



College /Awards & Success Stories 2024/**25**

Centre for
Marketing & Communications



Celebrating Success Awards 2025

The College's Celebrating Success FE Awards were held on 26 June 2025 in our Titanic Quarter campus.

Academic & Continuing Education

Student of the Year Award Level 1	Mia Wheeler
Student of the Year Award Level 2	Francisco Fernando Rodriguez
Student of the Year Award Level 3	Laura Maguire
Spirit of the Met Award Level 1	Rana Al Hajouj
Spirit of the Met Award Level 2	Michelle Kerr
Spirit of the Met Award Level 3	Xiaomei Wang

Belfast Business School

Student of the Year Award Level 1	Claire Conlon
Student of the Year Award Level 2	Ewan Curran
Student of the Year Award Level 3	Rebecca Ferguson
Digital by Design Award	Nicole Lam
Spirit of the Met Award Level 1	Claire Conlon
Spirit of the Met Award Level 2	Elijah Hoo
Spirit of the Met Award Level 3	Katie Douglas

Creative & Digital Industries

Student of the Year Award Level 2	Brendan Delaney
Student of the Year Award Level 3	Conall Jago
Spirit of the Met Award Level 2	Nathan Faloon
Spirit of the Met Award Level 3	Liba Rehman
Digital by Design Award	Matthew Ciesla

Huge congratulations to the students and staff at Belfast Met for their many outstanding successes and award wins throughout the 2024–2025 academic year.

Health, Wellbeing & Inclusion

Student of the Year Award Entry Level	Luana Morrison
Student of the Year Award Level 1	Joseph Rooney
Student of the Year Award Level 2	Lucy Jane Tiernan McClelland
Student of the Year Award Level 3	Sean Loughran
Spirit of the Met Award Entry Level	Jack Carson
Spirit of the Met Award Level 1	Joshua Thompson
Spirit of the Met Award Level 2	Bailey Pyper
Spirit of the Met Award Level 3	Hamdu Al Shbeeb

Science, Engineering & Construction

Student of the Year Award Level 1	Thomas Abdu
Student of the Year Award Level 2	Leon Adams
Student of the Year Award Level 3	Kurtis Young
Spirit of the Met Award Level 1	Daniel Watters
Spirit of the Met Award Level 2	Dylan Massey
Spirit of the Met Award Level 3	Suha Fadel

Student Support

Career-Ready Student of the Year Award	Rohan Caldwell
Student Voice Award	Megan McLean
Student Endeavour Award	Erin Fitzpatrick
Student Endeavour Award	Emily Stitt
Student Volunteer of the Year Award	Levi Williams



Apprenticeship Celebration Awards

This year's Apprenticeship Celebration Awards took place in E3 (Springvale campus) on 11 June 2025.

Belfast Business School

Aimee Mallon	Hairdressing, G&S Hair Studio
Angelika Dzenite	Data Management, Pacem (Higher Level Apprenticeship)
Georgia Abernethy	Culinary Arts, Posh Nosh (Higher Level Apprenticeship)
Jack Gillespie	Accountancy, Sumer NI (Higher Level Apprenticeship)
Nicole Cameron	Event Management, Fairytales Weddings/Northern Lights Event Hire (Higher Level Apprenticeship)

School of Creative & Digital Industries

Andrew Hartland	Citi Data Academy, Citi
Alayah Verdasca	Telecoms, Department of Justice
Kerri McDaid	IT Networking, Queen's University Belfast
Rachel Green	IT Cloud, Hallmark Solutions (Higher Level Apprenticeship)
Jonny Magee	IT Cloud, TP ICAP (Higher Level Apprenticeship)
Andrew Devonshire	IT Cyber, Danske Bank (Higher Level Apprenticeship)
Holden Gibson	Print, Northside Graphics (Higher Level Apprenticeship)

School of Health, Wellbeing & Inclusion

Danielle Brown	Childcare, Little Rays (Higher Level Apprenticeship)
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School of Science, Engineering & Construction

