

Our teachers
are not the
only source of
inspiration

northern
ireland
Colleges



NORTHERN
Regional College



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Colleges

The Colleges work with international clients in government and industry to identify their skills requirements, utilising the professional knowledge we have gained over a total of more than 100 years, to develop and implement viable training solutions to help them to meet their goals.



NORTHERN
Regional College



Collaboration with China Belt and Road Initiative

The Northern Ireland Colleges and Invest NI welcomed the Executive Directors' from the Belt and Road Vocational Education Committee based in Beijing to explore partnership opportunities.

The purpose of the visit was to explore the opportunities for developing partnerships between the Northern Ireland Colleges and the TVET Sector in China and the visitors were particularly interested in understanding how Colleges tackle challenges around engaging different demographic groups and how the curriculum development process is managing to ensure qualifications meet employer needs.

The delegation met and visited NI TVET colleges to discuss the possibility of joint vocational education and training programmes with a particular focus on:

- **NI TVET best practice and Lessons Learnt**
- **Curriculum solutions in Health Care and Nursing, Business Management and Engineering**
- **Developing Teaching Standards**
- **Performance Management & Quality Assurance**
- **Development of Apprenticeship Solutions to meet industry needs**

- **Development of professional qualifications for business**
- **How the NI TVET sector “has linked the vocational education to practice”**
- **The Use of Blended/Virtual Technologies to Support Classrooms**

The visitors left with an improved knowledge and understanding of effective practice in delivering quality TVET provision for diverse groups of learners and insight into policy setting and implementation models from the Northern Ireland TVET system

The initial visit resulted in a reciprocal visit to China to participate in the China Education Expo in Beijing and Shanghai. Representatives from the Northern Ireland Colleges presented at the Belt and Road Conference in Beijing on development of TVET and Apprenticeship solutions. The visit also resulted in the conclusion of 30 collaboration agreements to support further exchanges of knowledge and best practice.

“一带一路”中英教育合作论坛 "Belt and Road" Forum for CN-UK Educational Cooperation





Belfast Met College is the largest Further and Higher Education College in Northern Ireland and one of the largest in the United Kingdom. The College is dedicated to Leading the City of Belfast to work. Belfast Met has extensive resources in the city, including state-of-the art education buildings and a dedicated business training space.

Belfast Met employs over 1,000 full-time and part-time staff and has an annual enrolment in excess of 30,000 enrolments from 98 nationalities. The courses on offer range from English Language Training, A Levels for Secondary School Students as well as access to university and apprenticeship programmes at Degree level and equivalent. With more than one hundred years of employer engagement experience, the core business of Belfast Met remains its work with industry, business, and local communities as well as partnerships with Ulster University, Open University and Queen's University. Belfast Met holds the Highly Trusted Status UKVI Tier 4 Sponsor Licence for student study visas from the Home Office's UK Visa and Immigration Department. The College has been accredited by the British Council for the

teaching of English since 2010 . Belfast Met works directly with global companies such as Deloitte, PWC, EY and other professional services companies to support innovative training solutions for businesses, graduate conversion employment academies and community development programmes. The international department welcomed 15 delegations from 10 countries and over 200 visitors, as well as organising 11 visits to 9 countries for partner meetings. Of the 16,825 students enrolled at Belfast Met 1,922 were from outside the UK. Belfast Met is active in 6 EU Erasmus projects, including mobility projects for staff and students and projects for the exchange of innovation, good practices and

designing new methodologies. At Belfast Met we work in partnership developing and implementing viable training solutions to help them to meet your goals.



**45 partners across
20+ countries**



**440+ students
participating in
International projects**



**100+ staff participating in
TVET mobility projects**

Case study 1: Leadership Exchange Programme & International Skills Partnerships: Belfast Met has delivered on 5 programmes with 3 TVET Colleges in South Africa working on learner success and retention programmes to improve the journey of the learner and reduce early dropouts.

Part of these initiatives is aimed at employers being more actively involved with the colleges to provide pathways for students into traineeships and getting ready for the work environment.

Case study 2: Internationalisation and Strategic Partnerships:

The college has been working on 10 key strategic projects with partners across 20+ countries developing, testing and implementing innovative approaches and practices for study programmes, learners, staff and organisations through teaching and learning activities such as blended mobility of learners, joint staff training events, and teaching and training assignments.

Case study 3: Company Upskilling

Belfast Met is collaborating with an international consulting company in the Middle East on developing a bespoke cutting edge technology and data analytics programme.

This programme is part of the company approach to upskill existing staff in new technology solutions to lead the professional services sector in this region.





NORTHERN Regional College

Northern Regional College is committed to making meaningful and productive connections with organisations, networks and people across the globe.

