



Call for Applications

TOP STARS 2019 - innovaTION challenge fOr PhD STudents And ReSearchers

EIT Raw Materials Summer School 3rd Edition

July 8-17, 2019

Scientific and Technological Hub "Fabio Ferrari" - University of Trento

Organizing institutions

Department of Industrial Engineering, University of Trento, Italy

HIT - Hub Innovazione Trentino, Trento, Italy

University of Leuven - KU Leuven, Belgium

National Technical University of Athens, Greece

Scientific committee

Massimo Pellizzari - Department of Industrial Engineering, University of Trento, Italy

Alessandro Pegoretti - Department of Industrial Engineering, University of Trento, Italy

Matteo Leoni - Department of Civil, Environmental and Mechanical Engineering, University of Trento, Italy

Bart Blanpain - University of Leuven - KU Leuven, Belgium

Katerina Adams - National Technical University of Athens, Greece

Gert Guri - Department of Information Engineering and Computer Science, University of Trento, Italy

Local organization committee

Vanessa Maria Caleca - Department of Industrial Engineering, University of Trento, Italy

Massimo Pellizzari - Department of Industrial Engineering, University of Trento, Italy

Alessandro Pegoretti - Department of Industrial Engineering, University of Trento, Italy

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Theme of The Summer School

The Summer school will introduce students to entrepreneurial thinking and behaviour, business and innovation processes, high-tech ventures marketing, and business model generation techniques. The Summer school offers a unique hands-in opportunity to address a societal challenge in the Raw Materials framework by combining the technical expertise with innovation and entrepreneurship experience. Topics of challenges proposed by companies are introduced through presentations, tutorials and workshops on approaches focused on techniques to assess and promote feasible solutions on both technical and business aspect. For about two weeks, students will work in teams to identify a technical solution and develop it into a business proposal. This experience will help to foster a community of students among various universities and to create an interaction with companies and start-ups operating in the specific field.

With respect to traditional Summer schools, TOP STARS combines focus-lectures of academics and practitioners, project work, field and usability tests, customer validation work, field visits and socializing events. Focus is put on harmonizing the technical capacities with soft-skills such as: business project work, team building, (personal) networking, cultural exchange, knowledge on interaction between ethics and society and creation of a global awareness of societal and business trends.

Intended Learning Outcomes

TOP STARS is an opportunity for **PhD students**, **young researchers** (*) and **Master students** on the last years of their course of study in the Raw Materials subjects to grasp a clear understanding of how to turn their research into a potential business chance. So the bottom line is to orient research towards market and social needs. Beyond building technical competences and offering potential solutions to societal challenges, in the ten days, the students will learn how to work in teams, how to prepare a business plan, how to be effective in passing key information and how to be successful in pitching. They will transform the way they interact with the job market and they will create opportunities for their future.

In the school multi-disciplinarity is emphasized and students are confronted with participating stakeholders (companies and start-ups) to consider the sustainability and relevance of their ideas. Throughout the Summer school, students will work in teams of 5-7 participants to craft and develop into project-ideas the solutions they have identified to address the technical problems presented to them. A selection of initial use-cases is planned to be provided in cooperation with partner companies participating in the Summer school.

The whole initiative is valued **10 ECTS**.

How to apply

The Summer school is open to **PhD students** and **young researchers** (*), applications from **students in the last years of their Master courses** will be also evaluated. PhD candidates that will be enrolled before the start of the school can also participate. A total of **40 participants** will be selected on a merit basis, with preferential title given to PhD students and young researchers. Should one of the selected candidates give up, the next candidate in the shortlist will be given the possibility to participate, until all available positions are filled or the shortlist is exhausted. Potential candidates are requested to fill out the application form at <https://bit.ly/2TwL0Kx> and to provide any relevant documentation. The documents to be included in the application (to be sent to topstars2019@unitn.it) are:

- Academic career (mandatory)
- CV (maximum of two A4 pages) (mandatory)
- A motivation letter (why the participant wishes to be part of the Summer School and what are the expectations)
- Qualification certificates relevant to the topic and to the EIT Raw Materials initiative (optional)
- Copy of the Identity card (front and back) or of the first page (identification page) of the Passport (mandatory)

Any other documents such as letter(s) of support from supervisor/peers or English language proficiency certification will be considered by the Committee as preferential titles. The call will close on **April 30, 2019**.

Selection process

The candidates applying for the school will be shortlisted based on the documentation they will provide. Students from KIC Raw Materials partners, European students and/or students from other countries associated with the H2020 program will be preferential candidates.

Costs

Due to the generous contribution of the EIT Raw Materials, the participation to the event is free of charge for the selected students. Moreover, a grant covering travel expenses (**up to 300 Euros**) and accommodation (handled by the school), will be available to all selected students that meet the reimbursement criteria of the EU H2020 programme.

Deadlines

March 5, 2019: call for applications opens

April 30, 2019: deadline for application submission

May 11, 2019: confirmation to selected participants

May 18, 2019: confirmation of participation by selected students

Contact

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() the definition of young researcher refers to people with a PhD title or documented post-graduate research experience of no less than 3 years and no more than 10 years.*



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