

# EXPLORING ENTREPRENEURSHIP



north west  
regional college

Derry-Londonderry • Limavady • Strabane



## YES YOU CAN

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# Foreword

As the Entrepreneur in Residence for the NWRC, I am excited to help the College join the dots to the entrepreneurship and startup ecosystem across NI, the ROI and the UK, to fulfil its enterprise goals and objectives and ultimately to help NWRC students to ignite their entrepreneurial spark!

I also look forward to supporting individual students with their business ideas, increasing their entrepreneurship potential as well as helping to create new initiatives to further drive an entrepreneurial and startup culture throughout the College.

You can reach out to me directly via [Alastair.Cameron@nwrc.ac.uk](mailto:Alastair.Cameron@nwrc.ac.uk) to arrange a chat to discuss an entrepreneurship-focused idea that you have, or to explore the potential for a business you have already started.

Below you will find a wide range of resources aimed at helping early stage entrepreneurs and startups. I have highlighted support that is available within NWRC itself, the wider local area and also across the island of Ireland.

Good luck with your business idea!

Best

*Alastair Cameron*

**Entrepreneur in Residence  
(EIR) at NWRC**





# Within NWRC



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## Within NWRC

### Careers Department

The NWRC Careers Academy delivers a range of bespoke programmes and interactive workshops tailored to meet your needs and help you reach your employment potential. This includes workshops and programmes focused on innovation and creativity.



### Foodovation

The Foodovation Centre is located in the Northland Building, Strand Road Campus, Derry-Londonderry. Aimed at providing a one-stop-shop for current and aspiring industry producers across the region, Foodovation is a state of the art research and development centre which offers a sanctuary to develop excellence in food innovation, science and technology. As well as encouraging and nurturing small to medium-sized food businesses, Foodovation provides industry specialists with the technical advice to ensure their route to market is successful and sustainable.





# Within NWRC

## NWRC Business Support Centre

The NWRC Business Support Centre is located in the Northland Building, Strand Road Campus, Derry-Londonderry and supports businesses of all sizes - from fledgling entrepreneurs and micro companies up to long-standing indigenous and multinational businesses, providing them with tailored solutions to meet their needs.



## DIAL Centre

Design Innovation for Assisted Living is an “intelligent” home simulation. It demonstrates technologies and products alongside promoting, collaborating and driving innovation for health & care. DIAL is supporting innovation in areas such as design, engineering & digital technologies.

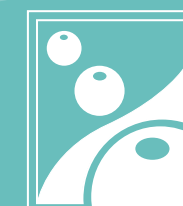
## Product Design Centre

NWRC's Product Design Centre is Northern Ireland's most exciting centre for entrepreneurs and local companies who want to create new products or enhance existing ones. A state-of-the-art facility, equipped with the latest additive and subtractive technology, as well as an electronics laboratory, this resource is everything that innovators need to make product ideas a commercial reality.

Coupled with this is a dedicated College consultancy support function that is focused on helping individuals and businesses succeed. The Product Design Centre is located in the Greystone campus in Limavady.

# NORTH WEST REGION

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# NORTH WEST REGION

Derry-Londonderry, Strabane, Limavady

## Fashion and Textile Hub

The Fashion and Textile Design Centre is a ‘not for profit’ social initiative, set up to support newly graduated designers, established designers and SMEs in the Fashion and Textile industry of Derry ~ Londonderry and the North West of Ireland.