Northern Regional College is one of six regional Colleges of Further and Higher Education in Northern Ireland. We offer a wide range of courses, from Level 0/1 to higher education foundation degrees and a full bachelor's degree, across six campuses resulting in approximately 20,000 annual enrolments.

These courses are delivered in the College's six main campuses in the Northeast region of Northern Ireland. In addition to this, we deliver community-based education in several outreach centres and have a digital on-line learning capability. The College has recently received approval to move to a four-campus structure centred on strategic nodal points which will include a £84M new build programme set to be completed by 2022.

The diverse geographical catchment area of the College spans a population of approximately 424,000. Our footprint stretches from the Causeway coast in the north to the shores of Belfast Lough towards the south of our catchment area. It includes several large towns and a spatially extensive rural hinterland. Adding to this diversity offering is the fact that the catchment area also includes the outer suburbs of the Belfast Metropolitan area.

The College has been networking globally for more than 17 years with international partners to:

- **develop and implement a range of innovative strategic partnership projects;**
- **exchange staff and students on an international stage;**
- **undertake mobility placements in activities that help attune curricula to labour market needs;**
- **take part in European and international cooperation for the exchange of good practice and promote equality and diversity;**
- **support work-based learning and enhance digital integration in learning and teaching.**

This international partnership activity includes:

- **continuous professional development**
- **curriculum development**
- **knowledge sharing**
- **skills enhancement**
- **student exchange**
- **study visits**
- **employer engagement**

Northern Regional College has long standing relationships with colleges and universities in Finland, Italy, Denmark, Romania, Poland, Portugal, Spain, France, and the Netherlands. The College has established meaningful international partnerships with over 40 Higher Education Institutions and TVET Colleges across Europe, North America, Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa.

The College is proud to host over 50 visits per year from staff and students from our extensive network of partner institutions, as well affording the College's staff and students the opportunity to spend extensive time abroad.

In an increasingly global context, Northern Regional College aspires to innovate and achieve excellence through collaboration. For that reason, the College is committed to building a strong network of mutually-beneficial international partnerships across the world.





NWRC secures £1.26 million of Erasmus+ Funding

North West Regional College can reveal they have been successful in securing an impressive €1.26 million of Erasmus+ funding.

NWRC delivers an invigorated brand of education and training aimed at attracting new learners, while advancing the growth and prosperity of the local economy. In the 2017/18 academic year the college supported approximately 11,000 students.

NWRC has five main campuses based Derry~Londonderry, Limavady and Strabane offering full-time and part-time courses in a range of vocational and non-vocational areas. The college attracts students through its offering of a wide range of VET, FE and HE Programmes. NWRC is an outward looking college, securing funding to help support staff and student mobilities throughout Europe and beyond. The college also welcomes incoming students on exchange and mobility projects and international students to its NCUK International Foundation Year programme.

The college has four academic departments, each catering for school leavers, mature students, professionals, community organisations and the unemployed. They include: Department for Science, Technology & Creative Industries; Department of Training

& Skills; Department of Health & Sport; and Department of Business, Hospitality, Tourism & Performing Arts. Many courses at the College are developed in conjunction with local employers and are designed to give students a feel for future employment, and to enhance practical competences in their chosen vocation.

The college recently received the news that they have been awarded €1,145,995 in the category of Key Action 1 VET – Staff & Learners Mobility, €30,995 as part of a Consortium bid for VET learners €40,044 of Higher Education Funding, €26,950 for Strategic Partnerships (Schools project), and €17,285 for Vocational Education Training.

This is the highest figure of funding received by any college in Northern Ireland, and the second highest funding to any college in UK (excluding VET Charter holders).

The news follows on from last year's funding announcement of €1,023,127, representing an investment of more than €3million by Erasmus in North West Regional College over the past two years.

Bronagh Fikri, European Projects Officer at NWRC said: "We are delighted with the news of another substantial award from Erasmus+ which will allow staff and students to study and work across Europe to develop knowledge and Skills.

"Over the next two years participants will have the opportunity to visit a number of countries including the Republic of Ireland, Germany, Malta, Denmark, Portugal, Spain, Slovenia, Finland, the Netherlands, France, Italy, Belgium and Sweden.

"The mobilities will be designated in a number of forms. Four staff will travel to take part in an advance planning visit for ErasmusPRO and this will be followed up 54 trainee placements in I.T., Creative Industries and Hospitality. "It will also include 142 short term traineeships for Vocational Education Trainees, 73 staff training mobilities and 53 teachers/training assessments. "During the mobilities, which will range in duration from two weeks to 12 months, participants can develop their knowledge and skills as well as developing competencies. All of the staff mobilities, will be with the aim of developing the curriculum, and linking to industry with a large focus on entrepreneurship.

