



Support for Business

Centre for

Economic Development
& Social Inclusion

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Programme Overview



Leading the City to Work

Belfast Metropolitan College is one of the leading providers of training and education throughout Northern Ireland. As a key provider of the skills and knowledge our economy requires, we see the work we do with industry, business, and local communities as our fundamental role.

The College has a range of business support programmes and facilities that can provide training, knowledge and support to develop innovative product ideas, improve competitiveness and help you grow your business.

We have extensive experience working with businesses of any size to review training need requirements and develop a delivery plan that is relevant, timely and cost effective.

We work across multiple industries delivering training as well as upskilling and increasing innovation and growth within businesses.

Connect with us today:



Why not arrange a virtual meeting today with one of our Business Development team who are happy to review your training and innovation needs and discuss the full range of support available:



businessdevelopment@belfastmet.ac.uk



028 9026 5069

The Benefits of Working with Belfast Met:



Increased Innovation and growth within your business



A tailored training solution designed to meet the needs of your business



Flexible training delivery, either in your workplace or at the College



A more productive, skilled workforce



The opportunity to acquire accredited qualifications



Support for Food & Hospitality

The Food and Hospitality Industry has a wealth of creative individuals using new ingredients or cooking techniques to innovate and develop new products and menus. Belfast Met lecturers provide one to one support to food and hospitality companies to embed knowledge and skills that can assist a company to:



Learn how to develop new food products



Create and standardise cook times and recipes



Upscale food production capacity



Develop low sugar and low salt alternatives

In addition, Belfast Met has a well-resourced instrumentation and analysis laboratory that can complete food analysis and nutrient specifications to show you the nutrient profile of your new food product.

Case study - Beyond the Herd

Beyond the Herd identified a gap in the Northern Irish market for great quality, locally produced, vegan craft cheeses. Working with Belfast Met, lecturer Michael O'Toole upskilled Linzi Rooney (pictured left) in the process of creating spreadable vegan craft soft cheeses.

This training showed Linzi how to take the product through development stages such as increasing yield and shelf life testing to produce a commercially viable product. Through the project, Linzi obtained skills in new product development processes, recipe development and production standardisation. In addition to skills that would allow Linzi to continue to innovate, Michael supported Linzi in development of 5 vegan spreadable vegan craft soft cheeses which will be sold in sealed containers to prolong shelf life.



Linzi Rooney
Beyond
the Herd

“Belfast Met has provided me with essential skills to develop my new business. My tutor Michael was invaluable during the whole process, allowing me to work to my own timetable and vision and yet being there as a support platform when I needed help or advice. I have learnt skills throughout the process that will not only help me launch this new product but will allow me to develop even more products. I am now almost ready to launch the new product which I could not have done without Belfast Met.”

Have you considered how new technologies can be used to adapt your service delivery model?



From exploring online platforms or turning your sit-in restaurant into a delivery service, to using artificial intelligence to create virtual concierge systems. We can provide guidance on new technologies and upskill your employees in how to use them.



Funded Training*

Attention Employers!

You could be eligible for funding towards training courses for your employees.*

Level 2 Award in Barista Skills



Learners will gain the knowledge necessary to prepare and serve hot and cold drinks in any environment. No previous experience is required for this qualification; however, it is recommended that the learner has access to an espresso machine and a grinder in order to practice preparing drinks in their own time.

Level 2 Award in Food Allergen Awareness and Control in Catering



This level 2 course provides your employees with knowledge and understanding of food allergens, the foods that commonly cause intolerances and how to minimise the risk of cross contamination from allergenic ingredients.

Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering



Learners completing this one-day course will learn about the responsibilities for food safety of everyone involved in the storage, preparation, cooking service and handling of food.

Level 3 Award in Food Safety in Catering



Employees will gain an understanding of compliance with food safety legislation, application and monitoring of good hygiene practice as well as procedures and best practice in the management of contamination, microbiology and temperature control.



Social Enterprises are now eligible



Support for Business & Finance

At Belfast Met, we work closely with your business to analyse your training needs and develop tailored training solutions to meet those needs. Areas of business and finance span across every business, we can provide training in:



Management



Marketing



Human
Resources



Finance



Professional
Development

Thinking outside the box?

We will work with you to develop a course which is fully tailored to suit your Business needs, we can incorporate leadership and management accredited units as well as non-accredited training such as Social Media Management, Customer Service training or Maximising Revenue.

