

## **A new entrepreneurship program is matching the Portuguese tech-ecosystem with global University talent**

**The Startup Scholarship is a business venture education program, that developed a people-acceleration program through a startup summer internship, a founder's summer school and an immersion in Lisbon's tech community.**

**The Startup Scholarship is a new initiative started by young Portuguese entrepreneurs looking for world-class engineering and business students to come to Lisbon, Portugal, and participate in a summer professional and educational experience. 15 rising Portuguese early stage companies are providing 26 summer internships, as well as a full-time mentoring process to build the next-generation of student entrepreneurs. The top 3 engineering and business universities in Portugal offer a customized summer classes program to build the skills of these students, and the leading entrepreneurship organizations designed hands-on workshops and community events to develop hard, soft and networking skills.**

The program received more than 500 applications from 47 countries in all 5 continents. The recruiting team worked closely with the startups to select the top 26 candidates from fields like software engineering, business and finance. The selected scholars come from countries like Brasil, Egypt, Morrocco and Germany and will immerse in Lisbon during the 9 weeks of the program.” *I think these two months will show me exactly how billion-dollar startups work, what challenges do they face, and how can they overcome them, so I can replicate the model in my startup here in Egypt”* says Islam Mustafa, egyptian student and future Scholar 2013.

*“We are trying to build “Y-Combinator for summer internships”. We seek to match high-potential students with the merging startups in Portugal and accelerate the potential of both the companies and participants”* says André Albuquerque, CEO and founder of The Startup Scholarship. The Social Entrepreneurship Institute and Startup Lisboa partnered with the initiative to provide all necessary resources for the first edition, and the Lisbon City Council has offered the public support to make the initiative a future standard of internationalization, both for companies and University graduates.

Scholars will be joining startups working to disrupt high-end technologies, industrial manufacturing, and consumer applications like Uniplaces, Zaask, Emove and ProdSmart. At the same time, they will participate in a summer classes program in Católica Lisbon SBE and Nova SBE, two of the best Business schools in Europe and IST, one of the best engineering Universities in the world.

*“The volume of applications for the first edition demonstrates the willingness of students around the world to “start-up”, and they recognize Europe and Lisbon as a place to gain knowledge and experience. We believe that building entrepreneurial skills should be done by crossing academic and professional exposure and we want to disrupt the summer of talented undergraduates and graduate students around the world”* adds André Albuquerque.

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