

Research Fellow Position in Entrepreneurial Team Formation University of Bologna

The University of Bologna invites applications for a Research Fellow position in the area of entrepreneurial team formation and dynamics. The Research Fellow will conduct independent and collaborative research aligned with the research agenda of the hosting chair, with the objective of producing publications in top-tier entrepreneurship and management journals.

Project Summary

This project aims to examine how founding teams emerge, interact, and influence the performance of nascent entrepreneurial ventures. Although entrepreneurial teams play a central role in venture creation, there is still a limited understanding of how co-founders are selected and how early team dynamics translate into different performance trajectories.

The study draws on a unique dataset of more than 250 entrepreneurial teams that participated in a long-standing business plan competition in Rimini, a major focal point of the regional entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The project is guided by the following overarching research question: How do early co-founder selection processes shape team interaction patterns and, in turn, influence the performance of nascent entrepreneurial ventures?

Addressing this question enables us to quantify how foundational team decisions affect subsequent venture outcomes. The study will be conducted through a quantitative analysis using questionnaire data covering key aspects of team formation, interaction processes, and early venture performance. To strengthen and enrich the quantitative findings, additional qualitative insights will be collected through interviews with selected participants.

Plan of Activities and Tasks of the Fellow

The Research Fellow is expected to have a substantial and active involvement in all phases of the study. From a data perspective, the Fellow will be responsible for cleaning, structuring, and managing the quantitative dataset, followed by statistical analysis and modeling. Beyond data analysis, the Fellow will contribute to theoretical development and manuscript preparation, working closely with the research team to ensure the completion of a high-quality academic paper.

In addition, the Fellow is expected to collect qualitative data through interviews with entrepreneurs in order to complement the quantitative evidence, enhance the richness of the findings, and provide deeper insights into team interaction processes. These qualitative materials will be systematically analyzed using computer-aided qualitative data analysis software (e.g., NVivo).

The Fellow will also contribute to the development of a practitioner-oriented report outlining the practical implications of the study for entrepreneurs and business plan competition organizers in the region.

More specifically, the Fellow's tasks include:

- Cleaning, structuring, and managing the quantitative dataset
- Conducting statistical analyses and econometric modeling
- Contributing to theory development and manuscript writing

- Collecting and analyzing qualitative interview data
- Managing the final quantitative and qualitative databases
- Using software such as NVivo for qualitative analysis
- Preparing a report on practical and policy implications

Candidate Profile

The selected candidate should have the following characteristics:

- Background in entrepreneurship or the broader management field
- Excellent knowledge of computer-aided tools for quantitative and qualitative analysis
- Strong ambition to publish in highly ranked academic journals (ABS 4 / 4*) [required]
- Excellent command of English (C1 level or above according to the CEFR scale) [required]
- Good knowledge of programming and data scraping techniques [desirable]
- Familiarity with the literature relevant to the project [required]