Case Study – Riada Resourcing

Riada Resourcing is one of Northern Ireland's largest independent recruitment Agencies, matching the best talent to businesses across Northern Ireland and the UK. At the heart of Riada's success is their team of recruitment specialists; the business is committed to being an employer of choice and continually seeks opportunities to develop the team. Working with the company director, Belfast Met conducted a skills analysis and identified the need for key management skills, confidence in leadership abilities and relationship management skills. Through the Skills Focus programme, Riada availed of fully funded training with five staff members successfully completing the ILM Level 3 Award in Leadership and Management.



Frances Lundy,
Director - Riada
Resourcing

Our company had the opportunity for employees to participate in the ILM level 3 through Belfast Met, this was delivered online and our team thoroughly enjoyed the learning and engagement to quote one member of staff "this course played a vital part in keeping a real connection with my career during lock down."



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Funded Training*

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Leadership and Management Courses

ILM Level 3

Designed for:
New or aspiring team leaders.



Objective:
Enable the transition from working in a team to leading a team

Skills gained:
Core Management Skills
Leadership
Managing Change

ILM Level 5

Designed for:
Middle Managers



Objective:
Improve performance and prepare for Senior Management

Skills gained:
Ability to lead, motivate & inspire
Provide strategic leadership

ILM Level 7

Designed for:
New or aspiring Senior Managers



Objective:
Develop professional capability and personal brand

Skills gained:
Constructing business cases
Present arguments for change



Social Enterprises are now eligible



Support for Business & Finance

Belfast Met is here to support your business needs, our Business Development Team would be happy to guide you through the range of funding, expertise and facilities available at the College.

Belfast Met has a wide portfolio of equipment and rooms available for hire, such as conference facilities, production kitchens, specialist media studio facilities and even a fine-dining restaurant and bar. Our fantastic facilities include:



Business Incubation

The business incubation suite at Belfast Met's e3 building, Springvale Campus is a unique, modern hub promoting innovation and start-up, as well as facilitating the needs of established organisations. As a hub for business resources, e3 connects clients to programmes, funding opportunities, and entrepreneurial resources that accelerate growth and profitability. It is strategically placed to add real value to businesses by providing the right amount and type of trusted support, at the right time.



Meeting and Event Space

Whether you are organising a small meeting, an intensive networking day or a prestigious conference, Belfast Met can provide the perfect meeting environment. Across our multi-campus College, there are a number of events, conference and meeting rooms, all in close proximity to relaxing, spacious venues for refreshments, lunches and reception breaks to be served in. What's more, we can offer a complete support service to ensure your event runs to highest professional standard.

Case Study – Flex Language

Flex Language Services provides high-quality translation, interpreting and tuition services to public and private organisations across the UK and Ireland. As a growing business, Flex is committed to being an employer of choice and the continual professional development of staff. Through a skills audit with Belfast Met Flex Language Services identified a need for a range of upskilling within their staff, Belfast Met worked to address this need through the Skills Focus programme.



Laura Slevin,
Manager
Flex Language
Services

We recognised that the Skills Focus programme was an invaluable opportunity for our staff and for the business. As a result, several members of our team have successfully completed Accountancy, Marketing and Leadership and Management qualifications. This upskilling has led to increased confidence across the team and we look forward to accessing further opportunities for development through Belfast Met.”



Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is a work-based programme designed around the needs of employers, which offers recognised training and qualifications to new employees or existing employees taking on new roles that require lots of training and development.

In Hospitality, Business and Finance, we have a wide range of apprenticeship offerings.

- **Accountancy**
- **Business Administration**
- **Customer Service**
- **Financial Services**
- **Food & Beverage Service**
- **Front of House Reception**
- **Kitchen Services**
- **Hospitality Supervision and Leadership**
- **Professional Cookery**
- **Retail**
- **Sales/Telesales**



Funded Training*

Attention Employers!

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Marketing

- ✓ OCN Level 2 in Digital Marketing
- ✓ CIM Professional Marketing qualifications at Levels 3, 4 and 6

HR

- ✓ CIPD Level 3 Diploma in Human Resources Practice
- ✓ CIPD Level 5 Intermediate Diploma in Human Resource Management

Finance

- ✓ ATI Level 4 Certificate for Accounting Technician
- ✓ ATI Level 5 Diploma for Accounting Technicians

Level 6 BA Professional Development



Designed for:
Working professionals from a wide range of professions

Objective:
Specialise in your field and develop professional capability

Skills gained:
Ability to address current workplace challenges



Social Enterprises are now eligible



Support for Fashion & Textiles

Since 1906, with the textile industry booming from the effects of the Industrial Revolution, Belfast Met has been at the forefront of training apprentices and upskilling workers in the textiles industry and we still are today.

