Entrepreneurial students: focus on the “Student Entrepreneurs Club”

by Giuseppina Genduso & the Student Entrepreneurs Club

What is the “Student Entrepreneurs Club”? 

The “Student Entrepreneurs Club” is a club that was created by students for other students to foster entrepreneurship.

We are a team of 12 Bachelor and Master students, mostly from the Solvay Brussels School - ULB.

Our common passion is entrepreneurship. We try to reach out to as many other students as possible and try to convince them to share our passion.

As a source of inspiration, we invite entrepreneurs who can give students useful advice. We also organize workshops and try to encourage students to spend a full day with an entrepreneur, so they can learn how to get their activity going.

We also offer internships or meetings with start-ups through our new product “Start Up World” which will be launched in November.

Ready to make a dream come true? Or realize a concrete project? Or launch your business? It is a big step, of course, but we can face it together.

When entrepreneurship remains a dream, sometimes it is because people don’t find the right idea, but more often because of a lack of courage and know-how. This is where we can guide you, and it will be a great adventure!

We try to be interesting also for students from other faculties and not only for Solvay Students.

To sum up, we have 3 different activities:

Events (conferences; apero-talks; the occasion to exchange with an entrepreneur while having a drink; and workshops training for students), Start Up World (brand new) and Entrepreneur for a Day.
Focus on “Entrepreneur for a Day”

Entrepreneur for a Day has the mission to inspire students from all backgrounds to be an entrepreneur.

When spending a day with an entrepreneur, students can:

1. Meet a CEO, hear their story, and be inspired by their vision.
2. Gain an understanding of the difficulties that can arise when setting up their own business, but also realize that it is possible (no magic tricks, just hard work and a good team to rely on). They can ask all the questions they want, and the entrepreneur will have solid advice.
3. Start setting up their own network
4. They might even get an internship if they show they are really motivated and if they have an interesting profile.

A BA3 is necessary if you want to sign up, so the meeting is interesting for both sides. Before, students might not have enough experience and might not be able to ask the right questions.

If you are a student and are interested in “Entrepreneur for a Day” fell free to contact us!

Sébastien DELETAILLE – Former CEO and Founder of RIAKTR
Edouard DE SCHAETZEN - Master student in Management at the KUL

Joost VERDIESEN - CEO of UBER BE
Aiham SHAIB - Master student in Management at SBS-EM
Feedback of students who participated in “Entrepreneur for a Day”

The Student Entrepreneurs Club interviewed the former participants in "Entrepreneur for a Day":

**Gwenny NURTANTIO** - Master student in Management at Solvay VUB who spent a day with Thibaut VANDERHOFSTADT – CEO and Founder of Sortlist

**Jeffrey DELRONGE** - Master student in Management at SBS-EM who spent a day with Wietse VAN RANSBEECK – CEO and Founder of CITIZENLAB

**Edouard DE SCHAETZEN** - Master student in Management at the KUL who spent a day with Sébastien DELETAILLE, Former CEO and Founder of RIAKTR

**Aiham SHOAIB** - Master student in Management at SBS-EM who spent a day with Joost VERDIESEN, CEO of Uber Belgium

**How was your contact with the entrepreneur?**

“Thibaut VANDERHOFSTADT really did his best to make this day interesting. He took lots of time to explain his daily work. I was following him non-stop, even when he was writing mails. I felt 100% committed!” - **Gwenny NURTANTIO**

“He was amazing! I was expecting way less than what he offered.” - **Aiham SHOAIB**

“I deeply appreciated Wietse VAN RANSBEECK’s leadership: he was calm, easy-going, but at the same time he could take a position when it was needed and gave directions to his employees.” - **Jeffrey DELRONGE**

“Sébastien DELETAILLE was very inspiring. He selected the perfect day to show me most of his company aspects (EU lobby, sales, partnership, financial budget and board meetings).” - **Edouard DE SCHAETZEN**

**Were you involved during meetings?**

“I attended 3 meetings and 1 call. Before the start of each appointment, Thibaut VANDERHOFSTADT explained the context. My role was rather to observe these moments than to really participate (which was totally ok for me).” - **Gwenny NURTANTIO**

“Yes, Wietse VAN RANSBEECK asked me during 2 meetings if I had questions I’d like to ask. Only when he interviewed an applicant, he didn’t ask me, but I find it normal.” - **Jeffrey DELRONGE**

**What’s your best memory about “Entrepreneur for a Day”?**

“As almost everything happens digitally, it is difficult to talk about a real "activity". I would say that listening to the CEO's long-term vision of Sortlist was captivating. Thibaut VANDERHOFSTADT has a very interesting smart/business-oriented strategy.” - **Gwenny NURTANTIO**

“The marketing meeting and the interview. In the marketing meeting, they showed real KPIs for their company, which I found very insightful. And in the interview, I had the chance to have the interviewer's point of view and thoughts about how good Wietse VAN RANSBEECK was.” - **Jeffrey DELRONGE**

“All the activities were interesting, but if I have to take one, I would say the sales meeting was a very impressive one since it was in the beginning of the day and since I had the privilege to see how Sébastien DELETAILLE was able to sell the product to international clients.” - **Edouard DE SCHAETZEN**
Can you name the most important thing you’ve learned during this experience?

“In start-ups, CEOs have to be operational at very different levels of activities. From daily operations to high-level thinking, you must be able to multi-task. Their major role is to unlock situations, to make sure all employees can work.” - Gwenny NURTANTIO

“You have to be friendly as the CEO of a start-up. You are not just there to work with interesting people, you are doing something WITH them. A start-up’s success is not just due to the efficiency and the number of hours worked, but also thanks to the team spirit.” - Jeffrey DELRONGE

“Teamwork, teamwork, teamwork!” - Aiham SHOAIB

“I learned how a top-level entrepreneur is able to use his time in the most effective way. By doing that he can multi-task and consider important aspects of the business.” - Edouard DE SCHAETZEN

Interview with Sébastien DELETAILE, Former CEO and Founder of RIAKTR

How was your day with Edouard DE SCHAETZEN?

The day was awesome with Edouard. I mean it is always amazing to be inspired by people who want to become an entrepreneur, and it is even better when you can share hopefully good advices with them.

What do you think of “Entrepreneur of a Day”?

The concept is really important. When I was thinking of becoming an entrepreneur it was really important for me to find people who had already done it, who could share their experience and could tell me “these are the does and the don’ts if you do become an entrepreneur.”

What is your advice to young students who want to become an entrepreneur?

Do not worry so much about titles, worry a lot about finding an awesome opportunity where you want to wake up every morning and say, “I am gonna do this better and better”!

The Student Entrepreneurs Club’s Team