## Derry City and Strabane District Council

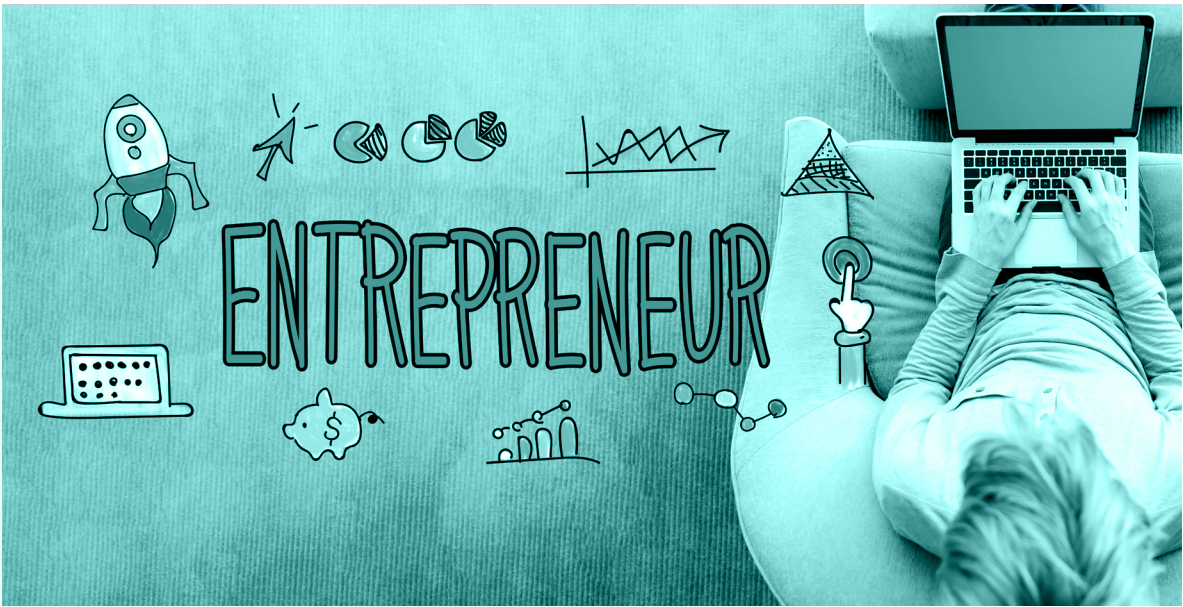
The Business Support team may well be able to help local businesses and potential entrepreneurs offering a range of services and current mentoring opportunities.

## C-TRIC

C-TRIC, based in the North West of Northern Ireland, is a regional asset that makes it easy for Universities and Life and Health Science companies to work with the NHS to do research studies in order to improve patient care in our community.

## Designerie Uncovered

The Designerie is a non-profit, social enterprise based in Bushmills and is owned and operated by Enterprise Causeway, supporting creative and artisan businesses.



# NORTH WEST REGION

Derry-Londonderry, Strabane, Limavady

## Enterprise North West

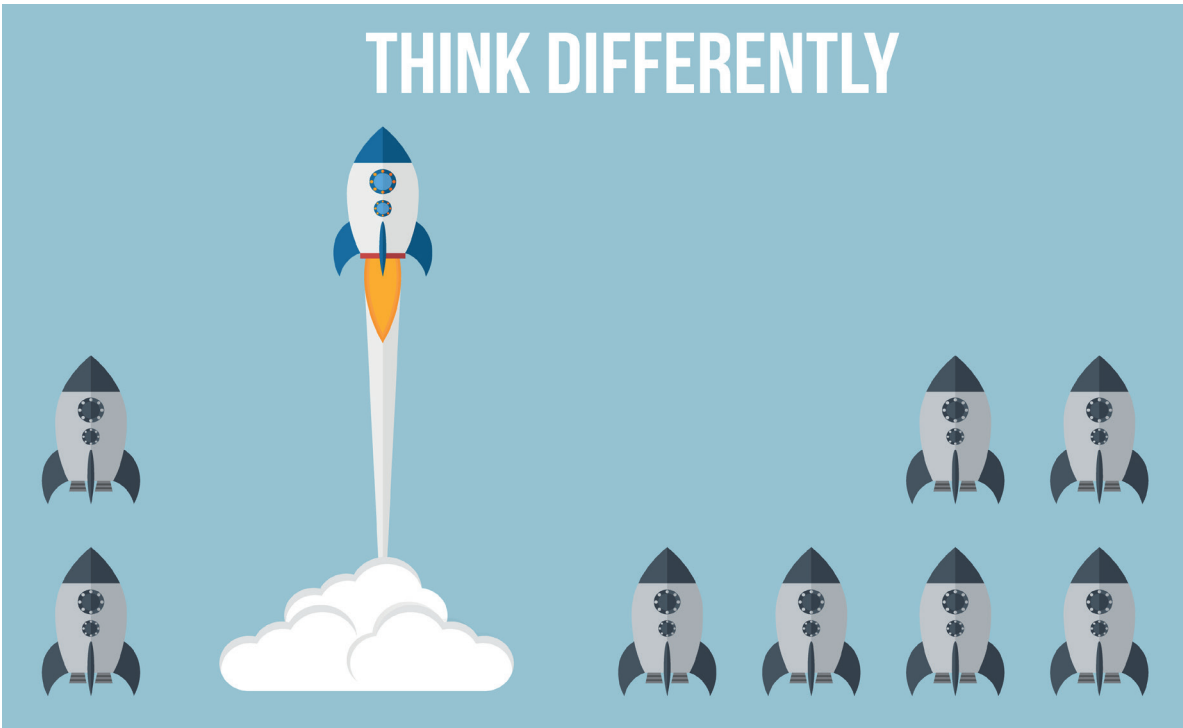
Enterprise North West has helped hundreds of people in the NW explore the potential for setting up their own businesses and successfully guided them through doing so via a range of dedicated programmes. They also provide business accommodation, offering all sorts of units and offices for industrial, commercial, service or social enterprise activities.

