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Munich's Strasczeg Center for Entrepreneurship among the top 10% of Europe's best start-up hubs

SCE and Hochschule München University of Applied Sciences rank 12th in the renowned Financial Times ranking

The Strasczeg Center for Entrepreneurship (SCE), the Entrepreneurship Center of Hochschule München University of Applied Sciences (HM), is one of the leading start-up hubs in Europe. In the current ranking "Europe's Leading Start-up Hubs 2025" by the Financial Times, the SCE secured an outstanding 12th place among the 150 best start-up hubs in Europe. In Germany, the SCE is ranked fifth, making it one of the top players in Germany.

The ranking, which was compiled by the Financial Times in collaboration with the renowned market research company Statista and the start-up portal Sifted, is based on extensive alumni evaluations, expert recommendations and the track record of funded start-ups. More than 4,300 founders from all over Europe took part in the evaluation.

Unique model: university-based start-up support with a holistic approach

Together with HM, the SCE offers both an entrepreneurial structure and a holistic combination of university education and practical start-up support. This builds bridges for the path from student to entrepreneur and for collaborations between start-up teams and companies that are interested in them.

The SCE's diverse thematic focus is reflected in the targeted promotion of start-up teams from different sectors. Examples include the start-ups Omegga and Dcubed, which were founded within the SCE. Omegga is developing a non-invasive technology for the early sexing of chicken embryos, thus helping to save millions of male chicks from being killed. Dcubed accelerates space travel with innovative, durable and cost-effective space components based on patented shape memory technology and origami structures.

The SCE pursues an approach that can be described as democratic, systemic and responsible. This means that as many talents as possible with different models are included in the promotion - mass for excellence, so to speak - that these talents should both internalize systemic approaches and take them into account when founding their companies, and that they should self-critically question the consequences of their actions and take responsibility for building a society worth living in.

"This placement shows that our model of an academically anchored incubator based on holistic values is forward-looking," explains Prof. Dr. Klaus Sailer, Managing Director of the SCE. "For example, we are very happy to support high-tech start-ups with rapidly scalable business models, but also start-ups whose main focus is on creating added value for society. When these characteristics come together, it's an ideal case."

Strong network: cooperation with leading start-up hubs

As a driver of innovation, the SCE actively cooperates with other leading start-up hubs and is an integral part of the strong Munich ecosystem, which performs excellently in the current ranking with top placements from UnternehmerTUM and Start2 Group. The cooperation with other ecosystems, such as the Berlin universities, whose joint initiative Science&Startups; is ranked among the top 20, also underlines the important role of cooperation between the players, such as in the jointly created institution of the Munich Innovation Ecosystem or the Germany-wide AI Nation program, in order to position Munich and Germany as important contributors to the entrepreneurship landscape in Europe.

The SCE also works closely with around 35 universities and 20 incubators internationally via the "Start for Future" alliance. This opens up Europe-wide cooperation opportunities for Munich start-ups.

"Innovation arises from the interaction of strong networks," emphasizes Prof. Dr. Thomas Stumpp, Vice President for Business at HM. "Our students and founders benefit enormously from this dynamic and have the opportunity to network not only in Munich, but throughout Europe."

Future model for universities: Start-up culture and social anchoring

By including HM, the SCE is pursuing a model for the future that sees universities as active drivers of innovation and social change. We believe that universities that are open to the establishment of entrepreneurial structures play a central role in the development of innovative and sustainable solutions in society.

We are convinced that we can very well inspire students for entrepreneurship and encourage them to become responsible players in the innovation ecosystem by teaching them practical, entrepreneurial skills. Combined with holistic support for start-ups, we can boost their overall innovative strength and likelihood of success as well as their contribution to social transformation and sustainable value creation.

SCE and HM are actively shaping the European start-up landscape

The top position in the "Europe's Leading Start-up Hubs 2025" ranking confirms the success of the SCE and its holistic approach to innovation. "Our vision is to help shape the start-up ecosystem in Europe in the long term," says Prof. Dr. Klaus Sailer. "The close integration of science, practice and society is the key to an innovative future." We look forward to entering into new collaborations with start-up hubs in Europe's growing start-up scene and working together to further stimulate the innovation landscape.

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SCE and HM acknowledged for the quality of their entrepreneurial training
Foto: SCE