

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK (UCC): The IGNITE Graduate Business Innovation Programme

The IGNITE Graduate Business Innovation Programme is a 12 month business development programme that supports recent 3rd level graduates to develop an innovative product or service idea into a sustainable, scalable business. The programme aims to harness the talent of the almost 30,000 third level students in the South West Region of Ireland to contribute to regional economic development through innovation and enterprise creation. Key goals include building sustainable businesses, creating high value employment and developing the next generation of business owners. Other goals include providing investment opportunities, launching innovative products and services, nurturing entrepreneurial thinking and connecting industry and education.

The Programme has supported almost 80 start-ups and over 80 founders since it launched in 2011. Of these, 47 businesses have gone on to employ almost 150 people. A number of the start-ups have accessed international markets, have raised significant private investment and are on target to create further employment in 2018. Many have gone on to become clients of Enterprise Ireland, the Irish enterprise development agency.

The Programme combines workshops, seminars and guest speakers, the support of mentors and industry contacts with office space and early seed funding. This approach is rare in a global context. The European Commission recognised IGNITE's innovative approach and proven outcomes at the European Enterprise Promotion Awards in 2016.

The programme received a Special Mention Award for Investing in Entrepreneurial Skills at the European Enterprise Promotion Awards 2016, held during the EU SME Assembly in Bratislava in November 2016. Ms Kristin Schreiber, Director for COSME Programme at the European Commission and Chair of the EEPA Jury, recognised IGNITE as a 'comprehensive programme that demonstrates excellent results and involves a really broad range of stakeholders'.

The programme is run by a full-time Director, guided by an Advisory Board comprising representatives from industry, Cork City Council, Cork County Council, the Local Enterprise Offices of Cork City and County and University College Cork.

For more information please visit: <https://www.ucc.ie/en/ignite/>

CORKBIC: The Growth Pathway Programme

The Growth Pathway programme is a unique proven process focused on building the next generation of high performance companies, working on a national basis with SME's, Startups and engaging top Irish business leaders. The three key elements of the Growth Pathway are:

1. The Entrepreneur Experience® - A national 24 hour intensive mentoring event for 24 emerging entrepreneurs & startups with 24 of Ireland's most experienced business leaders, over 250 Alumnae have been created over the last 8 years

2. The Showcase celebrating High Growth Companies (June) – A Showcase event hosted by a Government Minister for startups who have raised investment capital with keynote & panel discussion – 460 past participants over the last 4 years

3. The CorkBIC Venture Academy - A pitching event for investor ready companies - 680 past participants over the last 7 years

Key partners for the Growth Pathway Programme are Cork City Council, Cork County Council & Bank of Ireland.

For more information please visit: www.corkbic.com



CORK CHAMBER: Chamber Republic - A Cork Partnership to help Cork businesses to innovate and grow

Cork Chamber, Cork's leading business organisation and REPUBLIC OF WORK, Cork's city centre innovation hub teamed up in May 2018 allowing members of Cork Chamber access a range of new facilities and benefits as a result of a new partnership between both organisations.

The Partnership builds on Cork Chamber's recently announced initiative, where startups under one year in business are being offered free membership of Cork Chamber in a move to support the growth of new, indigenous businesses across Cork. Cork Chamber seeks to champion, promote and drive a strong vision for Cork as the best place for business together with our 1,200 members.

For more information please visit: www.republicofwork.com