## Catalyst NW

Catalyst is an independent, not-for-profit organisation working together for the greater good, enabling a connected community of like-minded innovators in an entrepreneurial ecosystem that is the key driver of the knowledge economy in Northern Ireland. They are a force for good, bold in their approach, with integrity at their core and passion in everything they do.

## The Amp

Based in Ebrington, The AMP is the first privately funded incubator in the North West, funded, designed and built by local entrepreneurs. Everything in the building is designed in a way to help entrepreneurs and high growth SMEs to flourish and grow.





# NORTH WEST REGION

Derry-Londonderry, Strabane, Limavady

## Holywell Trust

Holywell Trust is based in Bishop Street, in Derry-Londonderry's city centre. It delivers a range of projects, programmes and initiatives to meet its aims and objectives of supporting local people. The Holywell Trust building is also home to a wide array of community and voluntary organisations and provides a range of venue spaces which can be hired for events.

## Londonderry Chamber of Commerce

The Londonderry Chamber provides advocacy for North West business interests at a local, regional, national and European level. The Chamber strives to ensure that our members optimise their opportunities to grow and enhance their position in the global marketplace through all the services we offer.

## Invest Derry City & Strabane

This online platform provides regular updates regarding the ongoing development of the Derry City and Strabane region and its Strategic Growth Partnership and Plan, in addition to highlighting key business growth sectors and a range of useful resources.



## Strabane Enterprise Agency

Strabane Enterprise Agency provides a range of services for both those people within the Strabane area who are considering starting their own business as well as those with existing businesses who are looking to grow and develop. The Agency provides a host of business programmes and also offers workspace units for those seeking office or business premises.

# NORTH WEST REGION

Derry-Londonderry, Strabane, Limavady

## Roe Valley Enterprises

Roe Valley Enterprises offers a wide range of programmes for those looking to start their own business who are based in the Limavady area. They provide support with developing a business plan in addition to mentoring to help turn an idea into reality.

## Ulster University

Ulster University provides support for both individuals and businesses who wish to explore or develop innovative ideas or avail of their Research and Development expertise, including access to relevant funding.



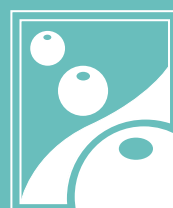
## Women in Enterprise

Women in Enterprise is a membership-based organisation that provides networking and training opportunities and runs regular events, aiming to inspire and encourage women to see self-employment as a real and viable option.





