

CIT APPRENTICE COMPETITION



The Apprentice competition is an annual contest held every month of March during the Innovation Week at the CIT, in which students across all of CIT's Faculties present innovative ideas for new apps.

Starting in 2012, the programme has seen a constant increase of participants in its five editions, with hundreds of app ideas presented, ranging from connecting parents and teachers to discuss child progress to supporting people with dementia or providing diagnosis for sick cattle.



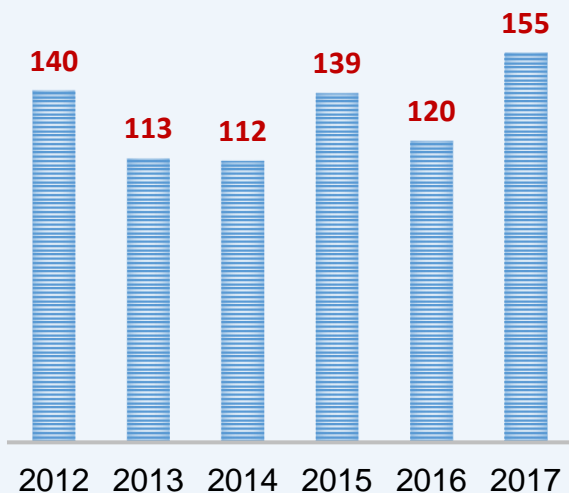
Benefits

- Providing the students with the opportunity to share their business ideas and get the chance to win prizes for their efforts
- Attracting students from very different academic disciplines to take part and get in contact with the entrepreneurial world.
- Bringing into limelight ideas that can be very useful and helpful for a lot of people, and which otherwise could have passed unnoticed.

Challenges

- Making sure that a vast (and increasing every year) number of candidatures are dealt with in a fair and equitable way.
- Being able to judge and compare very different ideas, with little or no aspects in common with each other.

Participants



Success Factors

- Focusing in one of the currently fastest growing business areas in the field of technology, such as the app development.
- Addressing a very wide and heterogeneous target of potential candidates, due to the multi-disciplinary nature of the contest.
- Awarding ideas and not execution, thus allowing students without advanced IT knowledge to present their projects and contact with others who can help developing them out.

Collaboration

The APPrentice competition is one of the many events that take part every year at all CIT campuses during the Innovation Week, and event organized by the CIT itself with the support of County and City Enterprise Boards and the National Development Plan.



"This means everything to me. I would like to work in software, and I enjoy designing apps. This is an ideal break for me". Richard Burke, 2014 edition's winner.

Evaluation

The initiative has proven to be very successful, with the number of candidates steadily raising every year (113 entries in 2013, 139 in 2015), which denotes the interest that a growing business area like the apps raises between the students.