



**QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST**

Early career researchers are increasingly encouraged to develop skills that help them to apply their work outside academia. A new postgraduate certificate in entrepreneurship at Queen's University Belfast has been so successful at this 400 universities worldwide are adopting it.

Created in 2011, the certificate is compulsory for all early career researchers at Queen's. More than 5,000 students have completed the course, which includes a chance to apply research in an external organization and five-day intensive programme involving drama, music, social media and pitching ideas.

More than 200 students have since set up part-time social or commercial enterprises. Early career researchers have also established 10 collaborators with peers in China, India and the US, while their employability has risen by more than 15%. Universities around the world, including 60 in the UK, have since adopted the programme. Queen's estimates that this year it will be made available to more than 500,000 researchers worldwide, and training will be given to more than 5,000 course facilitators.

Janet Metcalfe, head of the researcher development organisation Vitae and a judge, said the panel members were impressed by the "scale and intent" of the Queen's course.

"Through a combination of blended learning, training programmes, project work and reflective practice, over 5,000 participants have explored how to be more innovative and enterprising in their professional development and application of their research outside higher education." She said.