

UQ Ventures 2026 TUM Startup AdVenture Pilot Program Overview and Terms & Conditions



About this document and expectations

This document contains important information for applicants and participants of the 2026 TUM Startup AdVenture Pilot Program.

All applicants *and* the selected participants of the Startup AdVenture program are expected to have read and understood the requirements outlined in this document.

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Program Overview

Topic	Description
What are Startup AdVentures?	<p>Startup AdVentures are four-week innovation and entrepreneurship learning experiences with local, regional Queensland and global startup communities.</p> <p>Selected UQ students are allocated to an early-stage startup for the program's duration to gain first-hand experience of what life in a startup is like, learning from experienced entrepreneurs and innovators to build knowledge on founding, investing and growing an early-stage business.</p> <p>Startup AdVentures are designed to test resilience, build confidence, and inspire new perspectives and typically run three times a year during summer and winter semester break.</p>
What is the TUM Startup AdVenture Pilot Program & how is it different to other Startup AdVentures?	<p>The TUM Startup AdVenture Pilot Program is designed exclusively for <i>student founders</i> who want to grow <i>their own startup</i>, expand their global network, and build founder capabilities within one of Europe's leading startup ecosystems.</p> <p>To date the Startup AdVenture program has enabled selected UQ students to gain first-hand experience of what life in a startup is like through a four-week placement in an early-stage startup in a global setting.</p> <p>The key differences with the TUM Startup AdVenture Pilot Program are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participating students <u>must</u> be student founders, actively building a startup that has demonstrated traction. • The focus of the TUM Pilot program is to accelerate the development of the student's own startup (as opposed to completing a placement in someone else's startup). <p>Refer to the Eligibility Criteria section for details.</p>
About TUM Entrepreneurship	<p>The Technical University of Munich (TUM) is one of the most successful start-up universities in Europe. Together with its associated institute UnternehmerTUM GmbH, TUM offers a wide range of start-up consulting, research and qualification services as well as a strong network for founders.</p> <p>TUM researchers and alumni have founded 21 Unicorns, with 110 companies founded in 2024 alone.</p>
What to expect: Program structure > Type of activities > Accountability & progress tracking	<p>Please note this program is a pilot. The below is a sample of what to expect during the program and may be subject to change at short notice.</p> <p>Program structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 1 Entrepreneurial Mindset in a European Context • Week 2 Thinking beyond country borders • Week 3 Developing global networks • Week 4 Developing sustainable scale-up strategies <p>Type of activities</p>

- [TUM Entrepreneurship Day](#)
- Attending TUM Venture Lab specific events.
- Consultations with Venture Consultants
- Office Space at TUM Incubator
- Where appropriate, activities with UnternehmerTUM.
- Company Visits

Accountability and progress tracking

- Weekly standups
- Weekly accountability calls
- Progress tracking

Outcomes of participation

Outcomes will vary for each participating student founder and their startup, depending on the stage of their venture, market context, and the founder's experience level at the commencement of the program.

Outcomes may include:

- Validate international customer demand (e.g. customer discovery, testing markets outside of Australia, etc.).
- Gain early traction in an international market (e.g. pilots, user growth, partnerships, initial revenue, etc.).
- Establish and develop global professional network (e.g. meaningful connections with founders, investors, mentors, industry stakeholders, etc.).
- Evolve the startup's product and market positioning (e.g. refinement of value proposition, alignment with international market expectations, etc.).
- Demonstrate measurable growth in founder capability (e.g. increased confidence, improved ability to sell and communicate, gain a deeper understanding of global markets and competition).
- Progress towards investment readiness (e.g. engaging with potential investors, achieving milestones that strengthen your startup's funding potential).

Participants will be expected to demonstrate tangible progress throughout the program.

Inclusions, exclusions, and costs

Inclusions:

- Return flights to/from Munich (departing from Brisbane)
- Accommodation for the duration of the program (may be on a share basis with other [gender matched] students)
- \$600 stipend payment to contribute to living expenses in destination
- Program activities (refer to Program activities section above)

- UQ Travel Insurance
- UQ Ventures t-shirt

Exclusions:

- Meals, food, and drinks
- Transportation costs (in-country transport costs as well as transportation to/from Brisbane airport)
- Other costs associated with international travel (e.g., passports, vaccinations, etc.)
- Optional events and/or activities entry costs
- Personal expenses

Costs:

- \$129 non-refundable administration fee - applicable only to successful students accepting an offer from UQ Ventures to participate in a Startup AdVenture.

