



## Family Business Continuity

Sustaining the Family Business  
Across Generations



“The DCU National Centre for Family Business has been an incredible resource for our family business. We are over 100 years in existence, and I want this business to be run by the family in another 100 years. My learnings from engaging with the National Centre for Family Business have undoubtedly improved our prospects.”

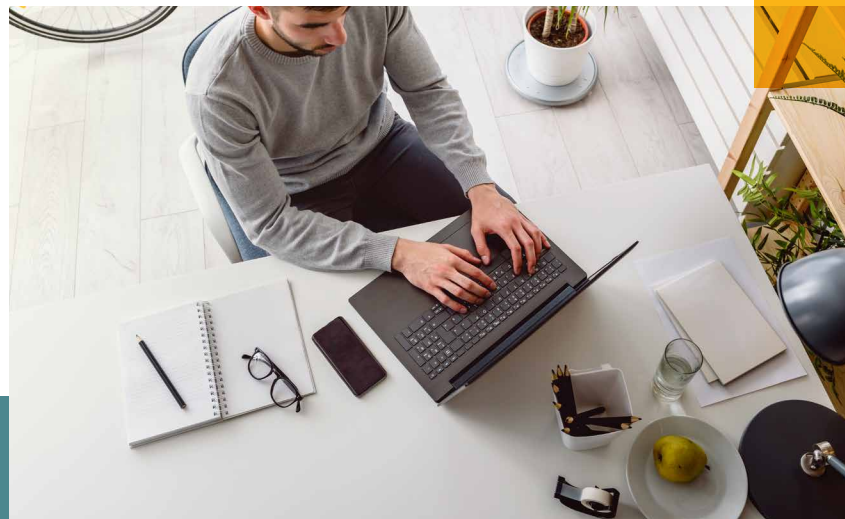
Mike Glennon, Glennon Brothers

“We knew little about family corporate governance and succession planning until our engagement with the National Centre for Family Business. The NCFB team, the invited practitioners and scholars have really opened our eyes to what can and needs to be achieved.”

Kevin O'Connor, Chairman, General Paints Ltd

“We took part in the Family Business Continuity Programme because we wanted to make a positive impact on the company during our stewardship. In the past Family Business had to go abroad to gain this type of knowledge we have a massive resource in the DCU National Centre for Family Business which is on our doorstep and we can draw on them.”

Tina Darrer, Dooley's Hotel



# Family Business Continuity

## Sustaining the Family Business Across Generations

### About this programme

As family firms evolve across generations, the needs of the family, the owners and the business will change. To address these evolving needs and to meet the family's desire to become a multigenerational business, this programme provides family business leaders with the knowledge and skills to design appropriate governance structures for their business. The programme's faculty are leading international family business experts who will share best-practice insights on the development of governance structures within the family, among the ownership group, and in the firm.

DCU Business School is home to the internationally acclaimed DCU National Centre for Family Business. Based upon eight years of rigorous research and engagement with over 1500 Irish family firms, this programme is a first-of-its-kind offering for family businesses in Ireland. The three-day interactive programme is designed specifically for current and next-generation members of family firms.

"All the materials we received during the Family Business Continuity Programme were hugely insightful and beneficial. The frameworks that we were given during the course will be of great use to us."

Bobby Fleming, Fleming Medical Ltd



### About DCU Business School

DCU Business School has a long history of executive training both to individuals and client companies. Our executive programmes are crafted to meet both the needs of business and of individuals developing their careers based on the industry connections that underpin our approach to education. Globally accredited by AACSB and AMBA, we're in the top 5% of Business Schools globally.

### About DCU National Centre for Family Business

The National Centre for Family Business at DCU is a leading international family business research centre. By translating world-class research into best practice insights, we empower family firms to embrace these contemporary challenges and achieve continuity across generations.

Family businesses across Ireland face significant challenges due to recent economic shocks, Brexit and more recently Covid-19. These challenges and uncertainties in conjunction with the lack of diversity are negatively impacting family businesses. Now more than ever family businesses need to drastically rethink their business model to ensure long-term survival for future generations.

### Programme Structure

The programme comprises three one-day modules delivered over the course of three consecutive weeks. Each module focuses on a different sphere of family business governance: family, business, and ownership.

The programme has been designed for online delivery and for maximum engagement among participants and faculty. Each day runs from 9.00am to 5.00pm.

