

IoD Chartered Director Programme

Learn More. Lead Better.

Contents

1	Foreword	3
2	Programme Overview	4
3	Stages of the Programme	7
4	Benefits of the Programme	9
5	Who is the Programme for?	12
6	How to Apply	14
7	Find out More	15

Foreword

**"Being a director is a privilege
but also comes with responsibility"**

The role of the director is one of the most comprehensive and impactful positions in any organisation. And it is your responsibility to ensure that you're continuously developing your skills and balancing core governance competencies such as finance, leadership, governance and strategy so that you and your organisation can thrive. With new technologies emerging and governance challenges arising, equipping yourself with the toolset you need to create long-term value is a priority.

At IoD Ireland, the Chartered Director Programme remains the gold standard for director learning and education in Ireland. Offering a transformative educational experience, it fosters deep engagement in corporate governance subject matters through small cohorts, peer-to-peer learning and real-world case studies. Led by a seasoned team of governance experts, programme participants come away with the knowledge they need to advance their director careers for years to come.

The next phase of your director journey starts here.

Caroline Spillane CDir
Chief Executive Officer
Institute of Directors Ireland



Programme Overview

Become the director others turn to with the IoD Chartered Director Programme.

The Chartered Programme stands apart for its exceptional learning experience, led by a faculty of seasoned non-executive directors who bring real-world boardroom insight into every session.

Participants engage in immersive, in-person modules that are both intensive and interactive, designed for immediate application in their professional roles. With small cohorts, the programme fosters meaningful collaboration, peer learning, and valuable networking opportunities.

Real-world case studies further enrich the experience, allowing participants to apply their knowledge to practical scenarios that mirror the challenges faced in today's boardrooms.

This prestigious designation validates advanced directorship competencies and signals your commitment to excellence in corporate leadership.

IoD Ireland is the sole provider of the full Chartered Director pathway in Ireland.



“The IoD Chartered Director Programme was a very rewarding experience and an exciting step in broadening my professional journey. I thoroughly enjoyed the programme material and the peer-to-peer discussions. I would highly recommend to any professional looking to take the next step in their director journey.”

Jim Bergin, Chairperson,
FBD Holdings Plc



“My commitment to continuous learning brought me to the Institute of Directors Ireland. Completing the IoD Chartered Director Programme was hugely valuable. The quality of the lecturers, the breadth of the content, and the strength of the IoD Ireland network all stood out. I had been planning to do it for years, and I’m very glad I finally made the leap.”

Orla Graham,
Chief People Officer, Davy

Stages of the Programme

Step 1

Certificate in Company Direction

Participants begin their journey with the Certificate in Company Direction, an exam-certified programme covering four core areas. This Certificate Programme is designed for senior professionals who want to bring strategic insight and governance excellence to their organisations, even those without formal board structures.

The four areas include:

- Role of the Director and Board (International) - 2 days
- Strategy for Directors – 3 days
- Finance for Directors – 3 days
- Leadership for Directors – 2 days

Step 2

Diploma in Company Direction

Upon completing the Certificate, participants progress to the Diploma in Company Direction, where they integrate and apply their learning in a practical, strategic context.

This includes a hands-on module where participants will experience the world of boardroom dynamics, navigating challenges and crises through role-play. It's a chance to flex previous learning in an energising real-world setting.

Step 3

Becoming a Chartered Director

After earning the Diploma, eligible participants may apply for Chartered Director (CDir) designation.

This involves a professional review process and eligibility assessment. On becoming a Chartered Director, networking and information channels provided by IoD Ireland will open to our graduates.

To learn more about the steps in submitting your Chartered Director application, contact the Learning and Education Team.



“Completing the IoD Chartered Director Programme was exceptionally timely. The programme provided me with a vital framework for evaluating the unique risks and opportunities inherent in merging two large-scale businesses. It empowered me to contribute to a successful outcome, helping to build our new entity on a foundation of robust governance and clear-eyed decision-making.”

Michael Walsh, Senior Partner,
Byrne Wallace Shields LLP

Benefits of the Programme

The IoD Chartered Director Programme is widely regarded as the gold standard for director training in Ireland. Offering access to an alumni community of like-minded directors for ongoing professional development and connections as well as a globally recognised qualification in corporate governance.

Participants of the programme can expect to receive the following benefits:

- Expert-led faculty: All our facilitators are experienced non-executive directors.
- Expert content and curriculum inclusive of leading insights into strategy, leadership, finance and corporate governance.
- Intensive, immersive learning modules.
- Mix of in-person and online learning.
- Small group.
- Real-world case studies.
- Access to an alumni community.

In addition, all participants of the Programme also receive the benefits that come with IoD Ireland membership including access to thought leader events, content, peer-to-peer networking opportunities, exclusive director insights and much more.



“The IoD Chartered Director Programme was a rigorous and genuinely insightful programme. It deepened my understanding of board effectiveness, risk oversight, culture and long-term value creation – and reinforced for me that strong governance rests as much on judgement and integrity as it does on technical knowledge. I sincerely value the strategic governance framework and lens through which this programme was delivered.”

Aisling Gannon CDir, Dublin District Coroner and Senior Counsel, Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration



“For any company directors looking to formalise their professional development or for any aspiring directors, I cannot recommend the IoD Chartered Director Programme highly enough. The quality of the tutoring is second to none. Their real-world experience shines through and learning alongside a diverse and inspiring group of peers further enhanced the experience.”

John Paul Scally,
Chief Executive Officer, Lidl France

Who is the Programme for?

Programme participants are composed of company directors and senior leaders. Below are the different experience levels of Chartered Director Programme participants:

- Executive Directors, including Chief Executive Officers (CEOs), Chief Financial Officers (CFOs), and others formally appointed to the board.
- Senior executive team members (COOs, CTOs, CMOs, CIOs, CROs, CCOs, CHROs, and CSOs).
- Individuals in equivalent senior roles who have demonstrably fulfilled responsibilities involving direct accountability to a board for significant strategic, financial, operational or governance matters.
- Non-executive directors or board chairs.
- Members of advisory boards or governance committees.
- Trustees of charity or voluntary bodies with board-level oversight responsibilities.
- Business owners, founders or partners.
- Corporate governance professionals such as General Counsel, Company Secretaries or Governance Officers.
- Senior civil and public servants.
- Investors, venture capitalists or private equity professionals.



“I was delighted to recently complete the IoD Chartered Director Programme. This was a truly rewarding professional undertaking for me. The fantastic faculty combined with the insightful programme material and peer-to-peer networking was invaluable. I would highly recommend to anyone in a senior leadership role.”

Caoimhe Buckley CDir,
Chief Corporate Affairs Officer,
Fyffes Limited

How to Apply for the Chartered Director Programme

Start by filling out the Expression of Interest form, which can be found on the IoD Ireland website. Please note this does not guarantee you a place, nor does it commit you to accepting an offer. Once submitted, our team will contact you to invite you to a special information session with the Programme Director.

After attending the information session, applicants will be assessed for suitability for the programme. Once a programme cohort opens, eligible candidates will receive an invitation to secure a place. Places are limited and offered on a rolling basis.

To confirm your place, you'll be asked to pay a deposit and complete the booking form.

Application Process

1. Complete the Expression of Interest form.
2. Attend an information session with the Programme Director.
3. Applications are assessed for suitability.
4. When a cohort opens, eligible candidates are invited to secure a place.
5. Pay deposit and complete booking form to confirm your place.

The IoD Ireland Chartered Director Programme Team

The IoD Ireland Learning and Education Team are here to answer any queries you may have about the IoD Chartered Director Programme.



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