Belfast Met's Fashion and Textile Department work closely with companies to provide guidance on innovative concepts, help develop prototypes and provide bespoke training. Our team has a wide range of different skillsets with many working in industry themselves alongside teaching. Our Titanic Campus has spacious sewing, pattern and craft rooms with the latest equipment available to help work on your product.

Prototype design and development is a critical stage in the new product development process. By seeing and handling a prototype version of your product concept, you can view how well your idea has transferred into reality, testing will allow you to make critical decisions about changes to improve it and valuable input can be gained from potential customers before an end product is developed.

Case Study – Moneen Medicare

Moneen Medicare founder and local chronic pain specialist Dympna Hannon, identified a gap in the market for a long-term product that offers gluteal sag support whilst back pain is being treated.

Working together with Belfast Met, the business was successful in securing a £5,000 Invest NI Innovation Voucher to make their idea a reality. Fashion and Innovation Academic Lorna Reid-Mullen worked with the company to develop and produce a bespoke scaffolding style prototype for testing with clients. The Innovation Voucher project consisted of 4 design and production stages which included research of support garments and potential fabrics to be used, initial sketches of designs, iterative development of the selected design with feedback & adjustments culminating in the final prototype ready for client testing and demonstration.

The company is now in a position to approach local health trusts and pain practitioners to demonstrate the product and secure interest in future orders.



Dympna
Hannon,
Founder
- Moneen
Medicare

The knowledge and skills provided by Lorna, at Belfast Met have been invaluable. Lorna's input in not only transforming my idea into a reality, but also in suggesting further modifications for improvement have meant I have been able to contact research bodies to have the prototype tested and taken to the next level. Even with the restrictions of accessing the best materials because of COVID lockdowns, Lorna was able to access suitable materials to progress the project significantly. So much so, we are planning on the next phase of modifications to produce another prototype for a different pain area."

Did you know?



At Belfast Met we also work with Businesses to support innovation through the Connected programme. Through this initiative we can help support your fashion and textile projects with an emphasis on New Product Design and Development and Emerging Technologies.

Arrange a virtual meeting today, contact us:



businessdevelopment@belfastmet.ac.uk



Funded Training*

Attention Employers!

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Design Sketching and imagery



Textiles Guidance



Sewing Manufacturing Techniques



Photoshop/Illustrator for Fashion



Pattern Design



Prototyping Creation and Testing



Digital Pattern Development



Support for Product Design & Development

Work with Belfast Met to turn your product idea into a reality. Our lecturers work with companies of all sizes across many different industries to provide one to one training, support and knowledge within our 3D Print Lab and Testing Facilities. Our 3D Print Lab and Testing Facilities include;

- 3D Printer with dual extruders capable of printing materials up to polycarbonate temperature range - build volume 305x305x605 mm
- 12 3D printers with a build volume of 250 x 210 x 210 mm
- 3Devo filament extruder for bespoke filament formulation and manufacture
- Universal test machine capable of tensile, compressive, 3 point & 5 point bend testing
- A pendulum impact test machine - Izod and Charpy tests available Realistic product development possible

Case Study – Conveyortek

Conveyortek's Process Improvement Engineer Bill Martin attended Belfast Met's 3D design and 3D printing workshop funded under the Connected programme. Following the event, Bill approached the college to explore a potential collaboration to build in-house capability for the 3D printing of parts. Bill McEwan Belfast Met 3D Design lecturer worked with the team at Conveyortek through the InnovateUs programme to upskill staff in the prototyping and manufacturing of 3D parts. The project worked to explore various methods of 3D printing separate components that would be easy to assemble using opensource software and hardware. As a result of the training, the Company integrated a new process printing their own materials which resulted in a 96% reduction in cost and reduced by 99% reduction in waste materials.



Bill Martin,
Process
Improvement
Engineer -
Conveyortek

The training with Belfast Met has resulted in an extremely positive outcome for us. Upon meeting Belfast Met lecturer Bill McEwan I was impressed by the depth of knowledge and the facilities available. As a result of this initial training we are continuing to work with Belfast Met to further improve innovation and efficiencies within the business."



Did you know?

At Belfast Met we run a number of events and webinars throughout the year to help disseminate knowledge and support businesses to Innovate. Through the Connected programme we work with businesses to support Innovative projects around New Product Development and Emerging Technologies. You can keep up with our events at:



cedsi.eventbrite.com

Funded Training*

Attention Employers!

