

# Pro- grammes from Catalyst

# Programmes from Catalyst

## Entrepreneurship and Growth

**Catalyst Schools**  
**20 schools**  
**(Sept 2021–May 2022)**  
**40 school leaders**  
**7 workshop days**  
**5 schools receiving**  
**a pupil-based**  
**programme**

Bringing design thinking to post-primary schools and training education practitioners. A professional learning fellowship for Northern Ireland school leaders. Based on the tools of School Retool (a programme of the Stanford d.school and IDEO) and customised for Northern Ireland school leaders, the fellowship develops hacking and equity mindsets and applies a design thinking-based approach to school leadership and classrooms.

**Co-Founders**  
**12 weeks, alongside**  
**employment or education**  
**470 candidates (2017–2021)**  
**£1.9m funding raised**

Attracting talented and skilled individuals from companies such as PwC, BT, Allstate, Seagate, Kainos, Liberty IT, etc., as well as entrepreneurial students at undergrad and postgrad level, PhD researchers and academics. Participants interested in getting into the start-up world bring high-growth potential ideas and skillsets to co-found teams. They enter into a competitive process, where they validate their ideas to win 10 x 10k prizes.

**Generation Innovation**  
**1 week**  
**885 participants (2018–2021)**

An interactive suite of programmes for 16–18 years olds across Northern Ireland which aims to inform, upskill and empower the young people of this generation to thrive as the next leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs. Delivered across 3 stages: 'Innovation Workshop' - an introduction to Design Thinking; 'Impact Day' - a 1-day immersive design sprint for students; and our 'Work Experience Programme' where students will follow a week long project learning and applying the principles of Design Thinking to a real world challenge briefed by the partner companies.



## Entrepreneurship and Growth

<p><b>Frameworks</b>  <b>1-2 hour workshops</b>  <b>1,600+ participants</b>  <b>(2017–2021)</b></p>	<p>Aimed at innovative entrepreneurs keen to build their network and learn how to maximise their start-up potential, this series of workshops is dedicated and designed to give start-ups an overview of business fundamentals.</p>
<p><b>Invent</b>  <b>550 applicants (2017–2021)</b></p>	<p>Annual competition showcasing and rewarding local innovations and proof of concept ideas with the greatest commercial potential. The overall winner receives £25,000, with category winners receiving £5,000 each. Categories are Business Software, Consumer Software, Product, Greentech and Health &amp; Wellbeing. Each finalist receives various mentoring, training, advice, awareness, championing and opportunity.</p>
<p><b>Springboard*</b>  <b>122 alumni to date</b>  <b>(since 2010)</b></p> <p><b>*From 2021 Springboard will reside within the Entrepreneurship &amp; Growth suite of programmes.</b></p>	<p>Open to early-stage companies with ambition to grow revenue to over £10m (or an enterprise over £100m), this intensive in-business process challenges, supports, and expedites robust business models. The collective knowledge of a unique network of experienced entrepreneurs and business leaders is leveraged in an open and nurturing environment.</p>
<p><b>Way to Scale</b>  <b>19 grads (since 2019)</b></p>	<p>Supporting ambitious, innovation-driven entrepreneurs to reach £10m revenue within 7 years.</p>
<p><b>CEOs Connect</b>  <b>40 members (since 2017)</b></p>	<p>Exclusive peer-to-peer network supporting CEOs of high-growth potential innovation companies as they scale and grow.</p>
<p><b>Inbound Investors</b>  <b>70 participants (since 2019)</b></p>	<p>Matching venture capitalists, family offices and syndicates with qualified and investable tech start-ups and scale-ups to accelerate capital growth.</p>









Additionally, we work with:

- North West Centre for Advanced Manufacturing (NWCAM) as a lead partner to deliver their target of 98 PhD years and 30 cross-border research papers.
- Innovation City Belfast to establish Belfast as a globally significant destination for innovation.







Closed Open -  
Register your interest



