



**University
of Basel**

Continuing Education

CONTINUING
EDUCATION

Starting
February
2027

From Industry to Entrepreneur

Course in Leadership,
Innovation and Venture
Design in Life Science

Key facts

Course "From Industry to Entrepreneur"

You've built a career in life sciences. You have deep expertise. But how do you turn that into a venture, an advisory practice, or a board role, with confidence?

Course summary	This short course helps you make the transition from industry expert to founder, C-level executive, advisor, or non-executive board member. Many senior professionals have never had to translate their expertise into a concrete venture idea or an investor-ready pitch. This intensive 3-day course closes that gap by combining personal mindset work, rigorous business case design, and direct access to the Basel life sciences ecosystem.
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Target group	Venture Builder or Venture Enabler To launch your own venture or join/advise a venture.
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Benefits & outcomes	Frameworks tailored to life sciences and mindset first approach Participants walk away with a validated venture hypothesis, a funding strategy, a 30/60/90-day roadmap, access to an exclusive network and invitation-only investor and ecosystem events and obtain a certificate of completion.
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Duration	3 days
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Dates	25th to 27th February 2027
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Application deadline & process	Deadline: Tuesday, December 15, 2026. Minimum admission criteria: minimum of ten years professional experience in the life sciences sector and fluency in English. Process: Please send the following documents: - Curriculum Vitae (max. 2 pages) - Motivation letter (max. 1/2 page) - Brief description of venture idea or envisaged role in a venture (max. 1/4 page) to eleonora.disapia@unibas.ch. All material will be kept strictly confidential and venture ideas will be under NDA. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to a brief intake call and will be notified by mail regarding their admission.
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Costs	CHF 3,500. Early bird price until 15.11.2026 CHF 3,150
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Contact	Eleonora Di Sapia ✉ eleonora.disapia@unibas.ch
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Why this course?

Building a venture requires a specific mindset and a deep understanding of the context

Every year, top corporate talents in the pharma sector walk away with valuable expertise. This course helps translate world-class industry experience into high-impact ventures, scale startups, and provide new opportunities, anchored in the Basel life science ecosystem. Led by a hands-on team, it combines longstanding expertise in innovation and practical experience of top talents from the business world. The course equips participants with what they need to successfully start their venture: a sound funding strategy, a clear roadmap and new, strategic contacts.

Why this course is different

This intensive course is grounded in life science tailored frameworks and a mindset first approach. Participants gain direct immersion in the Basel ecosystem and the sprint is built around the realities of a career transition. Two distinct paths builder and enabler, let participants launch, join, or advise a startup in a tailored way.

What are the outcomes and benefits

Participants leave the course with a detailed roadmap for their venture or role and a curated library of case studies. They also gain privileged access to a select network of investors, experts and alumni, an invitation-only Investor Day, and an entry point into the Innovation Office accelerator and mentoring programme for life sciences and healthcare, all of which they can rely on in their future journey.



What to expect and how to apply?

The course follows a hands-on, application-driven format. Throughout the three days, participants apply each framework directly to their own case, test it with experienced practitioners and refine it progressively.

Two paths

Venture Builders validate and shape an idea they intend to launch or spin out. Venture Enablers identify where their expertise adds most value in an early-stage venture, whether as C-level, advisor or board member.

Core components

Each day combines expert-led sessions drawing on the real-life experience of founders, investors and mentors, hands-on workshops applying each framework to the participant's own situation or venture idea and pitch practice in a high-trust cohort of senior professionals, with direct feedback from experienced investors, founders and industry leaders

**Scan the
QR-Code to apply!**



Schedule

Pre-work	Onboarding with Lead Trainer and self-paced preparatory work
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Day 1	9 am to 8.30 pm - Who you are now Mindset, Ecosystem and Opportunity with an exclusive dinner with founders, mentors and investors
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Day 2	9 am to 5.30 pm - What you could build Dive into designing ventures and developing your role/business model
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Day 3	9 am to 5 pm - What happens next Work on funding ideas, finalize your roadmap and commit to your venture journey
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What lecturers to await?

Former senior executives, founders and investors support participants to build their venture journey

LEAD TRAINER · EXECUTIVE & TEAM COACH, TRANSFORMATION STRATEGIST

Mauricio Campos Suarez

A former global pharmaceutical executive with 20 years of experience across Pfizer, MSD, and Novartis, Mauricio has led international teams through major enterprise transformations and is a serial entrepreneur. Today, he advises senior executives on translating their industry expertise, experience, and networks into high-impact portfolio careers. As co-architect and Lead Trainer of this programme, he bridges deep pharma domain knowledge, innovation management, and executive transition. He is the co-author of *Becoming: The Art of Leadership in Transition* (De Gruyter Brill, 2027).

ROLE MODELS&ECOSYSTEM IMMERSION

LIFE SCIENCE FOUNDERS AND MENTORS

Sharing what it really looks like to build or support life sciences venture in Basel, firsthand, beyond the theory.

VENTURE DESIGN

FORMER PHARMA EXECUTIVE IN THE VENTURE WORLD

Walks the cohort through the transition from corporate business development and regulatory roles into the venture world, grounding the business model session in lived experience.

INVESTOR PERSPECTIVE

LIFE SCIENCE INVESTOR

Brings an investor's lens to the different founder pathways, helping participants pressure test which route best fits their expertise and ambitions. Shares what investors look for in a first time founder.

Meet the team behind the program - supporting the venture journey



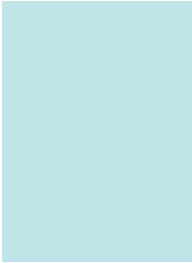
Mauricio Campos Suarez
Lead Trainer
Former Senior Pharma Executive



Anna-Elina Pekonen
Head of Entrepreneurship Education
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Educating Talents

since 1460.

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