You could be eligible for funding towards training courses for your employees.*

City & Guilds Level 2 Award in 2D Computer Aided Design (CAD)

Designed for:

Beginners with little or no previous experience of CAD



Objective:

Equip the learner with the knowledge and ability to produce a wide range of drawings.

Skills Gained:

A practical knowledge of AutoCAD software and a progression route to a qualification in 2D Level 3 and 3D Level 3 qualifications.

In addition to the training above, we offer support in the following areas;



Prototyping



Product Testing



Route to Manufacture Guidance



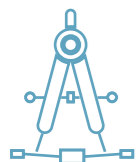
Materials Sourcing and Advice



Reverse Engineering



Social Enterprises are now eligible



Support for Construction & Engineering

Work with Belfast Met to develop your products, upskill your staff and Innovate in Design. Our lecturers work with companies of all sizes across the Construction Industry to provide one to one training, support and knowledge in area such as:



Welding / Fabrication
New Product Development



Design for Manufacture



Process Development



As a strategically diverse manufacturing leader, Jans Composites place an emphasis on its innovation and transforming its customer's experience. Through our collaboration with Belfast Met and the training and mentoring from Belfast Met lecturer Findhan Strain we were able to develop new inhouse capabilities and skills in composites manufacturing."

John Elder,
Commercial & Operations Director at Jans Composites Limited

Case Study - O'Hare & McGovern Ltd

Utilising the College's innovative, online learning platform, O'Hare and McGovern upskilled twenty-seven of their staff with a Level 3 Award in Digital Construction with Building Information Modelling. Managing Director Martin Lennon said, "It is vital that our staff is fully skilled in digital tools for construction while delivering the goods on-site. Belfast Met's BIM course was a perfect fit for our team, and is another step on our digital transformation journey."



Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is a work-based programme designed around the needs of employers, which offers recognised training and qualifications to new employees or existing employees taking on new roles that require lots of training and development.

In Construction and Engineering, we have a wide range of apprenticeship offerings.

- Civil Engineering
- Bricklaying
- Electronic Security & Emergency Systems
- Electrotechnical
- Engineering
- Fabrication & Welding
- Joinery
- Manufacturing
- Plumbing and Heating

Did you know?



Our qualified welding instructors can also carry out welder assessment testing to your required standards; this can be at your premises or off-site. We can also offer training for:

- ✓ Responsible Welding Coordinator (RWC)
- ✓ CSWIP Visual Welding Inspector 3.0



Funded Training*

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OCN Level 3 Digital Skills for Construction with Building Information Modelling (BIM)

The introduction of Building Information Modelling has led to more innovation, reduction in carbon footprints and delivery of sustainable, energy-efficient construction across the industry. To support companies, Belfast Met has developed an innovative new online platform to upskill employees in bite size units.

This course will develop your employees' skills and knowledge across a range of areas including:

- Building Information Modelling (BIM) Principles
- Digital Skills for Construction
- 3D Modelling (BIM)
- Building Information Modelling (BIM) Objects



City & Guilds Level 3 Award in the Initial and Periodic Inspection & Testing of Electrical Installations

This course is ideal for Mechanical, Electrical, Facilities Management and Fire Detection and Alarm companies wishing to upskill their electrical staff. This award demonstrates competency in the ability to inspect, test, report and certify both new and existing electrical installations.



Social Enterprises are now eligible



Support for IT

Work with Belfast Met to turn your product or service idea into a reality. Our lecturers work with companies of all sizes across many different industries to provide one to one training, support and knowledge in various digital and technical area such as:



Data analysis, analytics and visualisation



Open source software to develop data modelling and statistics



Creative and digital design including animation, graphics and video production



Programming languages including Python, Java and SQL



Emerging technologies such as Internet of Things (IoT), machine learning and blockchain



Immersive technologies such as Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality

Case Study – Jamie Harper

With the arts having been particularly impacted due to the pandemic; local painter, and performance artist Jamie Harper received immersive technology training from Belfast Met through the InnovateUs programme with the aim of increasing his portfolio of services.

With training sessions conducted remotely, Belfast Met lecturer Neil Husin delivered a tailored training plan focussing on 3D modelling and rendering within Blender, an open source 3D creation suite. As a result, Jamie can now develop his portraiture art within a VR environment, making it tactile and immersive. Jamie also went on to utilise his newly gained skills and knowledge to collaborate with other local NI artists and develop the 'Art of VR' music platform which was a Covid secure response for the art exhibition.



It is amazing to think the positive impact InnovateUs has had on me and it is no exaggeration to say these projects have kept me going through the pandemic."

