



**QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST**

**QUEEN'S  
BUSINESS  
SCHOOL**

**Queen's Business School Launch Event  
23 October 2023**

**Speaker biographies**

**Professor Sir Ian Greer, President and Vice-Chancellor of Queen's University  
Belfast**



Ian Greer has been President and Vice-Chancellor of Queen's University Belfast since August 2018. He has extensive experience of university innovation driving regional economic growth, including cross-sector developments such as the Northern Health Science Alliance, a collaboration of eight Universities and NHS partners, and is the cofounder of the Health Innovation Research Alliance for NI.

He is a strong advocate for University social responsibility including widening participation. He leads the innovation pillar of the Belfast Region City Deal, driving innovation in key sectors for the local economy - creative industries, health innovation, data science & analytics, and advanced manufacturing. He is the immediate past President of Universities Ireland, promoting collaboration across the island, as well as a member of the Research England Council and the British Council's Education Advisory Group (EAG).

By way of background, he is a medical graduate of the University of Glasgow, with his research and clinical career in obstetrics & gynaecology. He has held senior leadership positions in several UK Universities, and was Vice President of the University of Manchester, immediately before moving to Queen's.

## **Professor M.N. Ravishankar, Dean & Head of Queen's Business School**

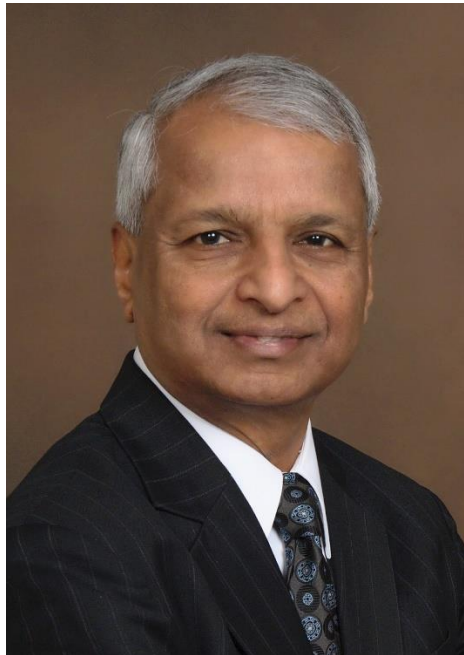


M.N. Ravishankar is Professor of Technology & Globalisation, and Dean and Head of Queen's Business School. Previously, he was Professor of Technology & Globalisation at Loughborough Business School, Loughborough University. During his stint at Loughborough University (2006-2022), Ravi held multiple leadership roles including Associate Dean (Research) and Director of Internationalisation. In 2023, Ravi was appointed to the European Advisory Council of AACSB International - a global nonprofit association that provides quality assurance, business education intelligence and learning and development services to more than 1000 accredited business schools worldwide.

Ravi has been consistently ranked amongst the top 20 global scholars based on research publications in the Association for Information Systems' basket of world-leading scholarly journals. His external research engagements (2004 - present) span strategic coordination of technology sourcing, management of digital social innovations, and social entrepreneurship.

Ravi's teaching has been well-received by all student groups, and he has designed and delivered undergraduate, postgraduate, MBA, doctoral, and executive education courses on the strategic management of multinational enterprises, strategies for emerging markets, technology management, management information systems, global sourcing, and fintech innovations.

## **Dr Gururaj Deshpande, Keynote Speaker**



Gururaj 'Desh' Deshpande is a Trustee of the Deshpande Foundation along with his wife, Jaishree. Desh is the President and Chairman of Sparta Group LLC, a family investment office.

Dr Deshpande holds a B. Tech. in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology – Madras, an M.E. from the University of New Brunswick in Canada, and Ph.D. from Queens University in Canada.

Dr Deshpande has pursued an entrepreneurial career for the last three decades. He is involved either as the founder, a founding investor or chairman of several companies including Cascade Communications, Sycamore Networks, Coral Networks, Tejas Networks, Cimaron, Webdialogs, Airvana, Sandstone Capital, A123 Systems and Curata.

Dr Deshpande lives in Boston and serves as a life-member of the MIT Corporation, and his support has made possible MIT's Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation. The Deshpande Foundation strengthens ecosystems that create significant social and economic impact through entrepreneurship and innovation.

