

## DCU Ryan Academy

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Dublin City University is situated on an 85-acre campus three miles north of the city's River Liffey . It was awarded university status in 1989 and was considered at the time to be an 'unconventional' university. It broke with the traditional mould and introduced a number of ideas, which had enormous impact on the Irish education system. DCU has developed its own research specialisms, creating a number of national centres of excellence that collaborate with other universities and industry internationally.

Dublin City University is one of Ireland's youngest universities. With over 10,000 students and 700 postgraduate research students, DCU has become a leading agent of change, constantly introducing new programmes of education to reflect the needs of a fast evolving Irish society, as well as providing world-class research and innovation.

DCU Ryan Academy was launched in October 2005. It is a joint venture between the family of the late Tony Ryan (Ryanair) and DCU. The vision of the Ryan Academy is to be a leading centre of excellence for entrepreneurship and innovation. It is a place where entrepreneurs can come to develop ideas, learn new skills and network. It aims to be exciting and different and to really appeal to Ireland's entrepreneurs. Currently, Ryan Academy is working on a new model to develop and support entrepreneurs. This model will focus primarily on the promotion of start-up teams and export oriented SMEs. The Academy also supports the development of social enterprise, social entrepreneurs and the third sector as part of its mission. The Ryan Academy and its associates are engaged in research in a number of areas including entrepreneurship, minority entrepreneurship, social enterprise, creativity and innovation.