

EVOLVE
Academy DUBLIN 2026

EVOLVE

A TARASIS FOUNDATION PROGRAMME

EVOLVE Academy DUBLIN 2026

Evolve at DCU is a **leadership and development programme** designed to support women to back themselves, build confidence, and access opportunities that haven't always been equally available.

The Academy is built around a series of **practical, engaging masterclasses** that bring together inspiring entrepreneurs, industry voices, and educators. These sessions focus on developing the **mindset, skills, and confidence** needed to take the leap, navigate challenges, and succeed — both personally and professionally.

At the heart of Evolve at DCU is **connection** — women **learning together**, supporting one another, and **building networks** that extend far beyond the programme itself. Through shared experience, open conversation, and **collaborative learning**, participants are encouraged to grow in an environment that is supportive, ambitious, and grounded in real-world insight.

Alongside structured learning, participants will also have the opportunity to take part in **Evolve's pitch competition** — offering a platform to be heard, supported, and championed.

The Academy launches with an in-person event at **Dublin City University on March 26th**, bringing women into the same room to connect, learn, and begin the journey together.





EVOLVE Academy DUBLIN 2026



Launch Event

 **Dublin City University**

 **March 26th 2026**

 **In-person masterclass & discussion**



Mairead Mackle MBE

Founder & CEO
Tarasis Enterprises



Judy Ehiguese

Founder
& CEO, SkynCap



Sínead Crowther

Co-Founder, Soothing
Solutions

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Guest Speakers



Mairead Mackle MBE

Founder & CEO, Tarasis Enterprises & Evolve

Mairead Mackle is an entrepreneur, founder and advocate for women in business. Founder of Evolve and with decades of experience in business and enterprise, Mairead is widely recognised for her commitment to equality, mentorship and creating spaces where women can learn, connect and thrive.

Judy Ehiguese

Founder & CEO, SkynCap

Judy Ehiguese is the Founder and CEO of SkynCap, an Irish wig care brand. A former tech professional, she launched SkynCap in 2024 to address gaps in the wig industry. The brand now serves customers in over 16 countries, is stocked in Ireland and the UK, and has received multiple industry and entrepreneurship awards.



Sínead Crowther

Co-Founder, Soothing Solutions

Sínead Crowther is the Founder and CEO of Soothing Solutions, the Irish healthcare company behind Tonstix, innovative honey jelly pops for children's sore throats. A former pharmaceutical technician, she built the business after identifying a gap in child-friendly relief products, earning national recognition for innovation and entrepreneurship.



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Online Masterclass 1

Digital Mindset -

Master the Digital Founder Mindset



Date: Thursday, 23rd April



Time: 12.00-2.00pm



Format: Online masterclass

Sarah Kelly (PhD)

Co-Founder, Herology



Dr Sarah Kelly is a Clinical Exercise Physiologist and co-founder of Herology, a science-backed supplement brand designed to support women at every stage of life. A former Assistant Professor at Dublin City University, she specialised in exercise and cardiovascular health across the lifespan.

Driven by a commitment to evidence-based health and clear, reliable information for women, Sarah co-founded Herology to address gaps in the supplement market and create products grounded in science and quality.

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Online Masterclass 2

Taking the Entrepreneurial Plunge - Validate & Launch Your Idea



Date: Thursday, 7th May



Time: 12.00-2.00pm



Format: Online masterclass

Sheelagh Brady (PhD)

CEO & Co-Founder, Kowroo



Dr Sheelagh Brady is a globally recognised security analyst with over 25 years' experience across policing, intelligence and high-risk environments. She is the CEO and Co-Founder of Kowroo, a safety technology company transforming travel risk management through real-time, data-driven risk modelling, developed in collaboration with Dublin City University and supported by Enterprise Ireland.

Before entering the tech sector, Sheelagh spent 14 years in An Garda Síochána and later worked with the EU and UN in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Libya and Nigeria. She holds a PhD from Dublin City University and is a published author and frequent speaker at international security forums.

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Online Masterclass 3

Succeed with Confidence -

Lead Boldly & Scale with Confidence



Date: Thursday, 21st May



Time: 12.00-2.00pm



Format: Online masterclass

Louise Keenan Clarke

Founder, Succeed with Confidence

Louise Keenan Clarke is a business communication and leadership development specialist and founder of Succeed with Confidence. With over 20 years' experience in senior corporate and investment banking roles, alongside 25 years coaching professionals in communication and public speaking, Louise supports entrepreneurs and leaders to articulate their value, strengthen executive presence and lead with confidence and impact.

A former co-chair of a global bank's Women Inclusion Network, Louise is passionate about empowering women to perform at their highest levels and is delighted to facilitate this masterclass for Evolve Women.



EVOLVE *Academy* DUBLIN 2026

Closing Event

📍 **Dublin City University**

📅 **Thursday, 26th June 2026**

🎓 **In-person closing Event, Pitch
Competition & Networking with
Refreshments**

The Academy will conclude with a celebratory in-person afternoon event, including the announcement of the Evolve pitch competition winner — recognising innovation, ambition and potential. The event will also include networking and refreshments, offering time to connect and celebrate together. A guest speaker will be confirmed in due course.



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Pitch Competition

Confidence, clarity and opportunity

How would €1000 help your business?

Academy participants will have the opportunity to take part in the Evolve Pitch Competition — a supportive space to share ideas, build confidence and be heard.

The winning pitch will be announced at the in-person closing event, with a €1,000 prize awarded to support the next stage of the idea or business.

