

# University of Ulster

The University of Ulster has four campuses across Northern Ireland. Two of these are located in the greater Belfast area. The University's largest campus is in Jordanstown, which is situated on the northern shore of Belfast Lough a few miles from the City Centre.



The Belfast Campus is located in downtown Belfast and is half way through a £30 million redevelopment that will greatly enhance Belfast's Cathedral Quarter and contribute to the cultural revitalization of the inner city.

Other campuses are located at Coleraine on the north coast and at Magee in Derry, Northern Ireland's second city.

The University of Ulster helps business and industry in Northern Ireland and beyond - offering a range of contract and collaborative research, consultancy and technology and knowledge transfer services to enable businesses to become more competitive.

The University's Office of Innovation has a base at all four campuses and provides a focus for enterprise innovation, networking, research, training and development projects, consultancy and funded programmes.

The team facilitates business and industry access to a wide range of services. Eddie Friel, Manager of the Office's Business Liaison team explains: "We will work with you in partnership to identify the right contacts within the University to help you to deliver innovative solutions to match your needs."

## Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) and FUSION

The University has been a leader in the delivery of two prominent knowledge transfer initiatives – Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) and FUSION – the latter a cross border partnership with businesses in the Republic of Ireland. Both have been implemented successfully across the University with a number of innovative programmes contributing to the success of regional business. Eddie Friel, said: "Both focus on the transfer of knowledge from the University to a business. A graduate is jointly supervised by the company and the University and they work to solve a particular problem or introduce a new process. The KTP programme is designed for Northern Irish companies, whereas FUSION concentrates on cross-border collaboration."

"An additional benefit is that current business interests are fed back into University teaching and research. Hence the schemes are truly partnerships with knowledge flowing in both directions."

The University of Ulster is committed to supporting business growth within social enterprises right across Northern Ireland through a number of opportunities including consultancy expertise.

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A relaxed atmosphere for staff and students



The Learning Resource Centre at Jordanstown



Belfast: a city campus

Among those social enterprises that have benefited from consultancy support using Ulster's academic expertise is Belfast based Avec Solutions. Chief Executive Maurice Kinkead sought help and advice from Ulster University on several aspects of employment law. Commenting on the University's expertise, Maurice said:

"I gladly acknowledge that the help we have received from the University of Ulster by way of advice on an urgent employment law matter and a very clear, comprehensive and helpful report on a much more complex range of issues was exactly what we needed. The support we received was simply excellent and offered in a very professional yet user-friendly manner."

The University of Ulster's track record in consultancy is grounded in both its excellent reputation in the arts, science, engineering, social sciences and business sectors as well as its ability to mobilise multidisciplinary teams from these disciplines. Its policy on the provision of consultancy by its academic staff is unique amongst higher education establishments in Ireland.

The University is modern and progressive with an established

track record in supporting the Northern Ireland economy and in creating opportunities for individual personal development, for developing the skills force and in ensuring that local businesses have the research and development skills that they require to compete.

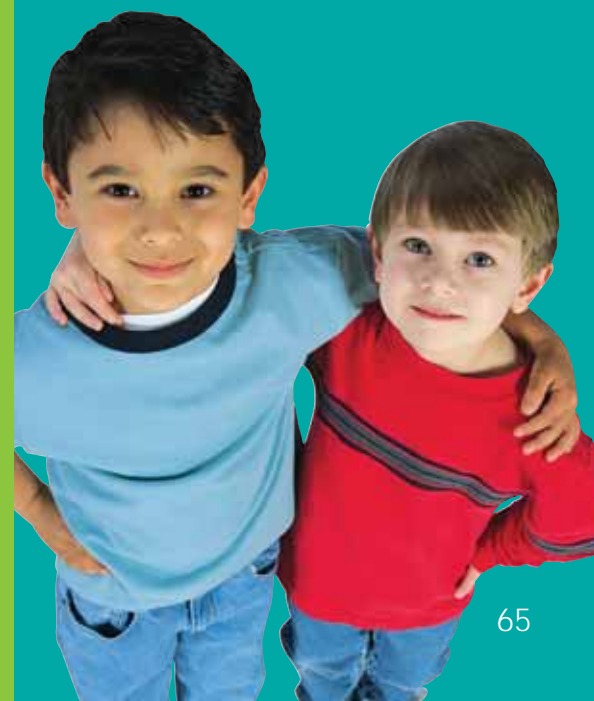
The University provides skills and knowledge in key sectors including health, business, IT, biosciences, the creative and media industries, environmental sciences and real estate. Working with a variety of partners in the business, educational and not-for-profit spheres, the university delivers training, consultancy, research and development services, and knowledge transfer throughout Ireland and further afield.

Each campus houses internationally recognised centres of excellence. Some examples illustrate the breadth of the University's work. At Jordanstown, NIBEC - the Nanotechnology and Integrated Bio-Engineering Centre - is a purpose-built research complex. NIBEC has developed a series of innovations that have lead to cutting edge medical devices that in turn have stimulated the creation of spin-out companies. The most successful of these being HeartSine Technology, Sensors Technology and Devices Ltd. ►

## Case Study

James Leckey Design Ltd is a global market leader in the design and manufacture of equipment for children with disabilities. Following a strategic review in 2004, the company began an ambitious product development plan to replace its existing range with new products incorporating the latest thinking and current best practice in positioning children with special needs.

To provide the much needed clinical input to the product development programme the company entered into a KTP with the University's School of Health Sciences and employed an occupational therapist – the first KTP programme in the UK to appoint an allied health professional.



► Ulster University continued...

## Creative Industries

The Belfast campus – home to the University's prestigious School of Art and Design – is undergoing a £30 million refurbishment programme. The new city centre landmark will act as a creative hub in the heart of Northern Ireland's capital and will contribute to the rejuvenation of the district around the city's cathedral. Work on the second phase of the capital development of the Belfast campus is due for completion in the middle of 2008. Phase three will see work begin on the Orpheus Building this time next year.

The Belfast campus is now at the heart of the city's designated cultural core – the Cathedral Quarter. Its regeneration is quickly transforming this area into an exciting and sought-after destination. From its heyday in the late eighteenth century with its then prosperous linen and shipbuilding industries, its current transformation

has been stimulated at least in part by its re-population by artists and design-related businesses.

The Belfast campus has been synonymous with art and design over its 150-year evolution, now in its most recent manifestation within the new Faculty of Art, Design and the Built Environment. There are over 1,200 students on the campus with approximately 80 staff. Its student population is due to increase by over 80% in the coming five years.

The University of Ulster is a major feeder to the creative industries in Ireland and beyond. Not only in the visual arts but across other related disciplines such as the performing arts – University of Ulster is the only establishment on the island of Ireland which offers a degree in dance, digital media, product design and fashion.

**Tel. 0870 0400 700**

**Web. [www.ulster.ac.uk](http://www.ulster.ac.uk)**



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