

NWRC Innovation and Skills Centres





Welcome

The North West Regional College (NWRC) Business Support Centre (BSC) assists businesses from fledgling entrepreneurs and micro companies, to long-standing indigenous and multinational and foreign direct investment (FDI) businesses with tailored solutions to meet their needs.

The BSC offers support to industry in two main ways:

- Our Innovation and Skills Centres assist businesses to source funding to support upskilling and mentoring in applied innovation, research and development and then foster innovation by delivering tailored solutions, with the skills and knowledge required, in areas of new product, process or service development, to support businesses to be more innovative and competitive.
- Our Skills team support businesses to identify their skills needs through a training needs analysis and tailor bespoke training and upskilling specific to the business needs. Many of these skills courses are in priority areas and linked to employment opportunities.

At the NWRC we are committed to encouraging and stimulating innovation through upskilling and mentoring in new product development and process or service improvement. The NWRC has 5 dedicated innovation and skills centres across the specialist areas of Food and Hospitality, Manufacturing and Engineering, Extended Reality (XR), Health and Care and industry 4.0 automation, that deliver high-quality skills and innovation support to students, entrepreneurs, industry and the wider economy. These are the:

- Foodovation Centre,
- Design Innovation for Assisted Living (DIAL) Centre,
- Product Design Centre (PDC),
- XR Hub and
- i4.0 (industry 4.0) Centre.

The support available for early-stage entrepreneurs, micro and SMEs includes:

- Bespoke upskilling and training and one-to-one mentoring,
- Access to state-of-the-art equipment and industry-standard workshops including new technology demonstrations and NWRC staff with the associated skills,
- Technical staff with knowledge and expertise in idea generation, proof of concept creation and prototype development right through to scale-up of production,
- Conducting industry applied research and development (r&D).

With the support of the BSC team, we aim to assist business to find new markets, scale-up production and to rapidly and effectively bring new ideas and products to market to increase sales, reduce costs, access new markets while enhancing workforce skills and creating employment. In so doing, the NWRC is supporting the Department for the Economy NI's vision for a 10X economy.

Innovation Funding Options

The NWRC is able to support businesses to apply for, and leverage, funding across the UK and Ireland, for innovation and knowledge transfer, which includes:

Northern Ireland-based enterprises*

- **Innovate Us** – Up to 60 hours upskilling and mentoring support with one of the NWRC Innovation Centre experts funded by the Department for the Economy (DfE)
- **Innovation Vouchers** - £5000 worth of time with one of the NWRC Innovation Centre team, to assist in developing an idea, new product, or create solutions to critical business challenges, funded by Invest NI.
- **Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP)** - A 24-month strategic project offering a unique, 3-way collaborative approach to power innovation competitiveness and productivity through a high-tech R&D programme, funded by Innovate UK.

Republic of Ireland-based enterprises*

- **Enterprise Ireland Innovation Vouchers** – €5,000 worth of time with one of the NWRC Innovation Centre team, to assist develop an idea, new product, or create solutions to critical business challenges, funded by Enterprise Ireland.
- **Innovation Boost** – 12 or 18-month support package worth up to €67,900 to develop new product or service development or process improvement, which includes a graduate being employed, with mentoring support from one of the NWRC Innovation Centre team and an InterTrade Ireland Innovation Boost Consultant.

*Eligibility criteria applies across all these programmes, contact the BSC for more information.

Dr Fergal Tuffy

Technology Innovation Manager at NWRC Business Support Centre, responsible for initiating and leading policies, programmes and projects to ensure delivery of the College's priorities for economic development, employer engagement, and business innovation



Tel: 028 7127 6170
Email: businesssupport@nwrc.ac.uk

Foodovation™



Foodovation™ is a state-of-the-art innovation sanctuary offering a one-stop-shop solution to current and aspiring food and drink producers to develop excellence in food and drink innovation, science and technology.

