

WELCOME TO CLINTON LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE AT QUEEN'S BUSINESS SCHOOL

The Clinton Leadership Institute was founded in 2011 to support and develop the leadership skills of the Northern Ireland business community as part of our commitment as a university to the pathway to peace.

We are proud to have helped shape influential leaders through our executive education programmes, delivering with impact internationally.



About Innovate+

Innovate+ is a **cross-border innovation programme funded through PEACEPLUS** and created to support small and medium-sized enterprises (**SMEs**) **across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland**. The aim is to help SMEs develop new products, services or capabilities whilst exploring new technologies. The programme offers practical, tailored support to suit real-world needs, no matter the sector.

The programme brings together a cross-border partnership of universities and innovation organisations to provide practical, hands-on support tailored to your business. Whether you want to improve processes, explore new technologies or develop new products, Innovate+ is designed to help you move forward with confidence.



Lead Partner

Catalyst





Is your business eligible?



Cost: 100% Free to join.

**All
Sectors**

Industry: Open to SMEs from all sectors.



Location: Located anywhere in Northern Ireland or the border counties of Ireland.

What Your Business Will Receive



Innovation Audit

Comprehensive assessment of your current innovation capabilities



Bespoke Innovation Management Plan

Tailored roadmap designed specifically for your business needs



Tailored Training

Access to specialist training from ATU, QUB and UU experts



Student Interns & Placements

Opportunity to work with talented students who can bring fresh ideas and specialist skills



Innovation Cluster Membership

Join a relevant cross-border network of innovative SMEs



Digital Transformation Support

Guidance to adopt new digital tools and technologies that improve efficiency, productivity and competitiveness

The Clinton Leadership Institute at Queen's Business School delivers the **Leading Change and Transition Series** of programmes for SMEs as part of the Innovate+. There are 3 programmes in the series and eligible SMEs receive funding to complete all 3 programmes.

WHO CAN TAKE PART?

The programmes are free to join and open to **SMEs** from all sectors located **anywhere in Northern Ireland or the border counties of Ireland (Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan and Louth)**.

The Innovate+ programme offers practical, tailored support to suit real-world needs, no matter the sector. Your business will receive an innovation audit, a bespoke innovation management plan with the opportunity to benefit from tailored training, student interns and placements, innovation cluster membership and digital transformation support.



QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST

WILLIAM J. CLINTON
LEADERSHIP
INSTITUTE

LEADING PEOPLE AND PRODUCTIVITY

Delivery: In-person

Commencing: 23rd September 2026, 14th January 2027 & 9th September 2027

Duration: 8 days including 2 peer support action learning days

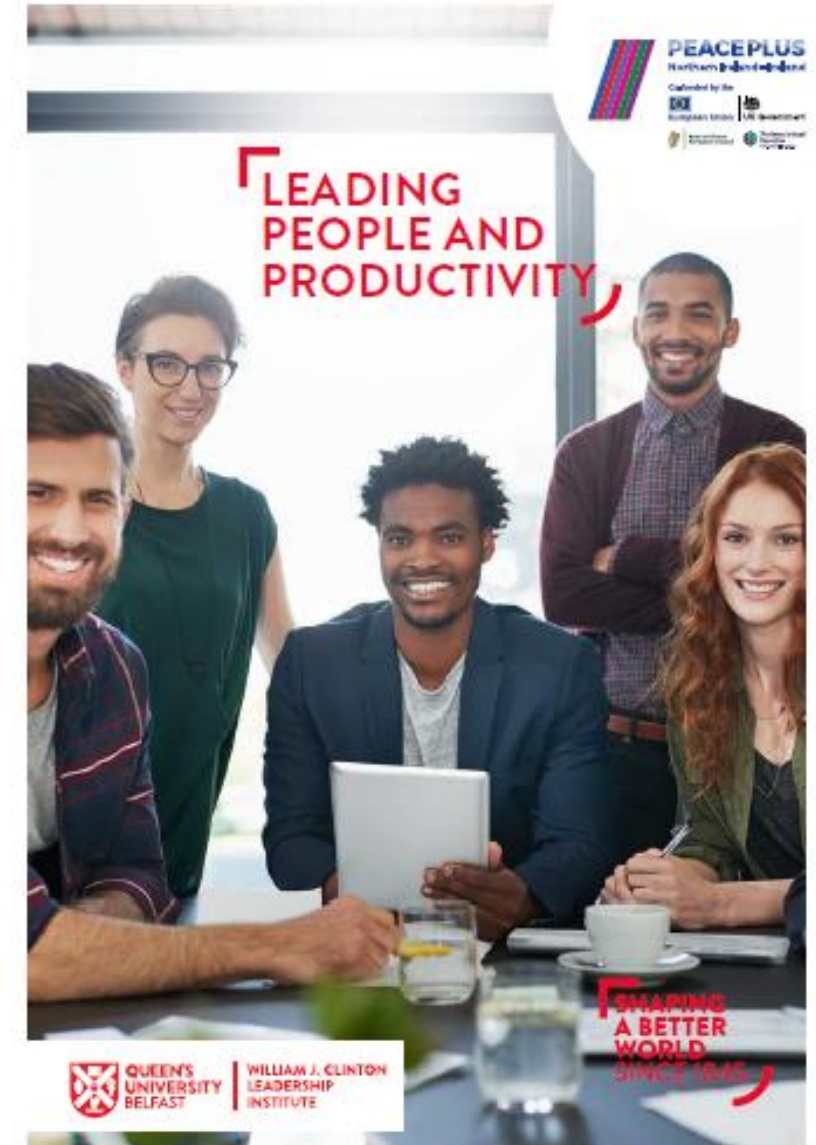
Fees: £2450 (VAT is non-applicable)

