

Young Entrepreneurs Business Boot Camp Programme



About the Programme: The Business Boot Camp Programme is an innovative programme actively targeting young entrepreneurs and business owners aged 16 – 35 years old to start and grow their businesses.

How the programme is funded: The programme is funded through the European Union's INTERREG IVA Structural Funds Programme. Donegal County Council are working with cross-border partners COMET (Councils of the Metropolitan Area) a partnership of six local authorities located within the Greater Belfast metropolitan area to deliver the programme.

The partnership: The Programme is being run in partnership by Enterprise Northern Ireland, Full Circle Management Solutions and Advantage and is open to all budding or established entrepreneurs aged 16 – 35 based in the following council areas: Belfast, Lisburn, Castlereagh, Newtownabbey, North Down, Carrickfergus and Donegal.

Business Boot Camp is unique on the Island of Ireland as it is the only programme of its type that supports young entrepreneurs through a combination of resources including:

- Group workshops
- One-to-one mentoring
- Enterprise shadowing
- On-line platform and much more.

Both 'START' and 'GROW' elements of the programme were specifically identified as being essential for young entrepreneurs.

Business Boot Camp 'Start'

In the last year 40 young entrepreneurs started a business after taking part in Business Boot Camp. How does Business Boot Camp give you a foot up in business? First of all, it's free and it provides a number of benefits:



- Everything you need to prepare for the initial start-up phase
- Opportunities to discuss your idea with experienced business professionals
- You receive three months start support
- There is Enterprise Shadowing with an established business
- 24-7 Online Support Platform and Business Toolkit
- Unrivalled training in business plan preparation, future planning and marketing strategy to help you prepare for life in business.
- Help with identifying suitable funding and assistance in applying for it
- Vitally, the opportunity to access to start up finance.

Business Boot Camp 'GROW'

Phase 1 - Business Audits/ Plan

Phase 2 - Individual business mentoring

Phase 3 - Skills Development Workshops

Phase 4 - Residential

The participants from three different programmes will come together to network and to undertake a physical and teambuilding challenge activity.

Phase 5 - Buyer Meetings and Best Practice Meetings.

For 'GROW' participants the programme enables them to take a step back and critically analyse their everyday activities assisting them to develop a plan for growth going forward.

There is no doubt that the Business Boot Camp Programme is having a really positive impact on those directly involved in participating in the programme but it's doing more than just that. It's starting to create an energy around the idea of entrepreneurship and its enabling people to take action and make things happen for themselves.

Quotes from Business Boot Camp Graduates:

“It’s good to talk about the different aspects of business. You feel like you can then do something about it instead of hiding from it. It gave me direction and the confidence to take the first steps forward in the right direction. It provided focus for me, a target for me to work on. Just meeting other young people like me trying to start something for themselves has given me great confidence”. Micheal Brennan, MB Fitness, Business Boot Camp ‘START’ Graduate.

“I was so busy working ‘in’ the business that I hadn’t been working ‘on’ the business. The programme has allowed me to take a step back and analyse. It made me think about certain areas of my business” Maria Sweeney, Safe Tech Consulting and Training Ltd, Business Boot Camp ‘GROW’ Graduate.

“The one-to-one baseline assessment opened my eyes to areas of business I hadn’t experienced before. The networking was great – learning what others are doing. The whole process has opened my mind to opportunities for my business that I hadn’t considered before. It has given me confidence in my capabilities. Confidence that I can do it for myself and I have made lots of great contacts”. Caroline Truhtil, Business Boot Camp ‘START’ Graduate.

“I think the programme is a great thing to be involved in. You have access to a lot of information and everyone is very helpful and approachable. The workshop facilitator was great and the one to ones have been excellent. I have really enjoyed the programme and would encourage anyone with a business idea to get involved”. Shelley Leslie, Business Boot Camp ‘START’ Graduate.

You Can Make It Happen!

If you’re aged 16-35 and live in one of the following council areas:

Belfast, Lisburn, Castlereagh, Newtownabbey, North Down, Carrickfergus or Donegal, then you’re eligible for Boot Camp.

If you’re good enough you’ll be drafted onto Boot Camp. You’ll learn through practical activity the most important aspects of Business Start and Business Growth. We’ll help you develop your own entrepreneurial style and a ‘never give up’ winning attitude.

You’ll be supported every step of the way by experienced business professionals and our unique Online Support Platform will give you access to a range of resources, advice and guidance on every aspect of business, 24-7.

And best of all, it is free!

Further Information:

If you are interested in the Young Entrepreneurs Business Boot Camp Programme and would like to find out more, please contact:

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