

# ••• Belfast Metropolitan College

Belfast Metropolitan College is the largest provider of further and higher education training in Northern Ireland. This new super college was formed as a result of the merger on 1 August 2007 of Belfast Institute with Castlereagh College.

The college is currently entering a new and exciting phase of development.

It provides a complete programme of high quality learning and training opportunities for the people of Belfast and its wider communities.

Through a wide range of provision from entry level to degree and professional qualifications, the college plays a major role in supplying highly skilled and educated people for the Northern Ireland workforce. Each year approximately 50,000 people join courses at the college and of these 1,500 take full-time higher education courses. Courses are nationally accredited and delivered by a committed and highly qualified team of lecturers.

The college plays an important role in generating wealth for the city of Belfast. It has a turnover of over £50 million and employs 1,700 people in both academic and support roles across six main campuses and 100 community learning venues.

The college is currently entering a new and exciting phase of development. It has a programme of capital development which includes a £67 million project which will provide a modern and up-to-date campus at the city's new Titanic Quarter and an innovative £14 million economic development campus at Springfield Road. Scheduled to open from 2010, these new campuses will make Belfast Metropolitan College one of the

most modern and highly equipped professional and technical educational institutions in the UK.

The college places a particular emphasis on enhancing the employability of all its students and provides excellent learning facilities supported by a gigabit ring connected to the internet.

Belfast Metropolitan College is recognised as a quality organisation with a clear commitment to continuous improvement. As it moves forward in the 21st century the college is strategically committed to develop and enhance its services to help build the economic development and social coherence of Northern Ireland.

## Economic Development

The Workforce and Economic Development Department is the specialist unit within the college that spearheads the college's economic development, student employability and entrepreneurship activity. Led by Michelle McCaughley, the department is dedicated to innovation: "We're not bound by curriculum or semester dates. I like that we have freedom to think outside the box!" says Michelle. "We support local businesses by supplying people and delivering training. Companies can access training, tailor made to their specific needs delivered in house or at the college. ►



Belfast Metropolitan College's Millfield Building