Offering bespoke and comprehensive support, spanning from product development right through to market launch, Foodovation's technical specialists will provide industry-leading upskilling, detailed research and hands on support to ensure successful product launch and upscaling of production.

Specialising in

- New product development
- Recipe development and standardisation
- Production method and processing methods
- Food safety & quality compliance
- Product packaging & labelling including nutritionals and allergens



Foodovation's facilities are equipped with everything needed for students, budding entrepreneurs and small businesses to upskill in food and drink product development and innovation, for example:

- 3D food printer
- Industrial-sized food mixer
- Kitchen food mixers
- 6-ring industrial gas cooker
- Combi tilting kettle (60-litre capacity)
- Tilting bratt pan (60-litre capacity)
- Rational combi oven
- Blodgett convection oven
- Bakers double-deck ovens
- Dehydrator
- MAP Packer
- Blast chiller



Stella Graham

Manager of the NWRC's Food Innovation Centre, the Foodovation™ Centre, responsible for developing relationships and partnerships with local businesses in food and drink product development, skills and innovation.

Tel: 075 5337 3917
Email: Foodovation@nwrc.ac.uk

DIAL Centre

Design Innovation and Assistive Living Centre (DIAL) is an intelligent home simulation innovation centre that demonstrates technologies and product innovations, with associated skills, in the healthcare sector alongside promoting, collaborating and driving innovation for health and care sector, through design, adaptive housing, engineering and digital technologies.

The DIAL Centre supports innovative product design and skills in assistive technology that can be used to support individuals who live with dementia or who live with a range of disabilities including learning disabilities, autism, sensory disability and physical disabilities. It provides skills and knowledge transfer to businesses, ensuring appropriate solutions and evidence-based clinical guidance are embedded. DIAL specialises in upskilling the current and future workforce; and provides continuous professional development (CPD) courses for the social care workforce, family caregivers and allied health staff.

Technology available at the DIAL Centre includes:

- Simulated technology,
- Range of hoists,
- Pressure relieving mattresses and profile adjustable beds,
- Height adjustment kitchen benches and bathroom sink,
- Smart toilet,
- Electric bath lift,
- Eye-gaze technology,
- Virtual Reality for Health,
- iPads,
- Video conferencing technology (for home care use),
- Age simulator suit,
- Back pain simulation,
- Blood pressure simulation,
- Venepuncture simulator,
- Blind vision simulated glasses.

Tel: 028 7127 6108
Email: Dial@nwrc.ac.uk



Design Innovation
Assisted Living

North West Regional College



**Caroline
McKeever**

Caroline is the DIAL Centre Manager and Northern Ireland Manager for the Health and Social Care Curriculum Hub (held by NWRC), which involves managing and leading projects that focus on Dementia care, technology enhanced learning, augmented reality and digital health.

Product Design Centre (PDC)

PDC in NWRC Greystone, Limavady Campus is a state-of-the-art product design and prototyping facility, equipped with the latest additive and subtractive manufacturing technologies, to transform product ideas into a commercial reality. Offering a complete end-to-end new product development model, innovators are upskilled and mentored by technical consultants to develop new product ideas and generate employment opportunities within the sector.

The PDC offers hands on support from its skilled and industry leading engineers, from idea and concept design, 3D CAD development, materials analysis and selection, supplier sourcing and detailed testing to proof of concept prototyping and market ready products.

The PDC team specialises in:

- 3D CAD,
- 3D printing, prototype development and animation,
- Advanced simulations including finite element stress analysis (FEA) and computational fluid dynamics (CFD),
- Design for manufacturing and assembly,
- Digital twin.

The PDC is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for students, budding entrepreneurs and small businesses needing to upskill in engineering and manufacturing, for example:

- 3D printing farm (over 20 3D printers) and teaching lab
- FDM, SLA & SLS 3D printing processes
- PLA, ABS, Onyx (Carbon Fibre, Kevlar, Nylon 12 & Fibre Glass)
- Engineering and flexible resin
- CNC machines for a range of materials from stone and wood to various metals
- Manufacturing and assembly workshop
- 2D & 3D CAD design suites
- Fabrication & welding workshops

Tel: 079 1957 6801
Email: PDC@nwrc.ac.uk



Philip Devlin

NWRC's Product Design Centre Manager, supporting idea generation and new product and process development across a range of industries supporting business through research and prototype development, with underpinning skills.