Antaine McNicholl	Alarms, Professional Fire & Security (PFS)
Ewan Forsyth	Electrical, Nugent M&E
Isaac Forsythe	Performing Engineering Operations, Queen's University Belfast
Mark Holloway	Performing Engineering Operations, John Holloway
Jake McClean	Performing Engineering Operations, Cimpina
Luke Kinnaid	Engineering, Spirit Aero
Paul McManus	Engineering, Spirit Aero
Aaron McCloskey	Joinery, Hesketh Joinery
Leon Adams	Motor Vehicle, Volkswagen Van Centre
Ewan Warnock	Motor Vehicle, Mervyn Stewart Skoda
Emmet O'Neill	Plumbing, ATS Gas
Arran Barr	Brick work, Tony Harriet
Jennifer Hunter	Civil Engineering, Department for Infrastructure
Jill Kennedy	Civil Engineering, Department for Infrastructure
Holly McColl	Pharmacy, Clear Pharmacy
Rachel Campbell	Scientific Technicians, Queen's University Belfast

Department of Business & Skills

Sarah-Jane Calvert	Providing Financial Services, Lloyds Bank
Lauryn Gordon	Business administration, NIE Networks
Michael McElhinney	Hospitality, Premier Inn
Jude Hamilton	Providing Financial Services, Citi
Aaron Lamont	Leadership and Management, PHS Group

Belfast Business School

Sarah Welsh	Awarded Public Sector Apprentice of the Year at the Northern Ireland Apprenticeship Awards 2025 Sarah is employed at Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.
Christine Marshall	Finalist Public Sector Apprentice of the Year Award (Belfast Met Finalists)
Connie Foley	Finalist Public Sector Apprentice of the Year Award (Belfast Met Finalists)
Kathleen Healey	Finalist Apprentice of the Year Award (Belfast Met Finalists)
Sophie Kirk	Highly Commended in the Trainee/Apprenticeship Learner of the Year category of the OCN Learner Endeavour Awards.
John Kelso-Mason	Finalist in the Best HR Student category of the CIPD NI Awards
Katherine Young	Finalist in the Rising Star of the People Profession of the CIPD NI Awards
Saffron Montgomery	Winner of NI Travel News Student of the Year 2024

School of Creative & Digital Industries

Niamh Flannery: In addition to winning Gold in the Rising Star Award category of the Irish Print Awards and Niamh was also awarded Silver in the Woman Leading in Print category of the Irish Print Awards.

Katie Murphy: was named runner-up Student of the Year at the annual Study USA Graduation held in Belfast City Hall in September 2024.

Matthew Ciesla, a second-year student in the Level 3 Digital Art and Animation, achieved third place in the international World VFX Day Art Competition 2024.

Luke Jervis and Owen Lavery: Finalists in the RTS (Royal Television Society) NI 2025 Awards. Luke and Owen were nominated for their documentary “Home Ground”.

Luke Jervis and Owen Lavery were also successful in having their “Home Ground” documentary selected for the Film Devour Short Film Festival.

Lecturer **Christopher Lennon** and media technician **Martin Murphy** won Best Editing for their Short Film “Fómhar” at the 15th Underground Cinema Film Awards. The film was crewed by both staff and former students.

Rab McFee: Shortlisted in the documentary category of the SMEDIAs 2024 and made the Docs Ireland Official Selection in the same year.

Holly McKinley: Finalist for Best Script – SMEDIAs 2024

The student produced **IMPRESS Magazine** was nominated for the Best Small College or Society Publication of the Year at the SMEDIAs.

Jasmine Ashfield: Winner of a “live brief” competition in partnership with the Cooneen Group – a leading global designer and manufacturer of high-performance garments and personal protective.

School of Health, Wellbeing & Inclusion

Belfast Met Boxing Academy – 10th Anniversary Gala (Belfast Met v Sheffield)

James and Judith Bleakney presented the Jack Bleakney Memorial Shield to the Belfast Met Boxer of the Year, **Jamie Graham.**

Jamie Graham was also awarded The Gerry Storey Jnr Cup for Best Home Boxer on the night, as well as being selected to represent Ireland in the 2024 World Youth Boxing Championships held in Montenegro.

Academic Coordinator for the Belfast Met Boxing Academy **John Mulhern** was presented with a **Special Recognition Award** at the Anniversary Gala.

Belfast Met Football Academy Lecturer and Coordinator **Natalie Thompson** was awarded a Certificate of Excellence (FE Lecturer of the Year) at the 2025 Pearson National Teaching Awards.

