



College Awards & Success stories 2020/21

Centre for
Marketing & Design

19 Learner Awards

Well done to our students and staff whose hard work and talent has been recognised during the last academic year, under difficult and challenging circumstances due to the pandemic, with many of the usual awards and competitions having been cancelled.

5 Academic and Continuing Education

Cresta Award

A Level Biology student **Kate Campbell** participated in the Nuffield Research Placement (Nuffield Future Researchers) and received a Crest Gold Award for her project 'Biodiversity and Agricultural Practises'.

6 Belfast Business School

CIPD Awards

Rebecca Scanlon won the CIPD Award 2020 and has since completed her HND Level 4 and CIPD Level 5 in Human Resource Management.

Simona Fisichella, Level 5 CIPD Learning and Development student reached the top three finalist stage of this award.

Naomi Hodges CIPD Level 5 learner won McDonalds NI/ROI Employee of the Year 2020 in March 2021 having played a key role in the recruitment, onboarding and training of 100 employees at the new McKinstry Road premises.

UK Leidos Career Ready Awards

Ailin Attarzadeh was named UK Leidos Career Ready Student of the Year 2020 award, who completed BTEC Business Level 2 & 3 and Level 2 Essential Skills in Literacy and Numeracy courses at the College.

University Scholarships

Four of our Access Diploma students, **Jamaica De Guzman**, **Paula Downey**, **Megan Peaches Jennings** and **Ronan McClelland** were awarded Higher Education Scholarships for Adult Learners from Registered Charity University to pursue bachelor's degrees at Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University.

Washington Ireland Programme 2021

The College is the first Further Education college in Northern Ireland to be part of the Washington Ireland Program (WIP) and is managed by the College's International Office. **Kelly Welsh** and **Jonathan Forbes**, both BTEC L3 Extended Diploma in Business students, were selected to participate in this prestigious programme which has rigorous selection criteria. Kelly and Jonathan completed it successfully, opening many possibilities for them both.

IGNITE Programme Awards

Level 3 Travel and Tourism student **Olivia Millar** received the IGNITE Merit Award and NLP Diploma in Personal and Career Development, after completing twelve months of workshops, work experience and self-development projects. IGNITE is a joint initiative between Belfast City Airport and the Cinemagic International Film Festival for Young People. Four further Level 3 Travel and Tourism students completed the programme, **Indigo Ashbridge**, **Abby Money Penny**, **Aimee Jordan** and **Jenna Morton**.

2 Open College Network Northern Ireland Learning Endeavour Awards

Futures participant **Emad Hazaea** won the FE (Further Education) Learner of the Year Award 2021. **Shane Green** was Highly Commended in the same category.

3 Health, Wellbeing and Inclusion

Ulster University Annual Associate Dean's Award

Foundation Degree student in Integrative Counselling, **Muriel Taffs**, won the Ulster University's first Annual Associate Dean's Award for the Highest Achieving Associate Student in Counselling.

Bombardier Bursary

A Bombardier Aerostructures and Engineering Services Bursary was awarded to **Antonia O'Neill**, BSc (Hons) in Social Work at Belfast Metropolitan College in association with Ulster University.

US Scholarship

Dylan Leeman, Level 3 Sport Year 2 student, received a US College Scholarship for tennis at the University of North Dakota where he will major in Business.

5 Creative and Digital

BTEC Learner of the Year Awards

Level 3 Creative Media Production students **Ashlyn Spence** was awarded Silver and **Jolene Fegan** awarded Bronze in the BTEC Learner Awards 2021.

The Rookies of the Year contest 2021

Visual Effects Level 5 HND (Higher National Diploma) student **Adam Loughridge** received an Excellence Award in The Rookies contest this year. His work was judged by practicing professionals in some of the world's largest Animation/VFX and Games companies.

Skills Build Northern Ireland 2021

Level 3 Electronics students **Shane Dalzell** and **Nathan Dane** won the Northern Ireland heat of Skills-build 2021 to become finalists in the national World Skills UK competition. All six colleges in Northern Ireland took part with remote judging and monitoring before the finals in England.

3 Science, Engineering and Construction

Skills Build Northern Ireland 2021

Belfast Met Level 3 Carpentry and Joinery students **Matthew Connor** and **Leonie McDonagh** got top marks in the N.Ireland heat of Skillbuild 2021 to be finalists in World Skills UK. All six Colleges in Northern Ireland took part with remote judging and monitoring before the finals in England.

Whitemountain Bursary

An Aisling bursary presented by Whitemountain was awarded to **Brendan Maloney**, Level 3 Advanced Plumbing and Heating student.

1 Skills and Apprenticeships

NI Apprenticeship Week Awards 2021

James Ward Kelly, Level 3 Joinery apprentice was nominated for the Apprentice of the Year Award 2021.

6 Staff Awards

- Futures Project tutor **Nicole McKee** was Highly Commended for Inspiring Tutor of the Year 2021 in the OCN NI Learning Endeavour Awards.
- Sports lecturer, **Lee McCusker**, was nominated as Freelance Nutritionist of the Year 2020 in the Caroline Walker Trust Awards.
- **Nikita Brijpaul**, Business Executive, Centre for Economic Development and Social Inclusion was selected to become a Boardroom Apprentice in the Class of 2020.
- College Connect, Centre for Economic Development and Social Inclusion - **Michael Bradley** achieved OCN NI Level 5 in Developing Blended Learning Courses and Certificate in Teaching.
- Skills for Industry, Centre for Economic Development and Social Inclusion - **Melody Beattie** achieved Level 4 Certificate in Teaching Adult and Continuing Education.
- Employer Engagement team, Centre for Skills and Apprenticeships; **Ryan Manning** Certificate in Teaching; **Emma Morrison** achieved her TAQA Level 3 Trainer Assessor Award; **Andrea Kearney** achieved her Diploma in Retail Banking Conduct of Business. (DipRBCB); **Tracey Patterson** achieved her Certificate in Consumer Debt Collection (CertDC).