# Within Northern Ireland



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## Within Northern Ireland

### Young Enterprise NI

Northern Ireland's leading enterprise education charity - inspiring NI students each year to ensure they leave education prepared for life & work.

### Royal Academy of Engineering

The Royal Academy of Engineering harnesses the power of engineering to build a sustainable society and an inclusive economy that works for everyone.

### Social Enterprise NI

Social Enterprise NI is the representative body for social enterprises and social entrepreneurs across Northern Ireland. Connecting, supporting, developing and sustaining vibrant businesses to create social change. They are an independent, member-led organisation and a gateway for social enterprises in Northern Ireland.

### Enterprise Northern Ireland

Enterprise Northern Ireland is the representative organisation for the region's 28 Local Enterprise Agencies. They support the dynamic LEA network to provide aspirant entrepreneurs and existing micro and small businesses with access to workspace, development programmes, access to finance, and the informed support they need to start, sustain and grow their business via their Exploring Enterprise programme.

### Business in the Community

Business in the Community provides personal, bespoke advice and practical support for businesses so that they can have a positive impact on stakeholders, the environment and society.

### Federation of Small Businesses NI

FSB NI is a membership-based organisation which offers its members a wide range of vital business services including advice, financial expertise and support.



# Within Northern Ireland

## Invest NI

As the regional business development agency, Invest NI's role is to grow the local economy. They provide a free advisory service and support early stage startups with many areas including exploring the viability of an idea (Proof of Concept) and the opportunities for exporting.

## Go For It

The Go For It programme provides free step-by-step advice and mentoring to guide founders towards the launch and success of their businesses. Its experienced business advisors operate locally through local Council partners and help with the drafting of business plans, setting out strategic goals and financial forecasting.

## Labour Relations Agency

The Labour Relations Agency provides free, impartial and confidential employment relations service to anyone engaged in industry, commerce and the public services in NI. They provide a range of free resources including employment guides to help anyone starting a business build documents, policies and procedures for their own organisation.

## The Prince's Trust

For anyone aged between 18-30 who is considering starting a business, The Prince's Trust offers a dedicated Enterprise programme, providing training, mentoring support and funding to help turn their idea into reality. They also provide a range of online resources including key business planning tools, tips and insights.

## Women in Business NI

Women in Business NI is the leading network for women in the workplace across Northern Ireland. With over 6000 members, they have a diverse network of women who are all united in a common drive to build relationships, develop professional skills and ultimately, achieve success. Their vision is to equip women with the skills they need to gain employment, start their own business or develop their careers. They offer online and in person events with other women every month for peer support, collaboration and professional development.

# Within Northern Ireland

## Innovate UK

Innovate UK is the UK's national innovation agency. They support business-led innovation in all sectors, technologies and UK regions. They help businesses grow through the development and commercialisation of new products, processes, and services, supported by an innovation ecosystem that is agile, inclusive, and easy to navigate.

## Barclays Eagle Labs

Barclays Eagle Labs have been selected by the UK Government to help boost small and scaling tech businesses across the UK.

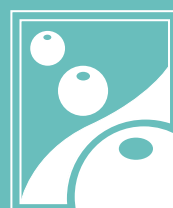
## Ulster Bank Accelerator

The Ulster Bank Accelerator aims to support and empower UK entrepreneurs, helping to scale their businesses to the next level.





# Within Republic of Ireland



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## Within Republic of Ireland

### Intertrade Ireland

InterTradeIreland supports small businesses on the island of Ireland - both North and South, helping them to explore new cross-border markets, develop new products, processes and services and become investor ready.

### TechIreland

TechIreland is an independent not-for-profit, on a mission to promote Irish and Ireland based innovation to the world through data, content and community activities. They aim to make Ireland's startup ecosystem visible and tangible to all stakeholders.

### Enterprise Ireland

Enterprise Ireland is the government organisation responsible for the development and growth of enterprises in the Republic of Ireland. They work in partnership with Irish enterprises to help them start, grow, innovate and win export sales in global markets.