### Who is this Programme for?

This programme is designed for family firms who are committed to adapting and evolving their governance structures to prepare for multigenerational growth and continuity. The programme is tailored to family firms that have transitioned, or are about to transition, from the founder(s) stage to the sibling and/or cousin stage.

The CEO is a vital participant and should be accompanied on the programme by two other members of the family firm (either family or non-family members). In instances where two generations are actively involved in the business, we encourage the attendance of representatives from both generations.

### Programme Dates

The programme dates are:

- Monday, 13th September 2021
- Monday, 20th September 2021
- Monday, 27th September 2021

## Programme Content

Across the three days, this course provides participants with an overview of the unique context of family business and their contribution to national and international economies. It will explain the family business system and family dynamics within each of its three spheres (family, business, and ownership) and will explore the evolution of the family business life cycle.

This programme specifically addresses:

- The development of a common vision to unite family members in a long-term commitment to continuity and family firm transition
- The role of effective communication forums in the creation, retention and repair of trust in family relationships
- The dynamics of ownership and its role in the changing needs of the family and the business. Understand how well-designed ownership policies can allow owners to determine their successors, giving them power to influence the future of the family business
- Decision-making in the context of ownership. Learn how ownership policies inform shareholders' engagement and behaviour(s) in relation to the business and how effective ownership governance can assist in resolving disputes and conflicts
- The pivotal role played by a Board of Directors in effectively guiding the family business. Learn how different types of boards assist in oversight and sustainability of the family firm
- Board members' roles and responsibilities and the issues that affect current and emerging members, such as managing the board's strategic, fiduciary and communication function

## What will you Learn?

Having completed **Family Business Continuity** programme, you will:

- Understand the function of a family constitution, and its role in maintaining trust and cohesion within the family
- Recognise the importance of a family employment policy for current and future family members
- Develop an understanding of ownership governance policies, including share options, voting rights, transferability of shares, dividend policy and liquidity
- Understand the importance of a high-functioning family business board, including the roles and responsibilities of board members, the development of a board charter, the design of a decision-making matrix and the role of independent board members
- Develop a peer-learning network with other participants facing similar challenges in the development of appropriate governance structures for their family firm

" I have no doubt that having attended this course that our family business with benefit. Family businesses grow organically and this course helps put structure on the business."

Anne Dolan – Clink Hostels

# Programme Lead



**Dr Eric Clinton**  
Programme Director

DCU Business School and Director of DCU National Centre for Family Business, NCFB Family Business Programme Director

Eric works with family-controlled enterprises on strategies for the successful continuity of their enterprises, with a focus on succession transitions and preparation of the next generation. He advises and facilitates conversations for business families on the topics of leadership, succession planning, governance, next generation development, entrepreneurship and innovation, and organization restructuring.

As a faculty member at Dublin City University, Dr Clinton is the director of the National Centre for Family Business, a leading international family business centre that offers expertise to family enterprises in Ireland and abroad. He leads the Centre's education programs, conferences, and network of family businesses. He is also an associate professor of Entrepreneurship at DCU where he teaches undergraduate and executive students in the areas of entrepreneurship, innovation, and family business. He is an award-winning teacher, having received international excellence awards for his teaching. He has delivered a keynote address at the Post-Davos Conference on 'Preparing the Millennial Generation for Leadership'.

Dr Clinton's research focuses on strategic entrepreneurial practices in family companies, particularly how entrepreneurial and innovative mind-sets within family businesses pass to the next generation. His research has been funded by the European Union, Irish and British governments, European family enterprises, and international professional service firms. His findings are published in more than 25 international journals including Academy of Management Review, Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice, Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal, Family Business Review, and Journal of Business Research. Demonstrating the practical relevance of his research, Dr Clinton has advised governments in Europe, Asia, and North America on developing multigenerational family enterprises. He is a board member of Babson College's Global STEP Project, the largest family business research project globally, which explores entrepreneurial practices in family companies by forming partnerships between family business practitioners and academic scholars.

Prior to his academic and advisory work focused on family-owned enterprises, Dr Clinton was a consultant with a leading US consulting firm where he advised information technology companies on issues related to mergers and acquisitions, and restructuring.

Dr Clinton earned a PhD in entrepreneurship and family enterprise from the Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School, University College Dublin. He earned a Master of Business Studies (with Psychology) from University College Dublin, and holds a Bachelor of Business Studies with Finance from Dublin City University.



