This is Northern Ireland
Invest Northern Ireland

Global Offices

- Located between mainland Europe and the US, Northern Ireland is ideally situated for access to key markets across GB, the Republic of Ireland, Europe and USA.
- Northern Ireland is part of the UK, but also shares a land border with the EU (Republic of Ireland).
- Following the UK exit from the EU, Northern Ireland enjoys unique tariff-free access to GB and the EU, two of the world’s largest markets.
- Population 1.9 million.
- Capital city – Belfast.
- Three airports – regular direct flights to the UK and Europe.
- Under 2 hours by road or rail from Belfast to Dublin, the capital of the Republic of Ireland.
- 100 gigabyte per second telecoms link between Northern Ireland, Europe and North America.

Northern Ireland Quick facts
The success of our current operations in Belfast was an important factor behind this latest decision to create another 600 jobs. The supply of talent in Northern Ireland, particularly at graduate level, is impressive and, coupled with the support from Invest NI and the Department for the Economy, it makes this region highly attractive to a global company like Citi seeking the best location for growth.

James Bardrick, Citi County Officer, United Kingdom

‘Our expansion in the North West is a significant step which will see FinTrU grow to over 1,500 employees in Northern Ireland and significantly increase our competitiveness, catapulting us into a new era of business growth.’

Darragh McCarthy
Founder & CEO
FinTrU

FinTrU has around 1,200 employees based in Derry~Londonderry and Belfast
Students consistently outperform other UK regions at GCSE and A-Level (high school leaving).

A network of regional colleges with enrolment of almost 111,000 students, provides professional and technical programmes.

Colleges and universities work closely with industry to ensure a pipeline of suitably skilled people.

The region has a strong international focus and attracts large numbers of overseas students to study at its universities, boarding schools, vocational colleges and English language schools.

**Assured Skills Academies**

Companies looking to expand across borders won’t find anything in Europe quite like Northern Ireland’s Assured Skills Programme. This is a fully-funded, pre-employment training programme that guarantees incoming companies can secure the right talent with the right skill sets.

With direct input from participating companies and in collaboration with Northern Ireland’s colleges, newly arriving operations can hit the ground running. The Academy Model is flexible and has been used to help companies recruit new staff in areas such as software development, data analytics, cyber security and financial management.

‘The well-educated, young and diverse workforce in Northern Ireland will provide us with the skills and expertise needed to increase the breadth and depth of our in-house technical expertise.’

Simon Gallagher
Managing Director
eSmart Networks

Queen’s University Belfast

Ulster University Belfast
Northern Ireland is home to two world-class universities

Queen’s University Belfast
Queen’s University Belfast is over 175 years old; it is a member of the Russell Group of 24 leading UK research-intensive universities and ranked in the top 140 in the world for graduate prospects.

Over 85% of Northern Ireland university research is world-leading or internationally excellent. (Research Excellence Framework 2021)

Ulster University
Ulster University is Northern Ireland’s largest university, with over 27,000 students.

Its new Belfast campus is one of the largest higher education capital builds in Europe.

Joint 1st in the UK for research intensity.

Research and Development and Innovation
Northern Ireland has a number of globally recognised, technology related university research centres. It is also benefitting from a package of investment of £1.3 billion from four City and Growth Deals.

These significant deals will help strengthen the region’s expertise in priority clusters, including life and health sciences; advanced manufacturing and engineering; agri-tech and digital, ICT and creative industries.

This investment will create global centres of innovation excellence. They will provide opportunities for businesses, located both in and outside Northern Ireland, to collaborate with and tap into the world-leading expertise of the universities to create breakthrough technologies, products and services.

Over 85% of Northern Ireland’s workforce have a degree level qualification.

Over 42% of Northern Ireland’s workforce have a degree level qualification.
Northern Ireland is home to one of Europe's most business friendly cities of its size.

Location of Choice
Over 1,200 international companies have invested in Northern Ireland.

70% of new inward investors reinvest.

“Whilst we examined other locations across Europe, Northern Ireland was a logical choice for our first Centre of Excellence, given its reputation as a thriving technology centre and concentration of global software companies, universities and talent.”

Richard McLaughlin
Senior Director Software Engineering and Site Lead
Optiva

Spirit AeroSystems, Belfast
'The supply of talent in Northern Ireland, particularly at graduate level, is impressive and, coupled with the support from Invest NI and the Department for the Economy, it makes this region highly attractive to a global company like Citi seeking the best location for growth.'

James Bardrick
Country Officer
Citi

According to an international survey, Belfast is the top UK location with the lowest living costs for international employees.

Office rents in Northern Ireland are 58% lower than Dublin, 60% lower than New York and 76% lower than London.
Technology
Northern Ireland has one of the fastest growing tech clusters in the UK.

Technology
Northern Ireland has a strong base of software engineering skills that has supported the development of a number of business clusters including cyber security; telecoms, mobile and data networks; AI and data analytics; IT and cloud services; fintech, govtech and sportstech.

Northern Ireland is one of FT fDi Intelligence’s Top 15 Digital Economies of the Future.

Cyber Security
Northern Ireland is the #1 international investment location for US cyber security firms. Leading US cyber security companies including Rapid7, WhiteHat Security, Anomali and Proofpoint have opened operations in Northern Ireland.

CSIT, the Centre for Secure IT at Queen’s University Belfast is the UK Innovation Knowledge Centre (KC) for secure information technologies.

‘We are excited by the software engineering skills on offer in Northern Ireland, from graduate level upwards, which will enable us to develop a centre of engineering excellence and strengthen our competitive advantage in global markets.’

