

Queen's University Belfast



Queen's University Belfast, which celebrates its Centenary this year, is a leader in innovation and education, and an international centre of academic excellence rooted at the heart of Northern Ireland.

The University is the leading higher education institution in the UK in terms of the annual turnover of its spin-out businesses.



Professor John McCanny, Director of ECIT

As one of Northern Ireland's largest employers with an annual turnover of some £240 million, Queen's has a huge impact on local wealth and job creation and is a major driving force in local economic development. It is also the leading higher education institution in the UK in terms of the annual turnover of its spin-out businesses, which reached £80 million in 2007.

In Queen's, Northern Ireland has one of the most important resources of all – intellectual capital – and the University is ensuring that this is exploited to the full to underpin the knowledge and innovation base for future economic prosperity. Among the key contributions the University makes to the local economy is its supply of well-qualified enterprising and innovative graduates who will add value to local industry and commerce and who will become business leaders in their own right.

ECIT- The Institute of Electronics, Communications and Information Technology

Located in the Northern Ireland Science Park, ECIT - Queen's Institute of Electronics, Communications and Information Technology is an example of the University's emergence as a hub of excellence in advanced digital and communications technology.

ECIT provides incubation facilities to support the establishment and development of new companies. ECIT is the NI Science Park's research flagship. The Institute's Director, Professor John McCanny, said: "It is part of a greater vision to create a new 'silicon valley' in Belfast coupling university research with economic development to attract and grow high technology companies."

In 2003 the Science Park was a derelict site. Today 1,000 people are employed there. ECIT is playing a full part in the ambitious £1.5 billion development of the 250-acre 'Titanic Quarter' area of Belfast.

ECIT develops collaborative relationships with other stakeholders through joint research and development programmes. These operate through PhD student sponsorships, Government assisted grant programmes, direct industry funding and EU funded projects.

There is also a strong emphasis on technology transfer aimed at generating new business opportunities. ECIT provides space for spin-out companies who can benefit from in-house experience. It also encourages staff to commercialise ideas by creating their own companies. ►