



2025



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Entrepreneur | Speaker | Author | Connector



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Russell Dalglish is one of the most connected and influential business figures in the world of innovation and entrepreneurialism. A serial entrepreneur, investor, and global strategist, he is best known for his work championing Scottish entrepreneurs and diaspora engagement through his role as Chair of the Scottish Business Network (SBN). Russell is also a highly sought-after keynote speaker and TEDx speaker, and most recently, a published author whose book, *The ASK*, became a #1 bestseller in its category on Amazon.

With decades of experience across various sectors, including technology, investment, leadership, and international expansion, Russell has advised governments, mentored startups, co-founded successful ventures, and helped thousands of individuals and organisations unlock their full potential. His voice resonates with authenticity, insight, and a deep belief in the power of connection.

## LEADERSHIP ACROSS BORDERS

A clear mission drives Russell: to help people and businesses define what they want—and empower them to ask for it with clarity and courage. This ethos runs through his work with **Exolta Capital Partners**, where he serves as a founding partner and provides strategic support to high-growth companies, and through his advisory roles with innovation hubs, scale-up programs, and government policy initiatives.

At the core of his leadership is a belief in **collaboration over competition**, and in leveraging global networks to accelerate meaningful impact. Under his stewardship, Scottish Business Network has grown into an influential international organisation, connecting Scotland's entrepreneurs, professionals, and supporters from over 70 countries and helping amplify the global Scottish brand.



## A CATALYST IN THE WORLD OF INNOVATION

Russell specialises in working to ensure the successful commercialisation of research and innovation, and this role has been recognised by his appointment at the University of Glasgow as their first Entrepreneur in Residence and at the Open University, where he holds a similar role. He chairs the Advisory Board of CivTech, the world's leading Govtech incubator.



# A CATALYST IN THE WORLD OF INNOVATION

In 2024, Russell took a bold step into publishing with the release of ***The ASK: Unlock Your Voice, Fuel Your Network, Achieve Your Goals***, co-authored with leadership consultant Wendy Sneddon. The book quickly rose to #1 in its Amazon category, cementing its place as a must-read for entrepreneurs, professionals, and change-makers.

*The ASK* is built on a simple but transformational idea: that knowing how to clearly articulate what you need—and having the confidence to ask for it—is the foundation of growth. The book blends practical frameworks, lived experience, and the voices of leaders around the world to help readers build powerful networks, communicate with impact, and step into their leadership.

**For Russell, *The ASK* is not just a book—it's a movement toward intentionality, trust, and shared success.**

## GLOBAL SPEAKER AND MENTOR

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As a speaker, Russell has taken the stage at major conferences, leadership forums, investor summits, and university events across the UK, Europe, North America, and the Middle East. His keynotes are known for being energetic, insightful, and deeply human—offering audiences both inspiration and actionable takeaways.

**He has delivered two TEDx talks and frequently speaks on topics such as:**

- Entrepreneurial mindset and global growth
- The power of networks and diaspora engagement
- Strategic leadership and communication
- Asking the right questions to unlock opportunity
- Innovation: more than AI this is the human experience

Russell's communication style is warm, dynamic, and generous. Audiences walk away feeling seen, energized, and empowered to take action—personally and professionally.

## RECOGNITION AND INFLUENCE

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Russell has been featured in *The Sunday Times*, BBC, London Tech Week, Entrepreneurial Scotland, and on countless business podcasts and panels. He is regularly named among the UK's most connected entrepreneurs and was previously listed in the Institute of Directors' Director of the Year awards.

Alongside his professional accolades, Russell is known for his generosity as a mentor and connector, always seeking to open doors for others, especially first-time founders and purpose-driven leaders.

He is also an advocate for reflective thinking and personal growth, often encouraging leaders to create time for stillness, intentional goal-setting, and asking themselves, "What am I building, and why?"

# WHY EVENT ORGANISERS INVITE RUSSELL

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Russell Dalglish is the rare kind of speaker who offers both vision and practicality. Whether he's addressing startup founders, executives, educators, or policymakers, he leaves every audience with tools they can use and stories they'll remember.

## **He's especially known for helping audiences:**

- Clarify their goals and leadership voice
- Build value-driven professional networks
- Take bold steps toward growth and innovation
- Reconnect with purpose in fast-moving environments

**Russell helps people move from “what if” to “what’s next” with clarity, courage, and connection.**