



Think Northern Ireland



Northern
Ireland

‘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





Location

Northern Ireland is an integral part of the United Kingdom and located in Europe.

- Ideally situated between mainland Europe and the US
- Population 1.8 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
- Modern road and rail network
- The highest availability of superfast broadband and 4G download speeds in the UK
- 100 gigabyte per second telecoms link between Northern Ireland, Europe and North America

-5

-4

-3

-2

-1

0

+1



Education

According to a major survey, Northern Ireland has the best performing education system for primary maths in Europe, and the sixth best in the world.



Students consistently outperform other UK regions at GCSE and A-Level (high school leaving).

A network of regional colleges with enrolment of almost **154,000** students provides professional and technical programmes.

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.



More than 5,000 people graduate annually with business-related degrees from Northern Ireland's two world-class universities.

Assured skills

Government departments work closely with industry and academia to ensure each investor's workforce is successfully equipped with the appropriate skills.

'The supply of talent in Northern Ireland, particularly at graduate level, is impressive and, coupled with the support from Invest NI and Assured Skills, it makes this region a highly attractive location to grow our company.'

Darragh McCarthy, CEO, FinTrU

Queen's University Belfast

Queen's University Belfast is over 100 years old; it is a member of the Russell Group of 24 leading UK research-intensive universities and ranked in the top **1%** of universities worldwide.



Queen's University Belfast

Ulster University

With four campuses, Ulster University caters for nearly **27,000** students. This includes one of the largest provisions in computing in the UK and Ireland. It is in the world's Top 150 young universities.



Ulster University, Belfast Campus

World-Leading Research

Northern Ireland has a number of globally recognised, technology related university research centres including the Intelligent Systems Research Centre (ISRC) at Ulster University, and The Institute of Electronics, Communications and Information Technology (ECIT) at Queen's University Belfast.



Over **72%** of Northern Ireland university research activity is world-leading or internationally excellent according to the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014 assessment.



Belfast

'The people of Northern Ireland are some of the most passionate, devoted, dedicated and skilled individuals that I have ever had the opportunity to work with.'

Paul Vienneau, CTO, Cayan

Location Of Choice



Nearly 75% of new inward investors reinvest



Almost 900 international companies have invested in Northern Ireland



Belfast is the world's most Business Friendly City of its size



The Knowledge Economy in Northern Ireland is one of the fastest growing in the UK.

Fiscal Environment



Corporation tax

19% reducing to 17% in April 2020 - 2nd lowest in Western Europe.



Patent Box

Corporation tax of 10%

R&D Tax Relief

12% HMRC R&D Expenditure Credit

For every £1 spent on R&D, real cost to company can be 43p.

20-30% lower

Operating costs average 20% to 30% less than the rest of the UK and Europe.



Northern Ireland has some of the lowest prime office rental costs in Europe.

£€

According to an international survey, Belfast has been identified as one of the cheapest cities in Western Europe for expats to live.

'We considered several international western locations for the new centre and were drawn to the excellent educated workforce available here and the support offered by Invest Northern Ireland.'

Peter Cohen, Chairman, Cowen Group



Technology

Northern Ireland has one of the fastest growing tech clusters in the UK.

Belfast is the top city globally for fintech development projects.



'In Northern Ireland we found a natural fit for SmashFly in a talented technical community that was eager to build complex, data-driven technology solutions.'

Thom Kenny, CEO, SmashFly



Financial Services Technology

Northern Ireland supplies sophisticated software for the world's major financial institutions. Our cluster includes multi-nationals such as Citi, Vela Systems, CME Group, FinTrU and Fidessa as well as local companies such as First Derivatives.



Tech Talent

70% of our IT and telecoms professionals hold a higher education qualification - the highest in the UK. We have pools of talent in the fast growing areas of animation, AI, mobile apps and immersive technology.



Software Development

Belfast is Europe's leading location for new software development projects. Investors include - Allstate, CyberSource (a Visa company), Fujitsu, Cayan, BT, Arris and WANdisco.



Cyber Security

Belfast is the leading destination city globally for US FDI cyber security development projects. 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 have been very impressed with the technology ecosystem in Northern Ireland, which shares many of the characteristics of Silicon Valley, including access to world-class cyber security research at Queen's University.'

Gary Steele, CEO, Proofpoint, Inc.

Belfast is one of FT FDI Intelligence's Top 10 Digital Economies of the Future.





Global Business Services

Northern Ireland has a depth of skills available for human resources, finance, auditing, supply chain management, customer support, marketing, consultancy and legal services.

Education company, Pearson set up its Finance Services Centre in Belfast to support its global finance function.



Consultancy houses EY, PwC and Deloitte have all announced major expansions in Northern Ireland.



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.



'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**

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 and space sectors.



One in every 3 London buses is manufactured in Ballymena by local company Wright Group.



We make **40%** of the world's mobile stone crushing and gravel screening equipment.



1 in 5 of the world's computer hard drives have parts made in Northern Ireland.

Seagate Technology in Derry ~ Londonderry is a leader in the manufacture of hard drive storage systems that are used worldwide.



Over 30% of the world's aircraft seats are made in Northern Ireland.





Food & Drink

Northern Ireland's food and drink producers are **dedicated to traceability and passionate about quality.**

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

Food and drink is a £5 billion industry in Northern Ireland and is the region's largest manufacturing sector.



Bushmills Distillery is the oldest licensed whiskey distillery in the world.

'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.'

**Professor Chris Elliott,
Faculty Pro-Vice-Chancellor Medicine,
Health and Life Sciences**



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.

Life & Health Sciences



Northern Ireland is a hub for cutting-edge research and innovation in the field of life & health sciences with expertise in precision medicine, medtech and clinical trials.

Key companies include the Almac Group, Randox, Norbrook, Teva, Terumo BCT and Bemis.

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

TV, Film & Digital Media

From award-winning film and television productions, to the development of smart e-learning solutions and transformative mobile and web content, Northern Ireland is a region rich in creativity that enjoys a global reputation for innovation.



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



Northern Ireland enjoys global recognition as an important production centre for film and television.

HBO's blockbusting Game of Thrones has been filmed in Northern Ireland since 2009. Other big name companies such as Universal Pictures, BBC and Disney have chosen Northern Ireland for recent productions.

Belfast's Titanic Studios is one of the tallest and most modern film and television production studios in Europe.



Sixteen South has won over 50 major international awards including the prestigious Broadcast Award for its children's animation series "Lily's Driftwood Bay" which is shown in over 120 countries.

Innovation

Northern Ireland has a rich heritage of innovation.



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



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



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



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

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



We discover planets

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



A great place to live

Northern Ireland

Royal Portrush, hosting The Open in 2019.



Research shows Northern Ireland people are the happiest in the UK.

- Low crime rate
- Stunning scenery
- Historical landmarks
- Great schools
- Friendly people
- World-class healthcare
- Fabulous beaches



Northern Ireland has an abundance of great golf courses.

Royal County Down and Royal Portrush feature regularly on lists of the world's best golf courses. Northern Ireland produces great golfers including golf major winners Rory McIlroy, Graeme McDowell and Darren Clarke.

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



Invest Northern Ireland



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