

The Advanced Diploma in Social Enterprise

Programme overview

Social Enterprises operate globally in almost every industry sector, from health and social care to renewable energy, from retail to recycling, from employment to culture and sport, from housing to education.

There is a growing global movement supporting the mainstreaming of social enterprise business models and social business models as a viable and sustainable way of doing business. In recent years there has also been an explosion of social investment and financing options to support the development and scaling of the sector.

The Advanced Diploma in Social Enterprise supports the growth of the social sector by providing the much needed business skills to inspire, transform and enhance the competitiveness of potential and existing social enterprises in an often challenging marketplace.

This practical programme has been recently updated to include workshops, peer learning visits and study visits on topics such as:-

- The Global Social Enterprise Movement
- Social Business Model Generation
- Creating Social Value through Marketing
- Social Enterprise Governance
- Finance for Growth and
- The Social Impact Plan.

Delivery

The programme is delivered by the staff of the Business Institute at the Ulster University Business School in conjunction with the School for Social Enterprises in Ireland.

The course is a 12 month programme and is run on a part-time basis in the Ulster University, Jordanstown campus. The modules are delivered over 12 days in the University supported by 6 days of study visits and peer learning opportunities. The next intake will be in January and graduation will be in July the following year.

Students of the Advanced Diploma are typically:-

- CEOs and managers of existing social enterprises tasked with an organisational development role
- Managers and CEOs of charities and community based organisations who are examining social enterprise as a means of generating unrestricted income that can be used to further their social mission
- Volunteers (including board members) and employees of third sector organisations who are examining ways of sustaining their social mission

- Staff and voluntary board members of charities who are examining opportunities for public or private sector partnerships
- Public sector including local government employees who are working in collaboration with third sector organisations
- Representatives from the social enterprise support sector who are keen to gain knowledge and a professional qualification

To quote some recent graduates

“My goals have changed somewhat as I have learned how broad the term social enterprise is. I have also been able to look at the supported employment service in terms of a social enterprise and develop a business plan that offers a solution to both a social issue and funding gaps. It has given me a deeper understanding of social enterprise, but it has also widened my understanding of the opportunity for developing social enterprise within the organisation”.

Amy Caskey Support Officer (Employment) Triangle Housing Association

“I would highly recommend this programme to anyone, not only those on the ground within the social economy but those who intend setting up a social enterprise and those who hold higher positions within organisation in the social economy”.

Robert Quinn, Community Finance Ireland

“The teaching input is excellent and the information and guidance material is of high quality and beneficial to my learning style. The assignments have challenged me to think in a more strategic way. Having to put my ideas and actions into words makes the process much more meaningful”.

Fionnuala Black, Childcare Manager, Kinderkids, Ashton Community Trust, Belfast

Cost

The programme tuition fees are £1718. Bursaries of £1,000 have been made available from the Flax Trust to support organisations and individuals who are unable to fund the full cost of the programme.

For further information contact:

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