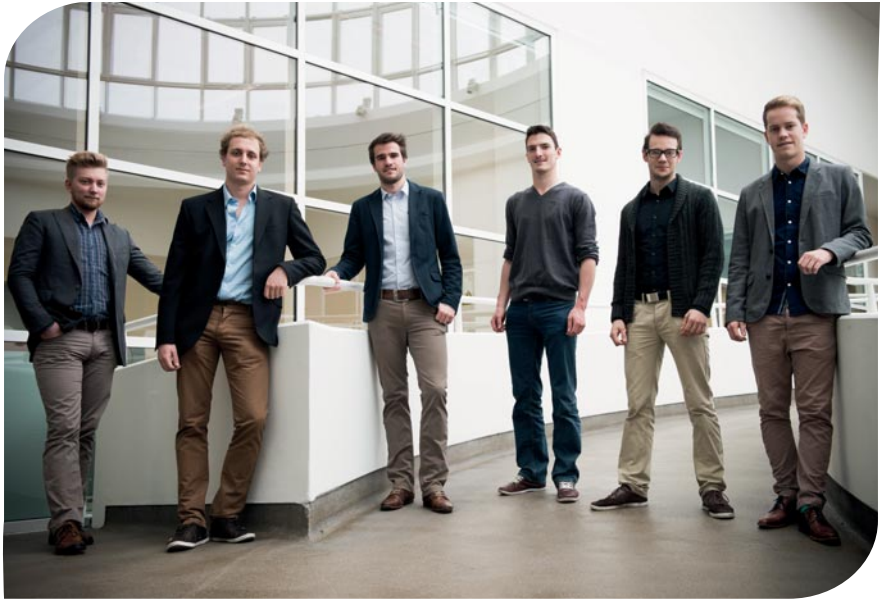
*Source: Jobat.be*

### FOR NEW HIRES, WORK EXPERIENCE MORE IMPORTANT THAN A DEGREE

More than 3 of 5 companies say they are more likely to hire job applicants who have pursued a combination of work and learning during their studies. According to the Union of Self-Employed Entrepreneurs (UNIZO), the success of workplace learning is only logical. By combining learning and working, young people can get a taste of life in the workplace, and potential employers can find out what the applicant is really "made of".

*Source: De Standaard, 01/09/2013*





For engineers, **work experience and social and professional competences** are more important than ever. The **postgraduate programme in Innovation and Entrepreneurship in engineering** gives you the chance to gain your first work experience by working on innovative projects in a challenging work environment.

The programme allows you to cultivate your own interests and to focus on the skills you wish to develop. By doing so, you will boost your **entrepreneurial and innovation competences** and gain further specialisation in a specific area. This will enable you to personalise your training and to strengthen both your qualifications and your career prospects.

#### INTERUNIVERSITY PROGRAMME

You can follow this programme at **any of the Flemish universities**. The programme originated from the “Innovation Internships” project of the Agency for Innovation by Science and Technology (IWT), which is aimed at integrating workplace learning into engineering programmes.

## Admission requirements

You will only be admitted following an application and selection procedure and only after you have satisfied one of the following admission requirements:

**You have earned one of the following master's degrees:**

- Master of Biosciences (all)
- Master of Bioscience Engineering (all)
- Master of Engineering Technology (all)
- Master of Engineering Sciences (all)

**OR you have satisfied at least one of the following requirements:**

- You have 7 study points or less to complete in a bachelor's, transition or preparatory programme in order to satisfy the admission requirements for one of the above master's programmes;
- You have 12 study points or less to complete in a bachelor's programme in order to satisfy the admission requirements for one of the above master's programmes if you had a completion rate of at least 80% in the previous academic year;

## Tracks

The postgraduate is a one-year programme consisting of **60 study points**. You follow the postgraduate either **during or after your master's programme**.

- **Postgraduate after the master's programme**

You can begin the full-time programme after you have graduated, in either September or February.

- **Combining the postgraduate and a master's programme**

By combining it with the postgraduate, you turn your master's programme into a two-year track. We only recommend this track for students who are participating in a team project or are working with the same company, or working on the same topic, for both their master's thesis and the innovation project.

You can find more information on the tracks at [www.innovationentrepreneurship.be/tracks](http://www.innovationentrepreneurship.be/tracks)

## The innovation project

The project (40 study points) gives you the chance to gain experience working on innovation projects that you would not normally encounter at the start of your career.