2 College Awards

- **Belfast Met's Futures project** received Highly Commended Provider of the Year in the OCN NI Learning Endeavor Awards 2021.
- **The Childhood Studies team** came Highly Commended in the All-Ireland AONTAS Star Awards 2021 for Level 2 Girdwood's Childcare project in the category of Social Inclusion (Large Organisation).
- **The Centre for Supported Learning** was shortlisted as Specialist Provider of the Year 2020 in the TES Awards.
- **The Centre for Skills and Apprenticeships** was a finalist in the Large Employer Award category at the Northern Ireland Apprenticeship Week Awards 2021 for their partnership with international law firm Allen and Overy.
- The College was shortlisted for the prestigious Inspiring Culture Award for the work undertaken through its "Digital by Default" Staff, Support and Development Programme. **The College's Centre for Excellence team** supported the roll out of a highly successful change programme during the Covid-19 pandemic through enabling and supporting the moving of delivery programmes online across all the College's curriculum provision.
- The awarding body of CIM issued a Letter of Commendation to congratulate the teaching team of **Belfast Met Business School** in recognition of the excellent standard of performance of its students in both December 2020 and April 2021 examination sessions.

7 Learner Good News Stories

Level 3 Extended Diploma in Business student **Darragh Armstrong** and fellow classmates raised £1,250 across the four main campuses for the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice.

Two BSc Hons Fashion and Business undergraduates, **Sasha Dempsey** and **Emma Burns** were selected for the Study USA programme.

Level 3 Animal Management student **Aaron Kelly** hit the headlines when he discovered rare pine martens in the Belfast Hills as part of his investigative project.

Shannon Neilly, Level 2 apprentice from the School of Construction was selected to take part in a voiceover recording for Artemis Technologies' promotional video.

Part-time student **Frank Higgins** graduated in Level 4 Tour Guiding and celebrated 30 years of part-time study with Belfast Met.

Level 2 Childcare Learning and Development student **Ipsita Chatterjee** made a presentation about her course project resulting in the Childhood Studies team receiving a Highly Commended award in the All-Ireland AONTAS Star Awards 2021, in the category of Social Inclusion.



3 Corporate Good News Stories

- **GenComm:** In March 2021 two of the GenComm partners published a 44-page document, 'Hydrogen - Exploring Opportunities in the NI Energy transition' a report funded by the NI Department for the Economy. The Belfast Met GenComm Communications team promoted this news resulting in it being featured in H2 View magazine in England, Energy Voice magazine in Scotland and Renewable Energy magazine in the USA.
- **BIMcert:** Belfast Met has become the first further education college in Northern Ireland to win two EU bids for two EU projects. In March 2021 it was announced that a new micro learning project called 'ARISE', the result of a £1.12 million grant from the EU Horizon 2020 work program will include, 9 European partners with Belfast Met as the lead partner and would start in September. It is another project aimed at the construction industry and is and has evolved from the BIMcert project.
- **Assured Skills Academies:** The College has delivered over 100 Assured Skills Academy programs, funded by the Department for the Economy, with Belfast Met teaching staff providing training since 2013. The 100th Academy was a PwC Data Analytics Academy which finished in July 2021.

To date **Belfast Met has delivered 24 academies** during the Covid pandemic, **with 6 companies, 491 graduates and a 92% employment rate.**

Assured Skills Academies were delivered remotely with companies such as Microsoft, KPMG, PwC, Deloitte, Sensata and FinTrU with training in Software Testing, Future Business Skills, Applied Intelligence, Modern Application Development, Cyber Security, IoT, Data Analytics, Financial Services and Legal.

Assured Skills Infographic



PwC Academies were delivered.

153 students attended courses including, five Future Business Skills Academies, two Software Testing Academies and a Data Analytics Academy.



FinTrU Financial Services Assured Skills Academy were delivered by Belfast Met in collaboration with Ulster University.

1 FinTrU legal academy has also been completed.



Academy participants graduated in June from the world's first ever Microsoft Modern Applications Development Academy. Belfast Met teaching and support staff delivered this fantastic Academy online over 12 weeks during lockdown.

During this academy qualifications were delivered in AZ 900 – Microsoft Azure Fundamentals, AZ-204 – Developing Solutions for Microsoft Azure and AZ-400 – Designing and Implementing Microsoft DevOps Solution.



Sensata academy was delivered focusing on technologies that enable the Internet of Things (IoT).



New jobs will be created in Belfast by KPMG.

Of the new roles, **160** will come through Assured Skills academies. The academies for KPMG will deliver training to upskill participants for roles in Cyber Security and Applied Intelligence (AI).

1 AI academy has already been completed with **20** people moving into jobs with KPMG. A Cyber Security Academy was also kicked off.



Deloitte Academy was delivered covering Transformation, Finance and Technology.