Participant obligations

Students *participating* in a Startup AdVenture are expected to:

- **Meet international travel requirements:** Ensure compliance with all international travel and immigration/entry requirements for Germany, as well as meet health and wellbeing requirements associated with travel.
- **Complete all pre-departure preparations:** Attend all mandatory pre-departure events and activities and complete pre-departure/onboarding tasks.
- **Participate in organised events:** Attend all mandatory in-country events and activities as detailed in the program schedule.
- **Commit to the full program duration:** Complete the program in its entirety. Failure to do so may result in the student needing to pay a proportional reimbursement of fees incurred by UQ Ventures.
- **Travel with the group:** Fly to *and* from Munich on flights organised by UQ Ventures. Participants who do not use the organised flights, including the return sector only, may be liable to reimburse UQ Ventures.
- **Refrain from travelling outside of Germany:** Exceptions *may* apply for UQ approved activities as part of the program schedule. UQ Ventures will inform you of such UQ approved activities taking place outside of Germany.
- **Collaborate with UQ Ventures, TUM, UnternehmerTUM and other program contributors:** Remain coachable and engage with resources available to you.
- **Commit to full-time, in-person participation to develop your startup:** As advised by UQ Ventures and TUM. This includes attending weekly standups, weekly accountability meetings and completing progress reports.
- **Document and share experiences:** Share their experience of the program through LinkedIn post(s), blogs, vlogs, or other.
- **Provide program feedback:** Submit feedback on their experience to UQ

Ventures at the conclusion of the program. Instructions will be provided during the program.

- **Pay it Forward:** Where possible, support future Startup AdVenture – student founder participants by contributing in ways that suit you—such as sharing your most valuable tips or resources for the destination, or speaking about your experience at a Startup AdVenture information session.

If there is any reason, known or anticipated, that could impact their ability to fulfil any of the Startup AdVenture Participant Obligations, students must make full disclosure in the Startup AdVenture application form, and for students invited to join a Startup AdVenture program, in their Letter of Offer. Failure to disclose may impact a student's participation in the program or eligibility for future opportunities.

Withdrawal and Non-Completion

Students who withdraw after accepting their placement or fail to complete the full Startup AdVenture program may be required to reimburse UQ Ventures for costs or losses incurred by UQ Ventures as a consequence of the student withdrawing from their placement or failing to complete the Startup AdVenture program in its entirety (up to a maximum \$9,000). Such costs may include expenses associated with the cancellation and non-use of flights, accommodation, and other non-refundable program expenses.

Note: the \$129 program administration fee, payable upon accepting a placement in the Startup AdVenture program, is non-refundable.

Key dates and time commitment

Program dates: Approximately Sun 21 June – Sat 18 July 2026

Interviews

Successful applicants from the application stage will be invited to a 20-minute, in-person interview with a small selection panel. Interview will take place on Wed 15 and Thu 16 April between 10am-4pm.

Mandatory pre-departure events

In addition to the 4-weeks overseas, participants are required to attend mandatory pre-departure events including:

- Meet your peers and onboarding session – Mon 11 May 12.30pm-2pm (in-person event)
- Pre-departure session – Wed 27 May 1pm-3.30pm (in-person event)
- UQ Travel Insurance briefing – Thu 28 May 10am-11am (Zoom)

Eligibility and applying for the TUM Startup AdVenture Pilot Program

Topic	Description
Eligibility & Who can apply	<p>The TUM Startup AdVenture Pilot Program is open to current UQ students who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student founders – must be actively building a startup (refer to the Eligibility Criteria section)• 18+ years of age• Be available for and ready to commit to the full length of the program and attend the pre-departure events• Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 4.0 (preferred)• Not graduating before December 2026 (must be enrolled at UQ for semester 2, 2026)• Not a citizen or resident of Germany• Eligible for visa-free entry to Germany for short stays• Committed to developing their startup• Coachable and willing to develop their entrepreneurial skills and knowledge <div data-bbox="427 1093 1449 1265" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"><p>Note about previous participation in a Startup AdVenture</p><p>Due to the nature of this pilot program students who have already participated in a Startup AdVenture <u>are welcome to apply</u> for the 2026 TUM Startup AdVenture Pilot Program.</p></div>
	<p>Startup eligibility criteria</p> <p>In addition to the above, student founder’s startups must meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have a clear and concise problem and solution statement.• Have some evidence of traction, such as revenue, paying customers, active users, beta users or validated business model.• Have a minimum viable product (MVP) with evidence of active development, testing, piloting or early-stage commercialisation.• Have a well-considered action plan for future growth and development, including clear and measurable milestones.• Can clearly define how participation in the program will support the founder(s) and startup growth. <p>This program is not available to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students who are not actively building a startup as a founder.• Students who require a visa (including Schengen or other visas) to enter

Germany.

- UQ staff members employed on a full-time basis (excluding PhD and HDR candidates).

How to apply

Complete the 2026 TUM Startup AdVenture Pilot Program application form.

Successful applicants will be invited to an in-person interview on Wed 15 or Thu 16 April between 10am-4pm at St Lucia campus.

Program offers and onboarding activities will commence week commencing 27 April.

Before you apply

Ensure the following steps have been completed:

- **Eligibility verification:** Confirmed eligibility to apply for and participate in the 2026 TUM Startup AdVenture Pilot Program.
- **Document review:** Thoroughly read and understood this document, including the program's requirements, expectations, and participant obligations.
- **Application preparation:**
 - Provided clear, concise, honest, and meaningful answers that reflects your reasons and goals for joining this program.

Funding

Successful applicants will have the cost of their participation in the program covered by a UQ Grant.

Students who are successful in being invited to join the program do not need to do anything in relation to the funding – UQ Ventures will take care of arrangements for your participation.

Contact details

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