You can choose from **three different types of innovation projects**:

**In-company project:** you work individually or with a student colleague on an innovation project within the (possibly international) work environment of an **organisation**. You can choose between a longer project in one company or shorter projects in two different companies.

I'm deliberately choosing to work on two projects in two different companies. That seems like the best learning experience to me. I can discover my own qualities or actually watch and learn about the structure and the way things work in a company. I'm hoping this will give me a better idea of the kind of work environment that I would prefer and that would be best for me.

*Joke Decubber, Master of Engineering Technology:  
Electromechanical Engineering, is choosing to work on two short projects*



**Team projects:** as part of a team of students, you develop an innovation project for a full academic year on the campus of the **university**.

By working with so many companies and sponsors, I've noticed that you have so many more options with a degree in engineering technology. With a team project, you learn so many things you would never learn from just reading books, like how to cooperate closely within a team and resolve debates. I would do it again in a second.

*Bram op 't Roodt, leader of the Formula team project*



**Start-up project:** if you have an entrepreneurial mind-set, you can write a **business plan** for your own idea under supervision for the purpose of starting your own company.

As a student entrepreneur, you receive one-on-one coaching, access to an extensive professional network and assistance from teachers and companies alike. It also gives your soft skills a boost. Entrepreneurship is all about trying, falling down and getting up again, so it's not everyone's cup of tea.

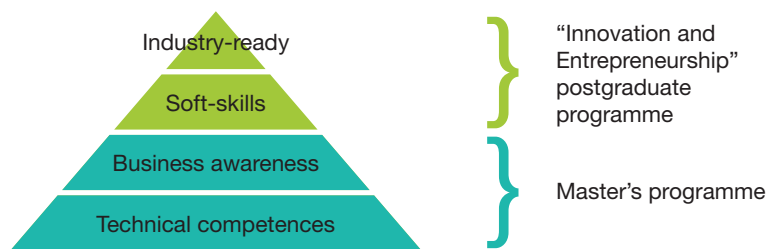
*Christopher Hex, Master of Engineering Technology:  
Electronics and ICT Engineering, is writing a business plan*

You can find a list of partners and projects at  
**[www.innovationentrepreneurship.be/innovationproject](http://www.innovationentrepreneurship.be/innovationproject)**

## Personal training programme

You can build **your own programme** (20 study points) based on the competences you want to develop further. This allows you to make your training highly personalised.

You can choose from **course units throughout all of Flanders**. These could be courses that focus on a specific technical area or ones that have a broader focus. You must allocate at least 9 study points for professional, entrepreneurial and innovation competences.



You can find examples of possible course units at [www.innovationentrepreneurship.be/courses](http://www.innovationentrepreneurship.be/courses)

### INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION

We promote innovation projects outside Belgium. This provides you not just with valuable work experience but also a great deal of life experience. Contact us soon for more information on projects abroad and to find out if you are eligible for an Erasmus+ grant. If you choose a project in Flanders, there is a good chance you will end up working in multicultural environments or on international projects.

While I was a student I had the opportunity to conduct a research project outside Belgium. Via this sort of experience, you'll make a tremendous developmental leap, both professionally and personally. So I was more than happy to assist students on a project at Philips in Shanghai. Their fresh perspective on our technical problems provided us with a number of easily implementable industrial solutions.

*Serge Jaspers - Director at GTD Mechanization Shanghai*



## Apply

### 1. You can submit your application via the online form.

Enter your personal information, indicate your preferred innovation project and submit your CV and cover letter. We will then invite you to an intake interview. Applicants are evaluated on the following main points: knowledge of the postgraduate; personal reasons for participating; personal learning objectives and interests.

### 2. If your application is approved and you satisfy the admission requirements, you may then **enrol at a university of your choosing**. Once your registration is complete, you will be assigned a coach to guide you through the process of designing your personal training programme.

## REGISTRATION

You can find more information on the registration procedure and the registration fee by visiting [www.innovationentrepreneurship.be/selection-and-registration-procedure](http://www.innovationentrepreneurship.be/selection-and-registration-procedure)

## General information

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### University of Antwerp

Faculty of Applied Engineering

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Faculty of Bioscience Engineering

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*This brochure contains the most complete description possible of one of the postgraduate programmes. However, changes to the programme's structure may be approved at any time. As a result, the universities cannot be legally bound by this information. For the most updated information, please visit [www.innovationentrepreneurship.be](http://www.innovationentrepreneurship.be).*

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