"I'd like to thank staff who are involved in coordinating the mobility activities for students, those staff who accompany

students on the mobility trips and those who put in the extra hours working on partnership projects helping NWRC to build and develop international relations, as without their dedication to the projects they would not be as successful."

Leo Murphy, Chief Executive and Principal of North West Regional College said: "I would like to congratulate Bronagh Fikri for the huge work undertaken to secure the funding for these exciting opportunities for staff and students. "Since 2014 we have watched our European funding increase from €200,000, to this year's figure of in excess of €1.26 million.

"These traineeships have been extremely beneficial in broadening the horizons of our students, many of whom had gone on to work and study in places such as China, Belgium and Spain."





Expertise

SERC Learning Academy provides opportunities for staff Continuous Professional Development through targeted practice led training to meet the needs of staff and students, to share innovative best practice pedagogies and encourage collaborative working.

- Project Based Learning
- Technology Enhanced Learning draws on SERC's award-winning expertise in the use of technology in the classroom
- Peer mentoring programme tailored to individual needs to improve teaching skills and practice
- Digital transformation and professional learning
- Leadership & Management initiatives giving organisations a framework to embed commercial acumen as a core competency throughout the organisation
- **Quality Assurance** – significant expertise in the mapping and benchmarking of quality systems against UK quality frameworks and providing training and support to organisations in developing quality assurance standards and practices
- **International Foundation Year** a one-year bridging programme combining academic studies in Business Studies, IT, Engineering or Travel & Tourism with English Language Training and Study Skills, leading to entry into UK universities

Case Study 1 Internationalisation in TVET

SERC's internationalisation strategy is built on mutually beneficial partnerships such as that with King Mongkut's Institute of Technology, Ladkrabang, (KMITL) Thailand.

This shared best practice project saw SERC's expert team deliver Active Learning teaching and learning methodology to KMITL staff to improve classroom practice. Whilst KMITL science specialists helped SERC to develop specific food engineering technical skills and improved industry knowledge. This project was shared on the British Council Erasmus+ website as a beacon of best practice.

Case Study 2 British Council International Skills Partnership, Pakistan.

This project was a solution focussed approach to revolutionise the energy and vocational training sector in Pakistan. SERC provided sustainable training and development solutions to meet the increasing demand for skills-led sustainable energy solutions resulting in the formation of a strong partnership between SERC and Premier Energy, Pakistan. This successful project resulted in the partners being awarded an International Skills Partnership Award 2017.

Case Study 3 Award-winning collaborative project in Thailand.

This collaborative project focussed on developing and embedding enterprise and entrepreneurship in the vocational curriculum in Thailand by sharing innovative practice. The project was awarded UK National Enterprise Educators Award: FE Team Enterprise 2017. The Award was in recognition of the high-quality learning programme: combined methodology on how to integrate entrepreneurship education and professional development activities for teachers and providing recommendations for wider implementation.





Southern Regional College leads the sector as the largest provider of Erasmus+ VET mobilities. As a progressive and forward looking college with firmly established international links, SRC is proud to be the first college in Northern Ireland to send higher education students on mobility placements outside the EU through the ICM Erasmus+ programme.

SRC has been networking globally for more than 17 years with international partners to:

- develop and implement a range of innovative strategic partnership projects;
- exchange staff and students on an international stage;
- attract overseas students to study at SRC;
- undertake mobility placements in activities that help attune curricula to labour market needs;
- take part in European and international cooperation for the exchange of good practice and promote equality and diversity;
- support work-based learning and enhance digital integration in learning and teaching.

Southern Regional College's (SRC) External Funding and International Team has a vast range of expertise in income generation capacity and international activity. To date the College has secured funding for 50 projects through the Lifelong Learning and Erasmus+ programmes

In 2018 the College provided mobility opportunities for:

- 182 students on European and American work placements,
- 47 staff to avail of European upskilling and best practice experiences,
- 5 staff to undertake study visits to the USA.

In addition SRC has

- Hosted 17 staff from the USA and Europe to avail of best practice and upskilling opportunities,
- Hosted 15 incoming student interns,
- Managed 6 Erasmus + Projects

Mobility projects continue to give students an insight into different cultures and languages. These experiences prepare students for the world of work and have benefitted the students socially and personally.

In addition to the two KA1 projects that enable the College to send students and staff on work placements and training abroad. The College has also managed an International Credit Mobility (ICM), project in the USA, a KA2 project Learning for Living Together (Refugees and Migrants 2017-2019) and is currently a partner with 5 other European countries on a KA2 Cyber Security project.

1) The Cyber Security KA2 project
The aim of this 2 year project is to work with 5 European partners to develop a Joint VET Curriculum in cyber security. Partners are HETEL, Spain (lead Partner), New College Lanarkshire, Scotland, AS BCS Koolitus (IT Training & Consulting company) Estonia Vantaa Kaupunki College Helsinki, Finland, ROC Da Vinci College, Netherlands and SRC.