**Dr Catherine Faherty**  
Programme Support

DCU Business School and DCU National Centre for Family Business

Dr Catherine Faherty is a founding member of the DCU National Centre for Family Business. In her role as Assistant Professor at DCU Business School, she teaches and mentors next-generation members preparing to assume leadership positions in their family businesses. Dr Faherty completed her PhD in Organisational Behaviour at DCU Business School in 2018. Prior to joining DCU as a faculty member she was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Kellogg Centre for Family Enterprises, Northwestern University, USA.

Dr Faherty's research focuses on trust dynamics in family-owned enterprises, and this work has seen her engage with family businesses nationally and internationally. She has published in a variety of peer-reviewed scholarly outlets, including *Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice*, and her work has been featured in national media outlets, including *The Irish Times* and the *Irish Independent*. In 2019, Dr Faherty's PhD research, *Bound by Blood in the Family Firm?*, was awarded the Frederic M. Jablin Doctoral Dissertation Award for her contribution to leadership studies internationally.

# Programme Delivery Team



**Dr Justin Craig**

Professor of Entrepreneurship and Family Enterprise, Bond University

Dr Justin Craig is a professor who complements his academician's skillset with an entrepreneur's mindset. Prior to pursuing an academic career in the late 1990s, Justin worked for one of Australia's prominent entrepreneurial business-owning families and in entrepreneurial ventures with members of his family.

In his twenty years as an academic, Justin has built an enviable research record and is recognised internationally for his work in understanding the challenges and opportunities of entrepreneurial family businesses and those who steward them. He has held faculty positions in three universities in the United States, including the Kellogg School of Management where he continues as a Visiting Professor and Executive Education Program Director. He returned to his Alma Mater, Bond University, in 2019 as Professor of Entrepreneurship and Family Enterprise. He is the 'educator-in-residence' to a small stable of multigenerational business-owning families around the globe. Justin considers his ongoing interaction with the DCU faculty and Ireland's business-owning families as among the highlights of his career.





# Guest Speakers



**Tom Roche**

Roche Family Business, CEO

Tom is a founding Director of NTR plc and Chairman of the Board of Directors. He also holds a number of other directorships. Tom graduated from Trinity College Dublin with an MA (Economics) degree and holds an MBA from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.



**Kevin O'Connor**

Chairman, General Paints Ltd

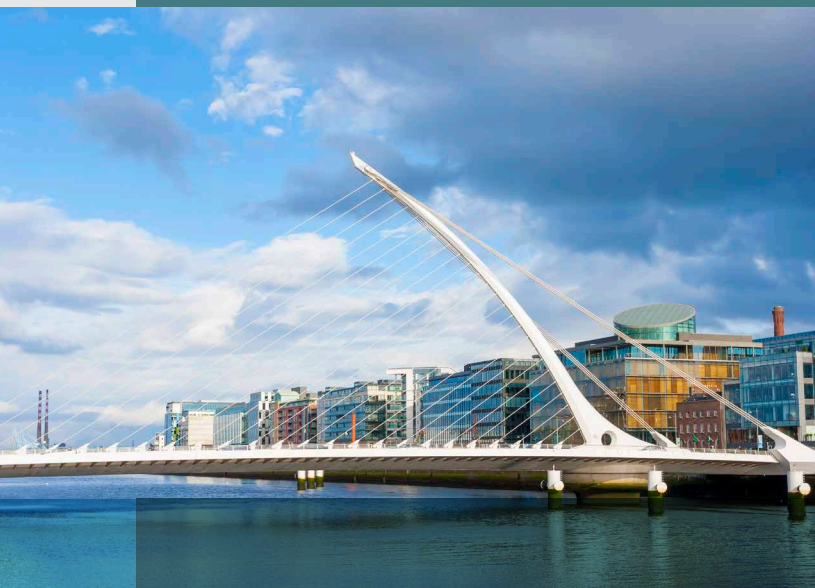
Kevin O'Connor is Chairman of General Paints, a third-generation family-run business located in Celbridge, Co. Kildare. General Paints is Ireland's leading independent paint company with brands including Colourtrend and Curator. Kevin read chemistry at Trinity College Dublin and holds an MBA from Arizona State University USA. With over 30 years of experience, Kevin possesses a strong background in the development of family business structures including the establishment of family business boards, succession planning, and family governance structures. Kevin believes in collaboration with peer paint companies, sitting on the Boards of several international coatings industry associations.



“Having worked in business for 25 years, the challenges are different for family businesses and this course is very relevant for family businesses.”

Simon Best – Highfield Healthcare





**For more information:**

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