Master’s Thesis in Strategic Entrepreneurship

“New venture creation and the sequences of actions”

Topic
Sequences of actions especially in new ventures have gained increasing interest of management scholars (e.g. Ambos & Birkinshaw, 2010; Carter et al., 1996). Understanding the process of how new ventures are created, is important for both theory development and practice. Recently, new methods have been established to study this phenomenon such as optimal matching, temporal QCA, and event structure analysis (Griffin, 1993; Heise, 1997). Following this, the field offers a range of new opportunities for entrepreneurship researchers. For instance, can we observe patterns of sequences? What are the differences? How are various entrepreneurial actions linked to each other? The student should make this topic their own and come up with a research question (after having been accepted to work on this thesis) that is new, interesting, and relevant.

Data to be analyzed
The student will get to use an existing data set consisting of several interviews with exciting start-ups as well as their internal documents. The preferred analytical method is event structure analysis (Heise, 1997), but depending on the exact research question, other qualitative methods can be used too (and even quantitative if applicable).

What we offer
- A topic that is interesting and relevant for both research and practice
- Existing qualitative data (interviews) on start-ups over three years
- Committed supervision and regular interaction
- Guidance on the method and structured thesis process

What we require
Essential
- Very good desk research skills
- Good grasp of qualitative methods, or at least capability to learn fast
- Excellent command of English
- Understanding of our process: http://www.ent.wi.tum.de/fileadmin/w00bcx/www/Writing_your_Thesis_in_Strategic_Entrepreneurship.pdf
- An expected starting date for the thesis as soon as possible
Desirable

- Prior applied experience in data analysis
- Prior applied experience in qualitative research projects
- (Near) fluency in English

Application

If you are interested, please send a full application (short cover letter and CV including an up-to-date transcript) to Petteri Leppänen (petteri.leppaenen@tum.de). Please also contact him for any questions you may have.

Literature