### Social Impact Ireland

Social Impact Ireland is devoted to making a difference in the social enterprise sector in Ireland. They work with each individual, at whatever stage they are on in their social enterprise journey, aiming to fulfil the potential of their endeavour to make a positive impact on society.

### AwakenHub

AwakenHub's mission is to level up opportunity, access and connectivity for women founders throughout the Island of Ireland by removing barriers to investment, scale and success.



# Online Guides



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## Online Guides

### My New Business

My New Business is an online resource which will help you at the early stage of starting a business - from finding out what other people have done through to getting help to develop a plan of action, research your market and find tools to refine your idea.

# MY NEW BUSINESS

### Business Licensing Derry & Strabane

If you are starting a business in the Derry and Strabane Council area and need a licence or permit - for anything from Hairdressing or Barbering through to Street Trading, the relevant legislation, and requirements are listed here.

### Business Licensing - Limavady / Causeway

If you are starting a business in the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area and need a license or permit - full details of the relevant legislation, and requirements that you need to adhere to can be found here.

**NI BUSINESS  
INFO.CO.UK**



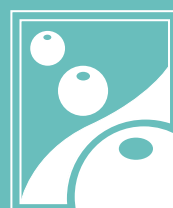
Causeway  
Coast & Glens  
Borough Council

### Business Support finder - filter by council area

The NI Business Info website includes a detailed directory of a range of support initiatives, funding opportunities and organisations that can help you from the earliest stage of starting a business. This can be filtered by type of support and by each Council area within Northern Ireland



# Banks & Finance



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## Banks & Finance

### Northern Ireland Small Business Loan Fund

The NI Small Business Loan Fund (NISBLF) is part of Invest NI's "Access to Finance" strategy and provides funding in the form of loans for startups and existing businesses. Funding can be provided for a range of purposes including Working Capital, Asset Purchases, Growth Finance, StartUp Costs, Match Funding etc.

### Ulster Community Investment Trust Ltd

If you've got an idea that could make a difference in your community - to change something by solving a problem or creating an opportunity, the Ulster Community Investment Trust Ltd can provide a loan to make it happen. Loans can be provided for social enterprise and community projects, including charities and faith-based initiatives.

### UnLtd

UnLtd finds, funds and supports social entrepreneurs - enterprising people with solutions that change society for the better. It offers support to either get a social business started or to help it progress to the next stage. They can offer support up to the value of £18,000 to fund organisational costs and help you grow your impact.

### TechStart Ventures

Techstart Ventures is a leading investor of seed capital across Northern Ireland and Scotland. It provides startup and early stage seed capital for ambitious founders of tech startups. The Techstart Ventures team looks for founders with ambition and the potential to build a sizeable business with products that are differentiated in the market and businesses that can scale.

### TechStart Grants

Techstart Proof of Concept Grant Fund is a pre-commercial grant awarding fund. On a competitive basis, the fund supports entrepreneurs in Northern Ireland with grants to explore the viability and commercial potential of an innovative concept.

### HBAN

HBAN is a platform that connects individual angel investors and syndicates to startups across the island of Ireland.



# Banks & Finance

## Bank of Ireland

Bank of Ireland offers a range of business startup accounts that will give you everything you need to start, run and grow your business. Their team of dedicated business advisors can support you from the early stage of starting a business through to all stages as the business grows.

# Danske Bank

Danske Bank offers a wide range of accounts for businesses of all sizes. They have a business advisory team and an extensive suite of products and services to help you manage your cashflow.

## First Trust Bank

First Trust Bank provides small business owners with a range of support from dedicated business accounts through to advice on day to day running of your business - from how to improve cashflow through to how to manage the business online.

# Ulster Bank

Ulster Bank offers a range of business accounts for both startup businesses and those that are at a later stage. They also provide account holders with access to FreeAgent, online accounting software.

## British Business Bank

They are a government-owned business development bank dedicated to making finance markets work better for smaller businesses. Whether you're looking for finance to start a business, grow to the next level, or stay ahead of the competition, they aim to deliver greater volume and choice of finance.



## Notes



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