XR Hub

The Extended Reality (XR) Hub specialises in augmented (AR) and virtual reality (VR) to support and upskill local entrepreneurs and businesses, with a range of VR and AR equipment and facilities that offer innovative technical expertise for:

- Software training
- Product development
- Process improvement and augmentation.

The XR Hub advises on both software and hardware packages to improve processes using toolsets, experience and advice to research and develop new possibilities with access to our facilities, and the skills necessary to do so.

Specialising in

- Video game development and digital animation
- Film production
- Surveying such as drone technology
- Software development
- Branding, graphic and packaging design across a range of sectors

The XR Hub's facilities are equipped with a wide range of technologies in the XR realm, for example:

- Cameras - Insta360 Pro 2 Camera, Theta Z1 and DJI Ronin 4D, 6K movie grade camera
- Xsens motion capture suits
- Drones: DJI FPV drone, DJI Mavic air and DJI Mavic 2 enterprise advanced drone
- VR Headsets - Meta Quest.
- VR Headsets - Meta Quest. and HTC Vive.



Jim Murray

XR Hub Manager responsible for supporting local businesses with projects in the field of XR (Extended Reality), including Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality and supporting a variety of creative media and IT-based support.

Tel: 078 2462 4488 Email: XR@nwrc.ac.uk



Industry 4.0 Centre



The industry 4.0 Centre at the NWRC's Springtown Campus is the latest addition to the innovation and skills centres, with a focus on supporting SMEs and local businesses with upskilling and mentoring in the areas of industry 4.0, automation and robotics.

The Centre specialises in:

- Robotics and automation
- Internet of things (IoT) and Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT)
- Electronic engineering
- Smart manufacturing
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML)



Businesses will be able to avail of training and consultancy in these areas and the i4.0 centre will also focus on embedding knowledge and expertise of the latest technology into industry, their employees, and the employees of the future. The industry 4.0 Centre is also a partner in the Seagate-led Smart Nano Manufacturing Corridor project, funded by Innovate UK Strength in Places funding.

The i4.0 Centre boasts a new teaching lab space suitable for courses in a range of areas of automation and robotics, electronics, cloud technologies, artificial intelligence, machine learning, smart manufacturing and 5G technology.

The facilities include:

- Festo Cyber Physical 8 (CP8) factory simulator
- Universal collaborative robot (Cobot) UR10e
- MiR 250 Autonomous Mobile Robot
- Cisco networking racks



Cathal Ferry

i4.0 Centre manager specialising in the areas of industry 4.0 including electronics, automation, and robotics, supporting business and the college through up to date training and support to both its students and business clients.



Tel: 074 3658 1257 Email: i4.0@nwrc.ac.uk

Skills

North West Regional College (NWRC) is a high-quality provider of specialist training and upskilling programmes to a range of employers across the region. The college provides masterclasses, accredited and tailored courses (Level 2 to Level 5) to meet the needs of businesses and delivers programmes across campus locations in Derry~Londonderry, Limavady and Strabane in the following areas:

- Business & professional programmes
- Early years learning & development
- Computing, IT & digital media
- Health & social care
- Construction & built environment
- Sports & leisure
- Hospitality, catering & tourism

Many of the courses are also delivered fully online or blended which offers greater flexibility for individuals.

One of our experienced Business Development Executives will meet you to carry out a free skills needs analysis and work with you to align and tailor courses to support your needs.

The NWRC has also developed bespoke training programmes with industry recognised qualification specific to companies' individual needs.



Skills Development for Industry



Sinead Hawkins

Business Skills Manager responsible for managing and directing economic engagement with small and medium sized enterprises to provide skills development solutions, tailored to business needs.

