Faculty of Impact



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From science to impact via entrepreneurship

7 oktober 2026, Radboud Universiteit
Frans Nauta

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ABOUT US

Quick Facts

FOI is a fully payed two year fellowship with a coaching and training program

(Y)our mission: turning research into impact via entrepreneurship

- Start: 2022
- 4 cohorts so far: 52 fellows · cohort 5 starts March 2027
- Two cohorts finished program so far: 24 fellows
- Every January new call opens, financing till 2032



Founding partners

Universiteiten van Nederland

NWO

techleap.nl

Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en Wetenschap

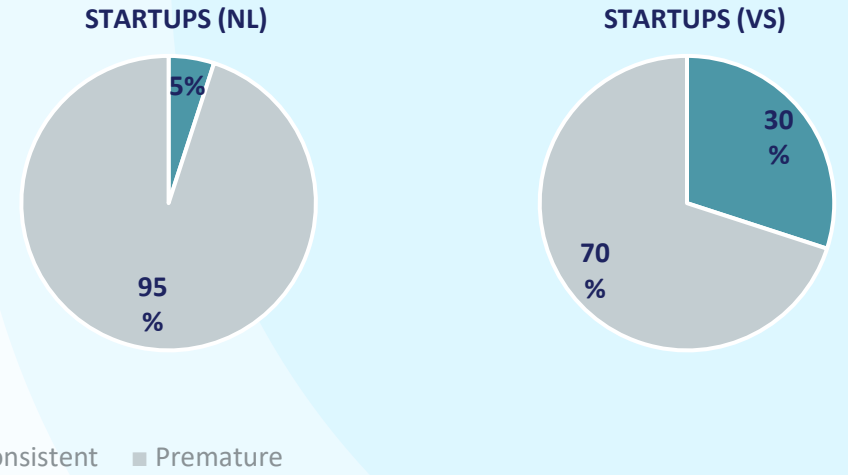
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THE CHALLENGE

Strong science is not enough

- NL has strong research and technology, but entrepreneurship is a different discipline from researching
- Finding the first real customer and product market fit is hard without guidance and takes a long time
- Premature scaling strongly correlates with startups failure
- Lots of promising research never reaches society

95% OF DUTCH STARTUPS SCALE PREMATURLY (GRITD)



PREMATURE SCALING IS THE MAIN REASON WHY 90% OF ALL STARTUPS FAIL

Marmer, M, et al., (2011). Startup Genome Report Extra: Premature Scaling

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OUR MISSION

We help scientists become entrepreneurs

Who we support

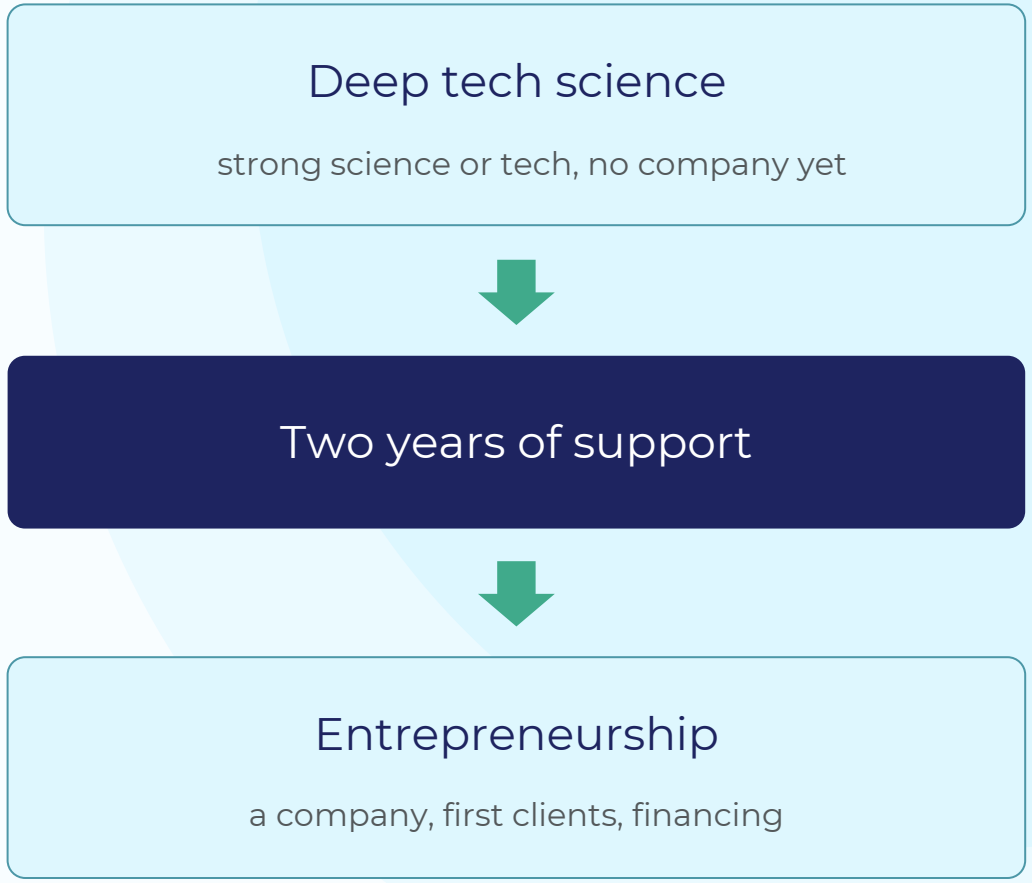
Researchers with strong science or deep tech without entrepreneurial experience

