

BOVA Intensive Master Course

## Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Rural Development

March 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018

Course venue: Estonian University of Life Sciences, Tartu, Estonia  
3 ECTS

**Course description:** Promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship is one of the key drivers of rural development. Therefore, the course aims to give the students a better understanding about entrepreneurship and innovation in the Baltic and Nordic countries. After the course, the students:

- Are able to analyse innovation related activities and develop business models to improve the sustainability and competitiveness of rural enterprises.
- Are aware about Baltic and Nordic specific institutional, socio-economic and development contexts related to the problems of rural development;
- Are aware about theoretical perspectives and practical tools necessary for promoting entrepreneurship and innovation in rural areas.

The course will cover the following topics: m

- Entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship process.
- Rural entrepreneurship and its development contexts in the Baltic and Nordic countries.
- Student Entrepreneurship and its challenges
- Innovation and innovation process
- Business model canvas and its use in idea development
- Pitching a business idea: how to attract investors
- Start-up ecosystem and financing of innovation.
- Practical issues and challenges in setting up a rural business

The course consists of two parts:

- (1) Distance learning from **March 5<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> 2018**; students have to use e-learning environment Moodle; read the literature on the topic, and prepare individual assignment.
- (2) Meeting in person from **March 19<sup>th</sup>- 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018**: lectures, presentation of individual assignments; group work on business idea; study visits to enterprises.

Student performance will be evaluated on the basis of individual pre-course assignment; and group assignments during the course week. Grading will be pass/fail.

**Requirements:** The course is primarily targeted to maximum 30 Baltic and Nordic master students. General background in the social sciences or agricultural sciences, as well as good English skills are required.

**Financing:** There is no registration fee. Accommodation and meals will be provided by the hosting institution.

However, the **travelling costs** will not be covered by hosting institution. Please contact your home universities for financing options for the travel (e.g. Nordplus Express Mobility Grant etc).

**Teaching team** includes lecturers from Estonian University of Life Sciences (EMU), Aleksandras Stulginskis university (ASU); Latvia University of Agriculture (LLU), and Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO)

**Registration deadline – February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Registration form:** [The registration form](#)

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**More information at:**

<http://www.bova-university.org/for-msc-students/for-master-students/intensive-master-courses>

## Preliminary programme

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b>Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup></b>	09:15-10:45	Introduction. Rural entrepreneurship and rural innovations in Baltic and Nordic context
	11:00-12:30	Presentations of pre-course assignments
	12:30-13:30	Lunch
	13:30-15:30	Presentations of pre-course assignments
	15:30-17:00	Innovation and innovation process.
<b>Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup></b>	09:15-10:45	Entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship process;
	11:00-12:30	Global Perspectives on Student Entrepreneurship
	12:30-13:30	Lunch
	13:30-14:30	Business model canvas.
	14:30- 16:00	Group work on development of business ideas. Introduction of work assignment for the field trip.
	16:15-18:30	Visit to Spark demo centre
<b>Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup></b>	8:00- 19:00	Field trip. Visits to different rural enterprises in South Estonia
<b>Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	09:15- 10:30	Group work on business ideas
	10:30-12:30	Pitching your ideas: practical advice
	12:30-13:30	Lunch
	13:00-18:00	Group work on business ideas
<b>Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	09:15-10:45	Presentations of group work on generating business ideas
	11:00-12:30	Presentations of group work on generating business ideas
	12:30-13:30	Lunch
	13:30-15:00	Start-up ecosystem and financing of innovation.
	15:00-15:15	Summary and closing