A squad from the **Belfast Met Football Academy** representing Northern Ireland brought home the silverware after competing in a special cup competition in Romania. The students took part in the **FAIRER Cup**, which was staged in Bucharest, as part of a project aimed at tackling radicalisation in football.

School of Science, Engineering & Construction

Three students secured top spots at CITB NI annual SkillBuild NI Regional Qualifier Competition 2025.

Ewan Forsythe: Electrical Installation (1st Place)

Jack Fenton: Plumbing (1st Place)

Charlie McCready: Security Systems (1st Place)

Three students progressed to the WorldSkills UK National Finals taking place in November 2025.

Ewan Forsythe: Electrical Installation

Conal Daly: Industrial Electronics

Jack Fenton: Plumbing

Belfast Met also dominated the Security Systems category with students **Antaine McNicholl** and **Jack Patterson** walking away with second and third place respectively.

Plumbing lecturer **Jim Flood** was awarded the prestigious Hugh Gettinby Memorial Cup.

Alongside his **Skillbuild NI** success and qualifying as a finalist in the SkillELECTRIC UK competition, NUGENT apprentice **Ewan Forsythe** also walked away with the **Apprentice of the Year title at the Northern Ireland Electrical Awards** held in Titanic Belfast in June 2025.

Jack Fenton tied for third place and received a bronze medal at the 2024 SkillPLUMB UK competition.

Caoimhe Sherlock: Won the Apprentice of the Year Award at the inaugural Northern Ireland Housing Executive Artes Apprenticeship Awards. Caoimhe works as a Joiner at CFM.

Academic & Continuing Education

Congratulations to the thirteen Belfast Met students have gone on to study at university for the first time with the help of a **Uiversity Scholarship Awards**. The pathway for the majority of the students was via an Access course.

Aaron Caldwell (QUB)	Former Access Social Science Student
Seana Monaghan (QUB)	Former Access Social Science Student
Farren McDonald (QUB)	Former Access Humanities Student
Jonathan McMurray (QUB)	Former Access Maths and Physics Student
Harry Sterritt (QUB)	Former Access Maths and Physics Student
Nichola O'Hara (St Mary's College)	Former Access Social Science Student
Fionnuala Gillespie (Ulster University)	Former Access Social Science Student
Stacey Kearney (Ulster University)	Former HND Business Student
Aisling Plunkett (Ulster University)	Former Access Social Science Student
Kelly McMillen (Ulster University)	Former Access Maths and Finance Student
Christopher Hamill (Ulster University)	Former Access Computing for the Economy Student
Megan Lochhead (Ulster University)	Former HND Graphic Design student and former Access Social Science Student
Emma Kennedy (Ulster University)	Former Cert HE in Combined Social and Behavioural Issues Student



College Awards

NI Apprenticeship Awards 2025

In addition to business student Sarah Welsh being awarded Public Sector Apprentice of the Year, Belfast Met achieved the following:

Finalist: Large Employer in Partnership with a Training Provider Award

Belfast Metropolitan College in partnership with Queen's University Belfast

Finalist: Public Sector Employer in Partnership with a Training Provider Award

Belfast Metropolitan College in partnership with Northern Ireland Civil Service

Mentor of the Year: Leah Robb from Galgorm Collection, in partnership with Belfast Metropolitan College

Belfast Telegraph Business Awards 2025

The College was awarded Highly Commended in the Outstanding Commitment to ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) category.

CIPD Platinum Centre Status

Leadership Management and Professional Programmes within the Belfast Business school achieved Platinum Centre status from the Chartered Institute of Personnel Development

Business Eye ESG & Sustainability Awards 2025

Belfast Met was awarded Highly Commended in the ESG category of this year's awards.

Northern Ireland Prison Service: 10th anniversary of partnership

This year marked the 10-year anniversary of providing education and skills in NI prisons. The work of our educational teams was heralded as "transformational" in two HM prison inspection reports.

NOW Group

Belfast Met's Business and Skills department was delighted to be awarded Academy Partner of the Year 2024/25 at the NOW Group awards.

Northern Ireland Environmental Benchmarking Survey 2024

Belfast Met once again was awarded Gold Level status in the 2024 Northern Ireland Environmental Benchmarking Survey, organised by Business in the Community. The College was also recognised for its environmental stewardship by introducing another organisation to join the survey.