What we offer

Two year NWO grant with a two year support program. No equity.

Why it works

Hands on program, coaching and expert trainers following a step by step approach



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APPROACH

What the two year program entails

One on one coaching

- personal coach
- 1-on-1 sessions
- monthly check-ins
- Goal based progress

+

Entrepreneurship training

- Market validation
- Product development
- Financing
- Team
- Legal

+

Ecosystem & network

- seasoned entrepreneurs
- investors
- peers
- alumni

=

Impactful entrepreneurship

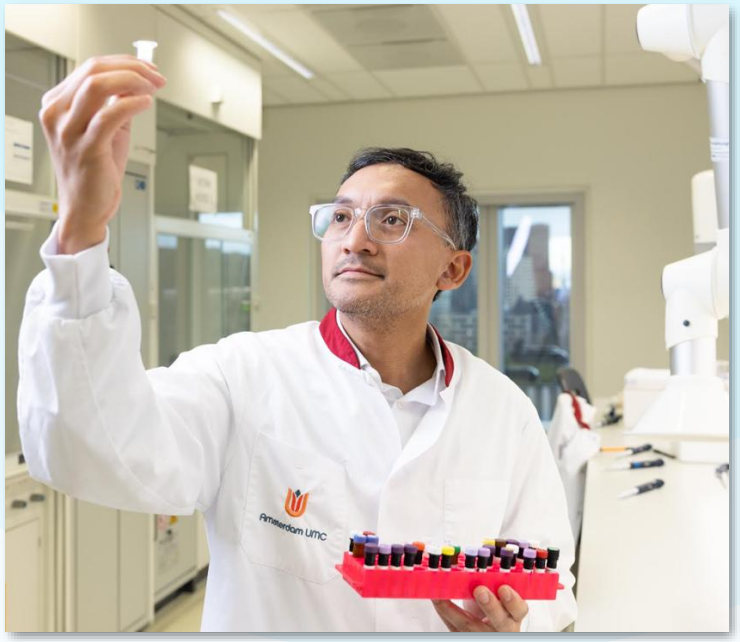
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OUR TARGET GROUP

Who can join

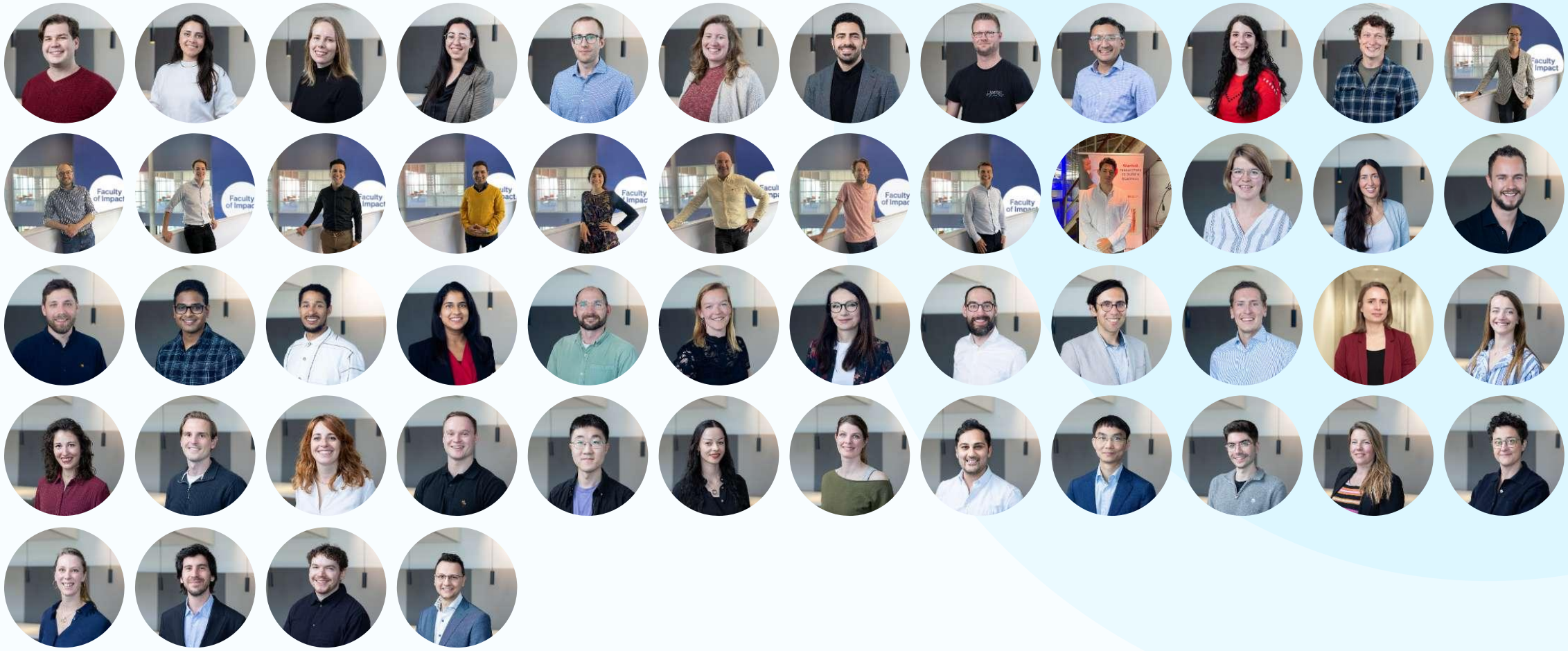
For researchers at any Dutch research institute, including Universities of Applied Sciences and University Medical Centers with:

