

COURSE SYLLABUS

Networks, Contexts and Ecosystems for Entrepreneurship, 5 credits

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Course Code: J2NCAE	Education Cycle: Second-cycle level
Confirmed: Mar 25, 2026	Disciplinary domain: Social sciences
Valid From: Aug 31, 2026	Subject group: Business Administration
	Specialised in: A1N Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
	Main field of study: Business Administration

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

On completion of the course you will be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding

1.2 Critically apply disciplinary knowledge to address complex issues in international contexts, while reflecting on its transferability and limitations across different settings.

Skills and Abilities

2.2 Critically analyse complex issues using theories and data and justifying solutions with rigorous, evidence-based reasoning.

3.2 Deliver compelling oral presentations relating to complex problems and critically discuss and defend their findings in academic and professional settings.

Judgement and Approach

4.2 Critically analyse how selected societal trends influence business practices and/or policy, and account for their ethical and sustainability implications.

Content

Entrepreneurship and innovation rarely happen in a vacuum. Instead, entrepreneurs leverage networks of stakeholders, resources, and institutions—collectively known as entrepreneurial ecosystems. These ecosystems not only support the development of innovative and sustainable ventures but also drive regional economic growth, create employment opportunities, and accelerate technological advancement and the green transition. Since such ecosystems increasingly offer support for funding, talent, knowledge, and market access, understanding how these networks function and evolve has become critical for anyone working to foster innovation and entrepreneurial activity.

Context defines the environment and conditions in which actors (e.g., entrepreneurs, organisations) operate and form relationships. Networks connect these actors within their ecosystem context. In this course, you will explore the dynamics and relations of entrepreneurial networks, ecosystems, and contexts. You will investigate the roles different stakeholders—such as entrepreneurs, investors, universities, government bodies, incubators, and accelerators—play in ecosystem development. You will also learn what characterises entrepreneurship across different contexts, including various types, industries, and regions. The course will also address how to develop networking competence, the ability to build and manage relationships to access resources and opportunities.

By completing this course, you will be able to analyse network and ecosystem dynamics in different kinds of contexts and identify opportunities to strengthen them. You will recognise where different stakeholders contribute most effectively and understand where your own skills and interests align with networking and

ecosystem-building roles. This knowledge prepares you for careers in diverse positions related to ecosystem development—from working with incubators and accelerators to roles in government agencies, universities, or organisations dedicated to fostering entrepreneurial growth and creating positive societal impact.

Connection to Research

In addition to more general theories of entrepreneurship and context, this course draws on the insights from specific research projects that JIBS has (had) in connection to its research profile “Entrepreneurship in Context.”

Connection to Practice

The course exposes you to multiple ecosystem actors and challenges you to identify actionable recommendations for how to improve the support for entrepreneurs in the region.

Connection to Ethics, Responsibility, Sustainability (ERS)

Contextualising entrepreneurship will broaden your perspective and expose you to a range of positive and negative impacts that can arise from engaging in different forms of entrepreneurship. Since ecosystem actors can channel attention and investment into some forms of entrepreneurship at the expense of others, it is necessary to become aware of how they directly and indirectly shape the impact of entrepreneurial activities.

Type of Instruction

The course is taught on campus, through lectures and seminars. There might be off-campus visits to ecosystem actors, requiring some local or regional travelling. The course includes individual and group work.

Attendance is expected for scheduled on-campus sessions and may be compulsory for some sessions.

Language of instruction is English.

Entry Requirements

The applicant must hold the minimum of a Bachelor's degree (i.e the equivalent of 180 ECTS credits at an accredited university) with at least 15 ECTS in business administration. Proof of English proficiency is required.

Examination and Grades

The course is graded A, B, C, D, E, FX or F.

ILOs are assessed via the following examination:

Individual written exam (ILOs: 1.2, 2.2, 4.2), representing 3 credits.

Group assignment (ILOs: 1.2, 3.2, 4.2), representing 2 credits.

Registration of examination:

Name of the Test	Value	Grading
Individual written exam	3 credits	A/B/C/D/E/FX/F
Group assignment	2 credits	A/B/C/D/E/FX/F

Course Evaluation

The course evaluation is important for the continuous improvement of JIBS' courses and degree programmes. The examiner is responsible for ensuring that each course is evaluated, but as a student you are essential in this process. We rely on your input to understand how we can improve. At the outset of a course the student representatives are identified. In the middle of the course there should be an opportunity for the student representatives (or a larger group of students) to share reflections on how the course is progressing. At the end of the course, you will get a course evaluation survey to fill in. The

examiner will then host a debrief meeting with the student representatives to discuss improvement opportunities, based on the course evaluation data and comments.

Other Information

As a JIBS student, you are expected to maintain strong academic integrity. You must act within the boundaries of academic rules and expectations relating to all types of teaching and examination.

Copying someone else's work is a particularly serious offence and can lead to disciplinary action. When you use someone else's work without proper citation or transparency about where it came from, you are committing plagiarism. Cutting and pasting without clearly acknowledging the original source is a textbook example of plagiarism.

You must also act responsibly when using Generative AI tools. Acting responsibly includes staying informed about the school's AI-policy, understanding what rules apply in each course, and properly declaring or disclaiming any use of generative AI. You are accountable for all content you submit, including AI-assisted material. Using AI without disclosure or beyond what is allowed in a course is a violation of academic integrity and will be subject to the same academic consequences as other forms of misconduct, which may include failing the assignment, failing the course, or further disciplinary action according to school policy.

The Jönköping University library offers online and in-person support for assisting you in identifying relevant sources, using and referencing literature, and creating texts that meet academic standards and integrity.

Other forms of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) adding your name to a project you did not contribute to (or allowing someone to add their name), cheating during an examination, helping other students to cheat or submitting other students' work as your own, and using non-allowed electronic equipment during an examination. All such actions may result in disciplinary measures.

Course Literature

Please note that the course literature may be revised up to eight weeks before the start of the course.

A reading list of articles and case studies will be made available at the start of the course. Each lecture refers to academic articles and particular cases.