2) The ICM partnership with Messiah College in the United States enabled SRC to send students and send and receive staff, to boost skills and employability and produce a training programme that has improved the quality of tuition in their STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) subjects. As key part of this project staff networked with Almac, a major pharmaceutical company, to improve tutors' expertise and make curricular linkages to the STEM industries.

Through meaningful employee development staff have been encouraged to think broadly about how the STEM curriculum should be delivered.

3) Learning for Living Together.
The overall aims are to: increase knowledge of the needs of new migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, identify new approaches to learning about integration of new communities. The project works collaboratively with 6 transnational partner organisations from the UK, Ireland, Italy, Latvia & Sweden who have particular expertise in delivering adult education migrant/ refugee/asylum seeker/ communities by developing, testing, adapting and supporting the embedding of innovative materials and practices. In partnership with Dundalk Institute of Technology, SRC has developed a Level 2 OCN Social Inclusion and Diversity course and a Train-the-Trainer course to enable non-teachers to deliver the course in their own countries.





South West College (SWC) is a dynamic, innovative and entrepreneurial College, focused on delivering excellent results and outcomes for our students, industry and the local economy.

The college catchment area covers the counties of Tyrone and Fermanagh, a rural and industrious region in Northern Ireland. SWC is a Grade One 'Outstanding' College and is firmly established as one of the UK's leading Colleges in Further and Higher Education. SWC has 18,000 enrolments annually offering over 450 courses, including 25 Foundation Degrees primarily focused on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects.

The College is recognised locally, regionally, nationally and internationally and has gained numerous awards for its high quality and economically relevant education and training provision. The College's international initiative "SWC Global" is actively extending international partnerships, opportunities for transnational mobility

and driving best practice, to ensure that the organisation promotes strong, internationally relevant curriculum and delivers transformative international experiences.

SWC have established 40 Global partnerships across 25 countries including the majority of EU countries and further afield in China, Russia and the USA. Our global partnerships span across a number of sectors including Colleges, Universities, Research Institutes, Schools and NGO's. Over the past 3-year period, SWC have secured international projects worth a total value of €6 million that has enabled the college to integrate exemplary teaching and learning from across the globe and also provide our partners with know-how, tools and advice to improve the effectiveness of their vocational education and training (VET) systems.

This has included sharing our education and training expertise to build the capacity of partners in Vietnam, Iraq, India, Zambia and Malaysia in areas such as quality assurance and leadership and management. In 2019, the British Council also awarded SWC to act as a UK 'Lead Partner' in a collaborative cluster working with peer vocational providers from Ghana, India, Malaysia and South Africa.

In 2012, The Confucius Institute at the University of Ulster (CIUU) launched eight Confucius Classroom Hubs to develop academic, cultural, economic and social ties between Northern Ireland and China. SWC was awarded Confucius Hub Status and as a result has delivered Mandarin Chinese to 4,000 students through Mandarin Chinese teachers located on each campus. In 2018, SWC launched a pioneering MOOC in Business Mandarin Chinese, giving learners

the unique opportunity to gain the essential fundamentals of Chinese business language, etiquette and understanding.

"The College has a very strong international focus; its international links to support curriculum development and to enhance the experiences and skills of the staff and learners are outstanding. The range of international projects that learners and staff engage with is extensive, and the participation in these projects by learners is high. The quality of staff exchanges with international partner organisations is of a very high standard"

Education and Training Inspectorate

SWC are currently coordinating 12 Erasmus+ projects, which positions the college as one of the UK's leading delivery agents within this funding scheme. SWC are currently the lead partner on 5 Erasmus+ collaborative strategic partnership projects involving over 20 international partners to improve VET provision in the field of STEM, Green Construction, Engineering, Entrepreneurship & Hospitality. Through Erasmus+ mobility projects, SWC send over 100 participants on international training and teaching visits on an annual basis. Outside of Europe, The college have successfully achieved €250,000 International Credit Mobility (ICM) funding for staff exchanges in USA, China, Canada and Russia, benefiting over 100 academic staff.



£260 million

Annual Turnover

153,756

Enrolments across 6 Colleges

86%

of all students achieve qualifications

Support provided to

10,000

businesses annually

95%

Achievement Rate for Higher Professional Programmes

Deliver

20%

of all Higher Education Programmes in Northern Ireland

Higher Education
Foundation Degrees

International
Foundation Year

Teacher Training

English Language
Training

Company Professional
Development

Leadership and
Management

Summer College
Experience

The Colleges have a range of UK national recognitions for approved and regulated delivery and accreditation of TVET qualifications at all levels