Leveraging the experience gained at the MIT Center, the Deshpande Foundation has facilitated the setup of five other centers; Deshpande Center for Social Entrepreneurship in India, EforAll (formerly known as the Merrimack Valley Sandbox) in Lowell/Lawrence Massachusetts, the Pond-Deshpande Center at the University of New Brunswick in Canada, the Dunin Deshpande Queens Innovation Center at Queens University in Kingston, Ontario and the Gopalakrishnan Deshpande Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, India.

The Deshpande Foundation also provided the founding grant for MassChallenge in Boston, National Science Foundation Innovation Corps (I-Corps™), Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and the UPOP programme at MIT.

Desh co-chaired the National Council to support President Obama's innovation and entrepreneurship strategy from 2010 to 2015.

**Panel 1 Host: Dr Alan Hanna**



Dr Alan Hanna is a Reader (Education) in Finance at Queen's Business School (QBS). Appointed Director of Accreditation in 2016, Alan has led the School through initial accreditations for AMBA, EQUIS, and SBC and initial self-evaluation report development for AACSB. Prior to joining Queen's in 2013, Alan worked for over a decade in investment banking and financial risk management.

## Video introduction: Dan LeClair, CEO of Global Business School Network



As CEO of the Global Business School Network (GBSN), Dan is helping business schools work together and connect with business, government, and civil society to foster inclusive and sustainable development.

Prior to GBSN, Dan was instrumental in transforming AACSB from a US accrediting body to a global thought leader and internationally respected quality assurance agency. He led AACSB's strategic development, major advocacy investments, and the global expansion of its professional development portfolio. He is credited with starting the organization's knowledge services area and shepherding a three-year process to reconstruct accreditation standards on a platform of engagement, innovation, and impact.

Dan was officially recognized by the UN for pioneering efforts in the formation of its Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME). He was a founding member and now is a Fellow of the Responsible Research in Business and Management (RRBM) initiative. Dan also played the lead role in creating a think-tank joint venture between the EFMD and AACSB and, throughout his career, has participated in many industry-level task forces for a wide range of organizations, including the Chartered Association of Business Schools, British Academy, Graduate Management Admission Council, Executive MBA Council, and Aspen Institute's Business and Society Program.

## Panel 1 Speakers

### Ron Tuninga, Vice President and MD Europe, AACSB



Ronald (Ron) Tuninga is an international, innovative, and entrepreneurial leader with expertise in both the public and private sectors in higher education. He has been a successful Dean in three European countries and has experience in developing and running graduate and undergraduate programs on five continents, across 35 countries.

He has in-depth knowledge of the European, Middle Eastern, and African higher education systems and has been actively involved as a volunteer in various international accreditation organisations, including AACSB, EFMD, and AMBA.

Tuninga is the former vice president of academic affairs at Wittenborg University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands, pro vice chancellor and dean of the Faculty of Business and Law at Kingston University London, and dean at AVT Business School in Copenhagen, Denmark. Furthermore, he was the former director dean at the Maastricht School of Management in the Netherlands. His PhD is from Temple University in Philadelphia, USA. Tuninga holds an MA in economics, an MBA in international business, and an MSc in marketing.

His research publications have appeared in more than 70 journals and proceedings of international conferences. He has been involved in international projects funded by the Dutch government, World Bank, European Union, United Nations, and other international organizations. From 2007 to 2009 he also served as president of the International Management Development Association.



**Oliver Lowe, Director of Professional and Programme Development, CABS**



Oliver Lowe is Director of Professional and Programme Development at the Chartered Association of Business Schools.

Oliver is responsible for leading the teams which develop and deliver the spectrum of professional development activities that the Chartered Association of Business Schools and Small Business Charter offers its member business schools. Oliver is responsible for overseeing the Certified Management & Business Educator (CMBE) scheme which supports the professional development of the business and management educator community in the UK and overseas. Oliver joined the Chartered ABS in June 2015.



**Daniel Kahn, Senior Insights Specialist – Graduate Management Education at QS**



Daniel, with a substantial 15-year career collaborating with business schools globally, carries a wealth of expertise in business school student recruitment and business school rankings. Devoting approximately 7 years to assist admissions officers in recruiting MBA students, he subsequently spent a similar period on the QS Business School rankings, engaging with over 500 accredited institutions worldwide.