Funding: Full funding available for eligible applicants through PEACEPLUS INNOVATE+

This programme is for business leaders, owners and senior managers who wish to build high-performance cultures and drive operational excellence in their organisation. This practical course is designed for leaders who strive to turn operational friction and team challenges into opportunities for real growth. Through expert-led, interactive sessions, you'll get the frameworks and clear strategy needed to deliver measurable change.

On this programme you will;

- Assess your organisation's readiness for change, apply motivation theory and equip your workforce to successfully drive transformation.
- Adopt a process mindset to view operations as a competitive advantage, enabling strategic decision-making and reinforcing market positioning.
- Identify and eliminate waste using lean philosophy, conduct process improvement and manage risks to build a robust and cost-efficient organisation.
- Recognize the direct link between resource efficiency and margins and apply sustainability thinking as an innovation tool for competitive differentiation.
- Understand key sources of resistance and develop leadership strategies to effectively overcome obstacles to innovation and change.
- Identify actionable paths to growth, explore strategies for developing a strong management team and lead continuous innovation in your organisation



DIGITAL INNOVATION AND AI FOR LEADERS

Delivery: Online & In-person

Commencing: 18th November 2026, 6th April 2027 & 13th May 2027

Duration: 6 half days online or 3 full days in-person

Fees: £1250 (VAT is non-applicable)

Funding: Full funding available for eligible applicants through PEACEPLUS INNOVATE+

This course equips managers with the knowledge and confidence to embrace digital technologies and AI to drive tangible improvements in the business. This course lays out the professional development journey for technical innovators to learn the business behind life science venture building and put this to work within their own company to realise growth.

On this programme you will:

- Understand how Generative AI, intelligent agents, and automation fit into the broader logic of digital transformation—without falling for industry hype.
- Use a behavioural and structural diagnostic to assess where your organisation is truly prepared (or not) to adopt emerging technologies.
- Ensure your business data is reliable, structured and usable for analytics and AI, and use AI-ready analytics for faster, more confident decisions.
- Automate routine tasks, generate ideas, improve processes and enhance personalisation, responsiveness, and creativity in operations.
- Deploy agentic AI systems with human oversight, empower teams with AI copilots, and develop forward-looking policies to manage risk, ethics, and compliance.
- Translate digital ambitions into a realistic, phased strategy, engage stakeholders across the organisation, and leave with a practical roadmap tailored to your organisational context, priorities, and readiness.



BUSINESS SUSTAINABILITY ESSENTIALS

Delivery: Online & In-person

Commencing: 20th January 2027 & 5th May 2027

Duration: 4 half days online or 2 full days in-person

Fees: £750 (VAT is non-applicable)

Funding: Funding available for eligible applicants through PEACEPLUS INNOVATE+

This programme promotes innovation and responsiveness to emerging sustainability trends. It equips participants with the practical skills and insights to implement these concepts effectively.

On this programme you will;

- Define sustainability in the context of business, covering its economic, environmental, and social pillars, and analyse the regional sustainability challenges and evaluate their impact on businesses.
- Comprehend and develop strategies that incorporate sustainability in a way that aligns with the company's mission and objectives. In this context, enhance skills necessary for promoting and implementing sustainability initiatives effectively within the organisation and among stakeholders.
- Apply techniques for integrating sustainability practices across various business functions, including supply chain management, production, and marketing. In this context, examine case studies from leading companies to understand the application of successful sustainability practices (such as circular economy and regenerative economy).
- Identify best practices for building an inclusive green environment and encourage employee green behaviours. Participants will learn to craft effective communication strategies to convey the company's sustainability efforts to various stakeholders.
- Explore role of digital technology within sustainability landscape to prepare for future sustainability trends and anticipate potential regulatory changes to stay ahead in sustainability efforts.



2026-2027 delivery schedule

September October November December January February

Leading People and Productivity	23/09/2026 – 04/11/2026 Location: DkIT, Dundalk					
Digital Innovation and AI for Leaders			18/11/2026 – 02/12/2026 Location: DkIT, Dundalk			
Business Sustainability Essentials					20/01/2027 – 27/02/2027 Location: DkIT Dundalk	



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To find out more and register your interest, [CLICK HERE](#)

Or scan the QR Code



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