- Strong technology or idea based on your research
- That creates (big) positive societal impact
- At least 4 years of research experience
- Who are entrepreneurial
- Organization willing to co-fund grant (20% co-funding)
- Willing & able to commit full time for two years



OUR COMMUNITY

52 fellows, One community



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ECOSYSTEM

Participating institutes

TU Eindhoven
11 fellows

Universiteit van Amsterdam
8 fellows

TU Delft
6 fellows

Utrecht University
5 fellows

VU Amsterdam
5 fellows

UMC Utrecht
3 fellows

Leiden University
2 fellows

Maastricht University
2 fellows

Radboudumc
2 fellows

Wageningen University & Research
2 fellows

AMOLF
1 fellow

Amsterdam UMC
1 fellow

Leiden University Medical Center
1 fellow

Prinses Máxima Centrum
1 fellow

University of Groningen
1 fellow

University of Twente
1 fellow

RESULTS

Our impact by Q3 2026

50

Fellows finished program

26

Companies founded

€92,2M

Funding raised

€56,7M dilutive · €35,6M non-dilutive

26

Fellows validated their market

11

Companies have paying customers

172,7 fte

Created workplaces

19

IP- / license deals with their institute

7

Companies have a first product

Cumulative for all cohorts, source: Faculty of Impact dashboard

ALUMNI

From fellow to founder



COHORT 1



COHORT 2

24 alumni
21 in company,
1 return to science,
2 other

AT A GLANCE

Mohammad Kojourimanesh
Co-founder & CEO
ATA Mute B.V.

Aytac Yilmaz
Co-founder & CEO
Ore Energy

Stas Verichev
CEO
Vibrotwist

Rose Rezvan Sharifian
CTO
SeaO2

Tijmen Bakker
Founder
Lightcore

Olivier Lugier
CEO
Nano Hybrids

Kiran Vaidhya Venkadesh
Co-founder & CTO
Plain Medical

Yari Foelen
Founder
Useeble

Een greep uit de bedrijven die uit het programma zijn voortgekomen.

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EXPERIENCES

What do our fellows say

"The program helped me to turn the research into a business by giving me focus."



Tijmen Bakker

Founder, Lightcore

"Changing my technical words into simple words, to talk to investors and customers."



Mohammad Kojourimanesh

Co-founder & CEO, ATA Mute B.V.

"The whole package really allowed us to venture into business."



Yari Foelen

Founder, Useeble

"The programme has been pivotal for the transformation from Scientist to Entrepreneur."



Joric Oude Vrielink

CEO, Syntric Medical

"My mindset has shifted from technology development to the business perspective."



Anouk Post

COO, RespiQ

"The feedback from experienced business people, rarely accessible in academic settings, was especially valuable."



Kiran Vaidhya Venkadesh

Co-founder & CTO, Plain Medical

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“I was pleasantly surprised when it became apparent during the Faculty Of Impact startup’s presentations that they all thought really well and hard about their market, their go to market strategy, their business model and growth path.”

Constantijn van Oranje
Special envoy Techleap



Questions?

Reach out:

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www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/faculty-of-impact