A respected speaker, Daniel has shared his insights at prominent conferences including EFMD, AACSB, and MBACSEA, and has actively contributed to PRME initiatives. In the recent two years, he spearheaded the establishment of an insights and consulting department specialising in graduate management education within QS, offering consultancy to numerous global business schools. His most recent endeavours focus on addressing the skills gap in business education. Away from his professional sphere, Daniel is an avid cook and a global traveller, having explored over 80 countries.

**Dr Laura Steele, Director of Ethics, Responsibility, and Sustainability, Queen's Business School**



Dr Laura Steele is a Senior Lecturer (Education) in Business and Society & Director of Ethics, Responsibility, and Sustainability at Queen's Business School, Belfast. Laura's teaching and scholarship interests are found at the intersection between ethics, responsibility, sustainability and technology, with a particular emphasis on Artificial Intelligence (AI).

In June 2023, Laura received the Queen's University Belfast 'Rising Star' award for excellence in teaching. She is currently co-editing a text on Artificial Intelligence and Work: Transforming Work and Organisations in an Age of Insecurity with Professor John Bratton for Sage due for publication in 2024.

Laura is actively involved the UN Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME), a global platform which aims to raise the profile of sustainability within business schools and equip today's students with the understanding and ability to deliver change tomorrow. Laura was elected to the PRME UK and Ireland Chapter Steering Committee in 2022, where she serves as Co-Lead for Organisational Learning and Reporting, as well as Co-Lead for the PRME Island of Ireland Local Network. Laura represents Queen's Business School on the international PRME Champions Group and has produced two award-winning PRME Sharing Information on Progress reports. She is currently working with colleagues across the PRME community to develop a repository of best practice examples related to the integration of sustainability across curricula, research, partnerships, and organisational practices. Laura is regularly invited to speak on aspects of responsible and sustainable business and management to a variety of audiences.

Prior to joining academia on a full-time basis in 2017, Laura gained experience across the private, public, and third/voluntary sectors with organisations including the Northern Ireland Assembly, the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), and Politics Plus.

## Panel 2 Host: Professor John Turner



John Turner is a Professor of Finance and Financial History at Queen's University Belfast. He is the former Head of Queen's Business School and the current Director of Research. He is also the founder and director of the Queen's University Centre for Economic History and the Long Run Institute.

He has recently published *Boom and Bust: A Global History of Financial Bubbles* with Cambridge University Press, which was an FT Economics Book of the Year in 2020. His previous book, *Banking in Crisis: The Rise and Fall of British Banking Stability*, was published in 2014 by Cambridge University Press.

John has held several distinguished visiting positions during his career - he has been a Houbton-Norman Fellow at the Bank of England and an Alfred D. Chandler Fellow at Harvard Business School. He has also been a visiting professor at University of Melbourne and Yale University. He is currently an editor at the Economics Observatory and an executive at The Productivity Institute.

## **Sue Douthwaite, Chair of Queen's Business School Advisory Board**



Sue is the Chair of the NHS Business Services Authority, Non-Executive Director of British Business Investments Ltd and the Melton Building Society and Chair of Nexa Finance Ltd. She is also Chair of the Advisory Board for Queen's Business School.

She is a Chartered Banker and has enjoyed an extensive career in financial services working in Retail, Corporate and SME banking. Her previous roles include Managing Director of Santander Business in Santander UK, and Head of SME Strategy for Virgin Money.

She has been involved in transformational fintech projects and alliance partnerships in the UK and Europe and the successful delivery of new operating models, systems, and culture. She has been actively involved in the diversity agenda for many years.

## **Paul Allen, Executive Chairman at Genesis Bakery**



Paul Allen started his career in corporate banking in Dublin with AIB and then Ulster Investment Bank in the 1990's before moving to PwC in Belfast and Birmingham where he worked in corporate finance, working on mergers, acquisitions and finance raising.

