




Northern
Ireland

Northern Ireland - A location of choice for Funds and Wealth Management

An unbeatable combination of world-class talent, highly competitive operating costs and resilient infrastructure in a low-risk, pro-business environment, has fuelled the growth of Northern Ireland's financial services sector.

Building on our expertise gained from the highly regulated areas of financial, legal and professional services Funds Administration and Wealth Management companies will find Northern Ireland an ideal location. Furthermore, the region offers the chance to connect into a vibrant and supportive ecosystem internationally recognised for excellence and innovation in Digital ICT, Governance, Risk and Compliance combined with world leading capabilities in Cyber Security and Legal Services.

Northern Ireland enjoys a unique position within the UK and Europe. As part of the UK, Northern Ireland operates within its globally respected and robust regulatory framework. At the same time being located on the island of Ireland has also allowed Northern Ireland access to the Irish Financial Services market and enables the region to provide support services to firms in the International Financial Services Centre.

Did you know?

- There are 40,000 employed in the financial and related professional services sector in NI. More than a third are employed by international companies providing global services such as risk management, investment operations, regulation and compliance and funds administration.
- We have a strong base of accounting skills and over 7,000 accountants and trainee accountants in the region are members of professional accountancy bodies including **Chartered Accountants Ireland**, **ACCA Global** and the **Chartered Institute of Management Accountants**.

- A cluster of global wealth management, pensions and actuarial service providers have chosen to locate offices in Northern Ireland including **Mercer**, **Link Asset Services**, **Investec Wealth & Management**, **XPS Pensions** and **Brewin Dolphin**.
- There are a number of Equity Funds in Northern Ireland including **Crescent Capital**, **Kernal Capital**, **Techstart Ventures** and **Clarendon Investment Managers**. These funds provide equity to growth focused companies to encourage entrepreneurship, support growth in global markets, and continue to build the Northern Ireland business ecosystem. Several of these funds manage capital on behalf of Invest NI particularly equity aimed at SMEs, HPSUs and companies focused on innovation.
- Both **Queen's University Belfast** and **Ulster University** offer renowned degrees in Finance and Accounting, with Queen's undergraduate degree ranked 7th in the UK by the Sunday Times.
- **Ulster University** enjoys a unique partnership on the island of Ireland, having partnered with the **Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment (CISI)** to offer students a competitive edge in the financial services graduate recruitment market. The UUBS-CISI degree programme offers students the opportunity to study for and sit key CISI professional qualifications, before finishing their degrees.
- Belfast is the number one international location for US cyber security development projects and home to **CSIT** - the UK's Innovation & Knowledge Centre (IKC) for cyber security - at Queen's University.
- Northern Ireland enjoys a global reputation as a location of choice for Financial Services technology inward investment projects. (fDI markets FT 2020). Belfast has been identified as a top 3 Fintech location of the future after London and Singapore (fDI markets FT 2019). Several of our innovative fintech companies including **AquaQ Analytics**, **Clarus Technology** and **Funds-Axis** offer pioneering solutions to customers operating in funds and asset management.
- Legal Services is one of the fastest-growing sectors in Northern Ireland and teams in the region are working with global counterparts to provide complex legal and regulatory advice to global asset managers, investment banks, fund administration groups and the funds they manage.

Fund Administration and Wealth Management

IQ-EQ

In 2012, leading Investor Services group, IQ-EQ established an Operational Centre of Excellence in Belfast. IQ-EQ Belfast currently provides compliance, administration, asset and advisory services to a range of clients including investment funds, multinational companies, family offices and private clients operating worldwide. The Belfast office currently employs c135 people, focused primarily on fund administration.

<https://iqeq.com/>

Ocorian

In 2011, Ocorian, a global leader in corporate and fiduciary services, fund administration and capital markets, established a funds service operation in Belfast to service UK based funds, particularly in private equity and property including Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs).

<https://www.ocorian.com/>

Causeway Securities

Causeway Securities Limited Causeway Securities is an FCA authorised investment manager, offering innovative investment solutions and services to its clients and investors. Causeway Securities recently launched a UCITS Fund in February 2020 approved by the Central Bank of Ireland.

<https://www.causeway-securities.com/>

Funds & WealthTech

Yedup

Using low latency AI, recent entrant to the market, Yedup have developed a product for Hedge Funds, High Frequency Traders and Algorithmic Trading that monitors global information flows in real time. The product, produces streaming signals that can be used to identify advantageous trading opportunities.

www.yedup.com

Options

Options, began life as a hedge fund technology services provider and has now become the leading provider of cloud-enabled managed services to the global capital markets. Over 200 firms globally now leverage the Options platform, including the leading global investment banks, hedge funds, funds of funds, proprietary trading firms, private equity houses and exchanges.

www.options-it.com

Funds-Axis

Funds-Axis is a RegTech company, with customers across the asset management, funds administration and hedge fund markets. Funds-Axis simplify the complex challenges of risk, compliance and regulatory reporting through a unique combination of regulatory expertise and best-of-breed technology. Its products and services assist investment management companies in being compliant with regulations such as UCITS, AIFMD and shareholder disclosure rules.

www.funds-axis.com

Vox Financial Partners

Founded in 2016, Vox Financial Partners is a Regtech and global consulting firm working with top-tier banks and broker-dealers in the US and Europe, to support them to plan, resource and deliver major regulatory change projects. The firms Ascend Service for Structured Products was designed to solve the challenges of this evolving marketplace and enable fully automated production of structured product documentation, including PRIIPs Key Information Documents.

<https://voxfp.com/>

Legal firms advising in the Funds Sector

Herbert Smith Freehills

Established in 2011, Herbert Smith Freehills (HSF) Belfast hub is part of the firm's innovative Alternative Legal Services solution set, delivering a wide range of products and services to global clients, including those in the funds and asset management space. The Corporate & Funds team in Belfast work alongside their colleagues in the wider HSF global network, providing solutions to major asset management clients and the funds they manage. The team has expertise across a number of areas including complex restructuring and repapering projects, cross-jurisdictional regulatory projects, fund reviews for potential investors and fund formation work for asset managers.

<https://www.herbertsmithfreehills.com/>

A&L Goodbody

Leading all-island law firm A&L Goodbody provides comprehensive legal and regulatory advice to the alternative asset management and funds sector in Northern Ireland. The firm's experienced and dynamic group of specialists provide market-leading and innovative advice to clients including asset managers, investment banks, fund administration groups, alternative finance providers and investors as well as insurance companies and other financial services organisations.

<https://www.algoodbody.com/>

Invest Northern Ireland, the region's economic development agency, works in partnership with investors to offer advice and financial assistance to support business establishment, growth, capability development and international competitiveness.

For more information visit:
InvestNI.com

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