

Hi-Start Programme

Get your Business Investor Ready



How can Hi-Start progress my business in 2021?

The Hi-Start 'Get your Business Investor Ready' Programme is a short, highly focused workshop and one-on-one support process aimed at ambitious start-ups who are targeting international markets. If your business requires high level support to build a platform for successful long term development and to crystallize and deliver a powerful investor pitch then Hi-Start is for you.

Running June 2021 to January 2022, Hi-Start has been developed and part-funded by the Dublin & Wicklow Local Enterprise Offices and Enterprise Ireland.

What is involved?

The six half day workshops are designed to each contribute a key component to the development of the investor ready business plan. A related mentoring session will follow each training module to assist the participant with the specific outcomes required. Session seven provides a unique opportunity to make a formal pitch to an Investor Panel – including Enterprise Ireland, VC's and Local Enterprise Offices.

The initial workshops (June, July and August) will run online with the position reviewed for later sessions in line with Covid guidelines. The programme will be delivered by the highly acclaimed world-class business development consultant John McMahon, Forum 21 Ltd.

Session 1: STRATEGY FOR GROWTH – THE FRAMEWORK

Monday June 28th 14:00 to 17:00 (online)

Focus on building a business strategy framework that can deliver the business owner's ambitions and vision. Competitiveness, entrepreneurial capability, change management and management of 'business as usual' elements will all be explored.

The framework will then be employed in the subsequent mentor session and in workshop 2 to guide the evolution of a detailed coherent strategy for each business.

Session 2: STRATEGY FOR GROWTH – THE DETAIL

Monday July 26th 14:00 to 17:00 (online)

Participants will be supported in defining their current position, their medium term vision or "bull's eye" and the key development or change projects they must successfully undertake if they are to realise it.

These change projects are the essence of the business strategy. Detailed guidance and direct support for successful implementation will be given and will be a core focus of the remainder of the programme including mentor sessions.

Session 3: THE MARKETING PLAN AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION

Monday August 23rd 14:00 to 17:00 (online)

A six step framework will be developed to guide the development of detailed marketing plans including segmentation, marketing analysis, product, pricing, route to market and promotional (including sales) aspects, time and resource implications and action plan components. The session in tandem with subsequent mentoring will support each participant in developing the requisite detail.

Session 4: ENTREPRENEURIAL AND MANAGEMENT CAPABILITY

Monday October 4th 14:00 to 17:30

Participants will be supported in identifying and exploiting their own strengths as entrepreneurs and in identifying and addressing any experience or skill gaps essential to the realisation of their ambitions. The role of investors, partners, advisers, key staff, non-executive directors etc in building and enhancing requisite capabilities will be explored together with incentivising of key individuals and further developed in the subsequent workshop.

Session 5: THE FINANCIAL PLAN AND RAISING THE MONEY

Monday November 8th 14:00 to 17:30

The workshop and related mentor session will focus on developing and stress testing requisite financial projections, defining funding gaps and exploring all funding options including debt, equity and grant components, the advantages and disadvantages of each, sources of each and related timescales.

Session 6: THE TRIAL PITCH

Monday December 6th 14:00 to 17:30

Participants will present draft investor ready business plans and make trial investment pitches for feedback and comment from their entrepreneurial peers and the programme facilitator. Completion of investor ready business plan supported by subsequent mentoring. The following mentor session will help revise and refine the pitch deck.

Session 7: THE INVESTOR PITCH

Monday January 17th full day

Presentation of business plan and formal pitch to Investment Panel, including Enterprise Ireland, VC's and representatives of the Local Enterprise Offices.

AM I ELIGIBLE?

Participation is limited to 10 companies.

Applicants must meet the criteria below:

- Have established customer need and demand for the products/service
- Demonstrate the potential to scale business to international markets
- Be established no more than two years
- Based in Dublin or Wicklow region

HOW TO APPLY?

Participation Fee €500

To apply contact

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