He joined Tayto (NI) Limited in 2002 and subsequently led the family-owned company as CEO, through a number of strategic acquisitions in Great Britain including that of Golden Wonder, Red Mill, Real Crisps and Mr Porky's pork scratchings. The company enjoyed a period of rapid growth from £15m to £180m turnover and became the largest indigenous crisp and snack manufacturer in the UK. During this time, he also developed a sister company to Tayto, called Montagu, which became the second largest vending group in the UK following the acquisition of four businesses across the country, bringing a further £40m of turnover to the wider group.

He is an Economics graduate of Queen's University, Belfast, holds an MBA and is also a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (FCMA).

Paul acquired Genesis Bakery in Magherafelt, out of administration in 2018 and left Tayto the following year. Since then, he has made significant investments in over a dozen other companies in the UK and America, including Pasta King, which is one of the leading providers of school meals in the UK. He also has connections with the QUB Institute for Global Food Security ("IGFS") and is a shareholder in a spin-out company from the IGFS, BIA Analytical.

He is married to Nicola and they have a daughter, Sophia. Paul acts as Executive Chairman, investor and consultant across his portfolio of interests.

## **Karl Hanlon, Chief Commercial Officer at FinTrU**



Karl has over 25 years experience working within Capital Markets, providing technology and services solutions within Client Lifecycle Management, FX, Money Market, Securities Operations, Asset Servicing and Legal Operations.

Before joining FinTrU, Karl worked at Deloitte where he supported organisations to develop and implement technology strategy. He also held leadership roles within a number of financial technology companies, helping them to innovate, scale, and enhance their delivery functions and associated commercial opportunities.

At FinTrU, Karl is the Chief Commercial Officer and a member of the Executive Leadership Team. Karl has overall responsibility for FinTrU's clients, product offerings, revenue, and business development.

Karl has a degree in Engineering from Trinity College Dublin and an MSC in Engineering Computation from Queen's University Belfast.



## Jayne Brady, Head of Northern Ireland Civil Service



Jayne took up the post as Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service in September 2021, the first female and external appointment in its 100 year history. As part of this role she is the most senior adviser to the First Minister and the deputy First Minister and Secretary to the Northern Ireland Executive.

An engineer at heart with extensive, board experience and a track record of success that transcends blue-chip corporations, start-ups and funding ecosystems.

She has over twenty years' leadership experience and a diverse skillset including venture capital, due diligence, corporate governance, setting strategy, leading teams, technical ownership and finance across complex organisational structures internationally.

Recent roles include Digital Innovation Commissioner, Partner in Venture Capital firm with £100Mn+ funds under management and co-founder of an award-winning Artificial Intelligence start-up.

She was also a member of the UK Government's Innovation Expert Group which developed its 2021 Innovation Strategy and was appointed an Entrepreneurial Expert for Oxford University in 2020.

She is deeply committed to delivering economic and social development through harnessing innovation and was recognised for services to the economy with both an MBE (2018) and honorary doctorate (2019). She has a passion for supporting young people and was a counsellor for Childline and board member for Young Enterprise NI.

Jayne has a strong, established professional network and is a Fellow of the Institute of Directors, the Institution of Engineering and Technology and the Irish Academy of Engineers. She has three children, twin 14-year-old girls and a 13 year old son.



**Professor Nola Hewitt-Dundas, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Queen's University Belfast**



A non-executive director to the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Board, Nola is Professor of Innovation Management and Policy at Queen's University Belfast and a Senior Research Associate with the UK Enterprise Research Centre.

Her research centres on the dynamics of innovation ecosystems with an emphasis on small and medium enterprises, technology adoption and the anchor role of Universities in economic development. Her research has been motivated by the desire to explain regional economic performance, and how this is affected by the innovation ecosystem. She has an extensive publication record in internationally leading journals, has been awarded large research grants throughout her career and recently was appointed to the assessment panel for the UK Research Excellence Framework.

She has worked extensively with businesses and policy makers in the UK, Ireland and internationally, evaluating and advising on how governments can intervene to overcome failures in the market that constrain business growth and innovation. In 2022, she was made a fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences and elected a Fellow of the Irish Academy of Management. Having led transformational change in Queen's Business School, she was awarded the Institute of Directors (NI) Public Sector Director of the Year award. Since 2020 Nola has been Pro-Vice Chancellor at Queen's.