Erik Reeves
CTO
Anaqua
Tech Talent
We have expertise in the fast growing areas of data analytics, AI, mobile apps and immersive technology.

Software Development
Belfast is Europe’s leading FDI destination for new software development. Investors include - Allstate, CyberSource (a Visa company), Fujitsu, TSYS, BT, Commscope and WANdisco.

Financial Services Technology
Northern Ireland supplies sophisticated software for the world’s major financial institutions. Our cluster includes multi-nationals such as Citi, TP ICAP, CME Group, FinTrU and Fidessa as well as local companies such as FD Technologies.

Belfast is the world’s top city for fintech inward investment.

‘Our new hub will provide us with cutting-edge tech expertise to support future growth. Belfast has a wealth of tech talent and we’re excited to be establishing a permanent base in such a vibrant city.’

Nick Beighton
CEO
ASOS
Professional & Legal Services

Northern Ireland has a depth of skills available in accountancy, auditing, consultancy, legal and tech for professional services.

“We considered a number of location options. Northern Ireland stood out for the great calibre of the available people, combined with cost competitiveness and geographical convenience.”

Graeme Johnston
Partner
Herbert Smith Freehills

Top legal firms including Allen & Overy, Baker McKenzie and Herbert Smith Freehills are among those who have discovered the wealth of talent available in Northern Ireland.

PwC in Northern Ireland is PwC UK’s fastest-growing UK region and its largest regional office outside London.

The “Big 4” accountancy houses, EY, PwC, Deloitte and KPMG have all located their UK delivery centres in Northern Ireland.
We make 40% of the world’s tracked mobile stone crushing and gravel screening equipment.

Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering
Northern Ireland has a strong engineering heritage with an international reputation.

Our companies develop innovative components for the aerospace, automotive, technology, energy, renewables and space sectors.

Belfast-based Artemis Technologies has recently launched the world’s first commercially viable zero-emission 100% electric workboat foiling vessel, ‘Pioneer of Belfast’, and range of workboats. These deliver energy savings of up to 90% compared to conventional diesel workboats.

An integral part of one the world’s largest designers and manufacturers of aero structures for commercial and defence aircraft, Spirit AeroSystems Belfast has a long and established history of aircraft innovation.

Northern Ireland company Wrightbus introduced the world’s first hydrogen-powered double deck bus.
Life & Health Sciences
Northern Ireland is a hub for cutting-edge research and innovation in the field of life and health sciences.

There is expertise in precision medicine & diagnostics, medtech, digital health, artificial intelligence & analytics and clinical trials. Key companies include the Almac Group, Randox, Norbrook, Armstrong Medical, CV6, and Terumo BCT.

Precision Medicine Centre of Excellence
This £10 million initiative from Invest Northern Ireland and Queen's University Belfast has created an internationally-accredited laboratory focusing on diagnostics that can be used to predict a cancer patient’s response to treatment. This allows potentially costly drugs to be used more effectively.

‘The quality and availability of specialist skills here and the strong links we have forged with Queen's University were key factors when we chose Northern Ireland as the location for this project.’

Dr Robert Ladner
CEO
CV6
Food & Drink
Northern Ireland’s food & drink producers are dedicated to traceability and passionate about quality.

‘We can tell a story about where our food comes from. The food that comes from Northern Ireland is pure, natural and very high quality.’

Chris Elliott
Founder, Institute for Global Food Security
Queen’s University Belfast

Our food and drink products are available in more than 70 countries.

Food and drink in Northern Ireland is the region’s largest manufacturing sector.

Northern Ireland has a global reputation for food safety.

Pioneering research is being carried out at Queen’s University Belfast’s Institute for Global Food Security, a centre which advises the UK and other governments on food safety.
From award-winning film and television productions, to the development of smart e-learning solutions and transformative mobile and web content.

A flourishing animation sector is supported by specialised courses in computer animation for games, VFX, feature and TV animation.

HBO’s blockbusting Game of Thrones was filmed in Northern Ireland. Other big name companies such as Netflix, Universal Pictures, BBC and Disney have chosen Northern Ireland for recent productions.


Creative Technology Northern Ireland is a region rich in creativity that enjoys a global reputation for innovation.
Innovation
Northern Ireland has a rich heritage of innovation.

Titanic, the largest and most luxurious passenger ship of its time, was designed, built and launched in Belfast.

In 1917, Harry Ferguson patented the technology that led to the modern tractor.

John Boyd Dunlop invented the pneumatic tyre in Belfast in 1888.

Lord Kelvin, the father of modern science, was born in Belfast in 1824.

The portable defibrillator was designed in Northern Ireland in the 1960s by Professor Frank Pantridge.

We discover planets
Cameras designed and manufactured in Belfast by Andor Technology, an Oxford Instruments company, were used by a team of UK, Swiss and French astronomers in the discovery of two new Jupiter-sized planets.

The tradition continues with innovation in the fields of fintech, mobile telecoms, cyber security, digital imaging, AI, remote sensors and hydrogen.

Newry-based STATSports is a worldwide leader in sports performance monitoring technology, with elite teams globally using its ‘Apex Pro’ system.

Northern Ireland firm Neurovalens developed Modius SLIM, wearable technology which can modify metabolism rates, appetite and fat storage.
Northern Ireland
A great place to live

Research shows Northern Ireland people are the happiest in the UK

- Low crime rate
- Stunning scenery
- Historical landmarks
- Excellent schools
- Friendly people
- Top tourist attractions
- Vibrant hospitality sector
- Rich arts and culture
- Fabulous beaches
Invest Northern Ireland is the region’s economic development agency.

It helps new and existing businesses to compete internationally and attract new investment to Northern Ireland.

investni.com/InternationalBusiness