

Joanne Hession is one of Ireland's foremost experts on the adoption of entrepreneurial attributes for corporates, and an outstanding advocate for authentic leadership in Ireland and around the world.

Joanne is founder and Managing Director of The Entrepreneurs Academy, QED Accreditation Advisors and, more recently, LIFT Ireland. First established in 1998 and still in operation to this day, her first business - The Entrepreneur's Academy - has trained over 30,000 entrepreneurs across three decades. She has been interviewed by Forbes and the New York Times as an expert on entrepreneurship and training. Joanne is passionate about business development and providing new enterprises with world-leading training on how to do business better, smarter and more successfully.

A frequent keynote speaker at international conferences, Joanne is co-author of #1 bestselling book "Don't Get a Job, Build a Business". Joanne is a government advisor on Entrepreneurialism and a recognised media commentator. She joined Bobby Kerr as an expert panel member on Newstalk's Down To Business Show for the 8 episodes of AIB's Getting Started Series. She is listed as one of the top 100 All-Island Business Women by Irish Entrepreneur and Your Business and as one of the top entrepreneurs in Ireland by Prudence magazine.

Joanne is heavily involved in the British Irish Chamber of Commerce, is a board member of Dublin Chamber of Commerce and Advisory Board Member of the University of Hertfordshire Business School in the UK. She also chairs Advisory Boards for a number of start-up companies. In 2019, she was awarded the 'International Award for Equipping Others' for her work with LIFT Ireland, which she founded to raise the level of leadership across Ireland. Joanne is currently mentoring teams in Denmark, UK, Nigeria and Australia who have all been inspired by the LIFT model.

Joanne holds a Bachelor of Commerce Degree from University College Dublin, specialising in Finance, and a Master of Business Studies Degree in Management from the Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business, University College Dublin. Joanne holds a certificate in Training from NUI Maynooth (1st Class Hons).

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