Jamie Harper,
business owner
– Jamie Harper art



Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is a work-based programme designed around the needs of employers, which offers recognised training and qualifications to new employees or existing employees taking on new roles that require lots of training and development.

In ICT, we have a wide range of apprenticeship offerings.

- Digital Forensics
- Networking and Infrastructure
- Software Development
- Cyber Security
- Cloud & Application Development



Funded Training*

Attention Employers!

You could be eligible for funding towards training courses for your employees.*



Cisco Cybersecurity Essentials



Microsoft Azure Fundamentals



MTA Networking Fundamentals



MTA Security Fundamentals



Microsoft PowerBI



Microsoft Office Specialist Excel 2016 (Core)



Social Enterprises are now eligible



Programmes Overview

Programme	Connected	InnovateUs
Summary	Connected is a knowledge transfer programme that enables Colleges and Universities to work with businesses with the aim of supporting and encouraging innovation.	InnovateUs provides small companies with skills that will enable them to innovate and develop new products, processes and services.
Duration	Project lengths vary	20 - 60 hours of mentoring
Eligibility	This programme has quite flexible eligibility, however there is a particular focus on SME's with the intention to encourage innovation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are a trading business or social enterprise that employs less than 50 employees Your Company is not a charity or community group If your Company trades in, or, manufactures goods – your business must have received less than 200,000 euro in De Minimis Aid If your Company provides a service – your business must have received less than the 325,000 Special Drawing Rights under the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA)
Funding Value	Fully funded by Connected NI	Fully funded by the Department for the Economy
Sectors	<p>Projects in Belfast Met can fall within the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Product Design and Development Emerging Technology 	<p>The planned project activity is within the following priority and emerging sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial, Business & Professional Services Digital & Creative Industries Agri-Food Construction & Materials Handling Advanced Manufacturing, Material & Engineering Life & Health Sciences Tourism & Hospitality
Additional Information	Through Connected, Belfast Met run a range of events and webinars throughout the year to support knowledge dissemination to businesses	InnovateUs projects are limited to three per company.
Contact Information	Contact our Business Development team: businessdevelopment@belfastmet.ac.uk	Contact our Business Development team: businessdevelopment@belfastmet.ac.uk



Innovation Vouchers	Skills Focus	Apprenticeships
An Innovation Voucher provides funding to work with a college or university to develop, test or improve an innovative new product, service or process.	Skills Focus provides tailored skills provision to SMEs to increase the skills levels of their workforce to level 2 and above qualifications.	Apprenticeships offer an employed-pathway for learners to gain professionally recognised qualifications whilst actively working in paid employment with partner employers.
Typically 70 hours	Varies dependent on Qualification	Varies dependent on Qualification
Northern Ireland based SMEs, social enterprises and third sector organisations. Companies in the transport or primary agricultural sectors cannot apply for an Innovation Voucher in line with State Aid Guidelines. Further eligibility criteria applies, this can be found on the Invest NI website.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are a trading business or social enterprise that employs less than 250 employees Your Company is not a charity or community group The planned qualification is not a legal requirement, statutory requirement, or renewal If your Company trades in, or, manufactures goods – your business must have received less than 200,000 euro in De Minimis Aid If your Company provides a service – your business must have received less than the 325,000 Special Drawing Rights under the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your Apprentice must be working a minimum of 21 hours per week The Apprentice must meet the entry requirements of their chosen qualification; and The Apprentice must be of the minimum school leaver age in Northern Ireland
£5,000 funded by Invest Northern Ireland	75% funded by the Department for the Economy	This project is part-funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2014 – 2020 and the Department for the Economy.
Projects are open to all sectors, however some activities are not supported; please refer to the Invest NI website for guidelines.	<p>The planned qualification is within the following priority and emerging sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial, Business & Professional Services Digital & Creative Industries Agri-Food Construction & Materials Handling Advanced Manufacturing, Material & Engineering Life & Health Sciences Tourism & Hospitality 	Apprenticeships are available across a vast range of Sectors, contact our Apprenticeship team today to discuss how we can support your Apprentices.
An Innovation Voucher is valid for nine months from the date of issue.		
Contact our Business Development team: businessdevelopment@belfastmet.ac.uk	Contact our Business Development team: businessdevelopment@belfastmet.ac.uk	Contact our Apprenticeships Team: apprenticeships@belfastmet.ac.uk





Centre for
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& Social Inclusion

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Email: businessdevelopment@belfastmet.ac.uk

Find us on

Twitter

@e3_belfastmet

www.belfastmet.ac.uk/support-for-business/