Tel: 078 0910 0689 Email: BSCSkills@nwrc.ac.uk

Skills Funding Options

Skills Focus

Skills Focus is a Department for the Economy (DfE) funded programme aiming to increase the skills levels, motivation and productivity of the existing workforce by offering industry specific and accredited qualifications at level 2 and above. This programme is open to businesses and social enterprises with fewer than 250 employees.

Skill Up Programme

Skill Up offers a range of fully-funded accredited courses to provide people across Northern Ireland the opportunity to retrain or reskill to improve their employment prospects in a range of priority areas. Opportunities are available from entry to postgraduate levels across a range of industries and sectors such as digital, advanced manufacturing & engineering, health & social care, leadership & management and entrepreneurship.

The DfE-funded programme aims to respond to the needs of the local economy, helping to upskill and boost productivity in a global market, and all courses are either accredited or industry recognised.

Assured Skills Programme

The DfE-funded Assured Skills programme is a short, demand-led, pre-employment training programme, which is fully funded by DfE, to upskill individuals and help them compete for guaranteed job vacancies in new foreign direct investment (FDI) companies and expanding indigenous businesses.

Apprenticeships and Traineeships

NWRC also offer an extensive range of Apprenticeship and Traineeship programmes across a number of areas such as Craft, Engineering, Construction, Hospitality & Catering, IT, Childcare, Hairdressing, Housing Practice and Health and Social Care.

For more information on the courses and how to apply Email: careers@nwrc.ac.uk and a Careers Advisor will be in touch to book an appointment with you OR Apply online www.nwrc.ac.uk/apply

Labour Market Partnership

These short courses are fully funded through local councils such as Derry City and Strabane District Council and Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council via the Department for the Communities Labour Market Partnership funding. These programmes aim to give individuals the skills that employers are looking for in a range of disciplines such as Leadership and Management and Advanced Manufacturing sectors.

If you are over 16, unemployed and a resident of Derry City & Strabane District Council or Causeway Coast and Glens Council.

Higher Level Apprenticeships (HLAs)

Higher Level Apprenticeships (HLAs) are unique workbased learning programmes enabling participants to 'earn while they learn'. These support businesses to 'employ clever' and address high level skills shortages, as well as improving business practice by developing a progressively skilled workforce, essential for today's competitive economic climate. There is no cost to the employer for participation however there is a 1-day release per week for the employee, which can be new or existing employees, to attend NWRC.

HLAs are currently offered in Accountancy, Business and Enterprise, Software Development, Engineering, Hospitality & Tourism and Childcare, Modern Construction and FinTech.

For more information on the courses and how to apply contact: Helen McGonigal, NWRC Higher Level Apprenticeships Co-Ordinator Tel: 028 7127 6199 OR Email: helen.mcgonigal@nwrc.ac.uk



north west
regional college

Derry-Londonderry • Limavady • Strabane

**The North West Regional College
Business Support Centre**

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Springtown Campus

Derry – Londonderry, BT48 OLY

Industry 4.0 Centre - 074 3658 1257 i4.0@nwrc.ac.uk

Strand Road Campus

Derry – Londonderry, BT48 7AL

Skills - 078 0910 0689 BSCSkills@nwrc.ac.uk

XR Centre - 078 2462 4488 XR@nwrc.ac.uk

DIAL Centre - 028 7127 6108 Dial@nwrc.ac.uk

Foodovation - 075 5337 3917 Foodovation@nwrc.ac.uk

(facilities in Strand Road and Main Street Campus Limavady, BT49 0EX)



Greystone Campus

Greystone Road Limavady, BT49 0ND

Product Design Centre - 07919576801 PDC@nwrc.ac.uk

Facebook: NWRC Business Support Centre

Twitter: @nwrc_bsc

LinkedIn: nwrcbsc

YouTube: [nwrcbusinesssupportcentre8412](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnwrCBSc8412)