



The International
Danish
Entrepreneurship
Academy

KAUFFMAN
The Foundation of Entrepreneurship

Top Young Minds from Denmark to Experience American Innovation

The IDEA-Kauffman Entrepreneurship Fellowship 2007-2008

Press release

The International Danish Entrepreneurship Academy (IDEA) inaugurates a partnership with the world's largest entrepreneurship foundation, US-based Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, and grants Fellowships to two Danish PhD students who will be going to the USA to develop their business ideas in some of the world's most entrepreneurial environments.

PhD students Rasmus Solmer Eriksen from the Danish Technical University and Sune Johansen from the IT University of Copenhagen will be the first two Danish Fellows to participate in the IDEA-Kauffman Entrepreneurship Fellowship (IKEF) programme. IDEA selected the Fellows, who have excelled in engineering, science or technology based on their keen interests in starting and growing a business relevant to their area of study. The IKEF will give the Fellows a better understanding of how they can use their ideas, technical skills and knowledge to create new, innovative, high-impact start-up companies in Denmark, as well as generate more entrepreneurial activity in Denmark and create opportunities for collaboration between Denmark and the USA.

The Fellows will initially spend time in the UK participating in three 2-day development sessions and a series of entrepreneurship master classes. The purpose of the UK visit is to prepare for the six-month training program in the United States. While in the US, the Fellows will initially study in Kansas City,

Mo., where they will work with leading thinkers, policy leaders, researchers and business founders to enhance their understanding of the American entrepreneurial culture through observation and interaction with those who have successfully advanced their own ideas and those who study and promote entrepreneurship. The Fellows are to travel to Silicon Valley and Boston, Mass., where they will be hosted by technology and enterprise centers at top universities. During these one-week visits, the Fellows will meet faculty,

students and those engaged in high-impact businesses that represent the most innovative work being done in both regions. The Fellows also will have an opportunity to experience the day-to-day operations of an innovative firm through a three-month internship. During this phase, the Fellows will further develop their skills and learn how to turn their expertise in the direction of entrepreneurship and business creation.

Quotations

"As these top university minds take the next step in their entrepreneurial journey, we are excited to immerse them in our innovative culture. This opportunity will provide the students with invaluable experiences as they prepare for their future as entrepreneurial leaders," says Carl J. Schramm, Kauffman Foundation president and CEO.

"The IKEF is an unprecedented offer directed at the most qualified Danish student entrepreneurs who seek international training and global networks. Participation in the IKEF will increase their chances of success with a global and high-tech start-up substantially. At IDEA we are proud that this partnership agreement was reached," says Torben Bager, IDEA director.



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Background on the IDEA-Kauffman Entrepreneurship Fellowship (IKEF)

In 2006, the British National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship (NCGE) and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation joined with the UK government to develop the NCGE-Kauffman Entrepreneurship Fellowship.

The NCGE-Kauffman Entrepreneurship Fellowship was initiated at the request of Gordon Brown, the United Kingdom's Chancellor of the Exchequer and future British Prime Minister, and it became a reality thanks to the joint efforts of Gordon Brown and Kauffman president Carl Schramm.

In 2007, the International Danish Entrepreneurship Academy joined the programme to develop the IDEA-Kauffman Entrepreneurship Fellowship (IKEF).

Schedule

June 18, 2007:

Presentation of the Danish Fellows at Tivoli ceremony

July 1, 2007:

The IKEF officially begins

July 11-12, 2007:

Mandatory induction session in London

Fall, 2007:

Preparatory courses in the UK

January 22, 2008:

Beginning of the US programme at the Kauffman Foundation in Kansas City

March 1, 2008:

The Fellows visit the Silicon Valley and Boston area

June 6, 2008:

The IKEF 2007-2008 programme concludes

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