

DCU Launches USTART - Ireland's first start-up accelerator specifically for students and alumni



DCU is delighted to launch **USTART**, Ireland's first start-up accelerator for students and alumni. This initiative provides an exciting opportunity to develop and launch a business idea, along with gaining invaluable entrepreneurship experience. DCU is seeking dynamic individuals and teams with innovative ideas and offers extensive supports and resources in helping participants bring products and services to market. This is a unique opportunity to develop that idea you've been working on for years, to design and build innovative products and services, and to bring innovations to fruition. DCU will support students every inch of the way in developing their ideas, by providing a wide range of tangible and intangible supports. Through a wide base of national and international partnerships DCU offers a supportive, encouraging environment to flourish and take ideas and concepts to the next level. The invaluable experience and new skills gained are second only to the thrill of starting up your own venture! The USTART programme is open to all registered DCU students and recent alumni and may be selected as an alternative INTRA option by 3rd year undergraduates.

As part of USTART, participants receive:

- Up to € 10,000 seed funding investment
- Mentorship from an extensive network of 100 experienced business experts and professionals
- Office space and facilities for 4 months
- Assistance with design and build of prototypes
- Master-classes in accounting, legal issues, human resources, marketing
- Investor Day attended by Venture capitalists and Business Angels
- Accommodation in campus residences with other start-up teams

Closing date for applications through the USTART website IS 27th March 2013.

For more information see: www.dcu.ie/ustart or contact Dr. Ciarán Mac an Bhaird, Director ciaran.macanbhaird@dcu.ie