Semester SPRING 2026	MINOR INNOVATION & DESIGN THINKING
Coordinator(s)	Nicolas BRUNO
Coordinator's title / affiliation / lab	Head of Pedagogy, UniCA Entreprendre
Coordinator's email	nicolas.bruno@univ-cotedazur.fr
Format	Classroom
Location	Espace Vernassa, Campus Saint Jean d'Angely
Capacity (nb of DS4H students)	15
Prerequisites	No

Lecturers

- **Emmanuel Lançon**: Consultant and expert in Design Thinking, independent
- **Eric Guerci:** Associate professor, Université Côte d'Azur
- **Olga Pabion**: Operational Director of UniCA Entreprendre

Learning Outcomes

The course "Innovation & Design Thinking" is developed by UniCA Entreprendre, the entrepreneurial centre of Université Côte d'Azur. The objective is to enable students to acquire a mindset geared towards innovation and entrepreneurship and to develop various cross-disciplinary skills such as critical thinking, cross-functional collaboration, uncertainty management and creativity.

Students will learn how to approach innovation challenges typically faced by companies and organizations. In addition, the course offers a first approach to the skills needed to develop an entrepreneurial project.

Each semester the course will focus on a specific topic. For each topic, UniCA Entreprendre proposes 3 targeted workshops. To validate the minor, the student must select 2 workshops from the selection; each workshop lasts from 8 to 10 hours.

Summary

The workshops for this semester

- **Design Thinking**: Design thinking is an approach invented at Stanford University and currently adopted by the most innovative companies worldwide (Air Bnb, IBM, McKinsey, Apple, and many orders). Design thinking takes as its premise the notion that to innovate, designers must connect with people, understand their real needs, and explore the entire context of the project with a constant attitude of inquiry.

- **Ai For Business**: In a world awashed with ai-based solutions, this workshop aims at increasing awareness about opportunities and criticalities related to Artificial Intelligence. Students will receive an introduction to Machine Learning, Big data, and Automatic Natural Language Processing and analyse real business cases in order to understand how to leverage these technologies to build an innovative business opportunity.

- **Entrepreneurship**: Entrepreneurship can be a frightening concept for students. The objective of the workshop will be to de-demonise entrepreneurship and enable the students present to discover the basics of setting up a business and to adopt an entrepreneurial stance.

- **Soft Skills**: Long overlooked by recruiters, soft skills have become 'must-haves' in the workplace and are increasingly valued. In this workshop, we will focus on the most sought-after soft skills and teach you how to develop these competencies!

Schedule

> *Reminder :*
> *Fall semester is from mid-October to mid December. Spring semester is from mid-February to mid-April.*
> *Synchronous session MUST be on Thursday mornings.*
> *In case of asynchronous courses, live tutorial sessions should be settled on evenings.*

Date	Time	Workshop	Lecturer	Location
19/02/2026	9AM - 1PM	**Design Thinking**	Eric Guerci	SJA Espace Vernassa
05/03/2026	9AM - 1PM	**Design Thinking**	Eric Guerci	SJA Espace Vernassa
19/03/2026	9AM - 1PM	**Ai For Business**	Eric Guerci	SJA Espace Vernassa
26/03/2026	9AM - 1PM	**Entrepreneurship**	Olga Pabion	SJA Espace Vernassa
02/04/2026	9AM - 1PM	**Soft Skills**	Emmanuel Lançon	SJA Espace Vernassa
09/04/2026	9AM - 1PM	**Soft Skills**	Emmanuel Lançon	SJA Espace Vernassa
16/04/2026	9AM - 1PM	**Ai For Business**	Eric Guerci	SJA Espace Vernassa
23/04/2026	9AM - 1PM	**Entrepreneurship**	Olga Pabion	SJA Espace Vernassa

Evaluation

To complete this minor, students must attend 3 workshops. The participation of students is required in the integrality of the workshop.
An average of the 3 marks (between 0 and 20, coef. 1) greater than or equal to 10 is required to validate the minor. Please refer to each workshop evaluation modalities in the "Summary" tab.

Bibliography

Please specify here any other relevant information about the minor.