



**QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST**



# **THE**CAMPUS WALKABOUT **GUIDE**



Queen's Welcome Centre is situated at the front door of the University inside the striking, world-famous Lanyon Building, designed by Sir Charles Lanyon and opened by Queen Victoria. We welcome you to Queen's where our staff are always on hand to help you make the most of your visit.

The Welcome Centre is a local Tourist Information Office and serves as an information point for students and prospective students to Queen's. As well as providing information about the University, the staff will help you with advice on what to see and do around Belfast and Northern Ireland. The Centre also stocks an attractive choice of gifts and memorabilia. Guided tours of the University, including the Great Hall, the Canada Room, the Council Chamber and the quadrangle, are available throughout the year on request.

You can also view the latest exhibition in the University's Naughton Gallery. For details, please phone (0)28 9097 3580 or go to [www.naughtongallery.org](http://www.naughtongallery.org)

The name Belfast comes from the Irish *Béal Feirste* meaning *Mouth of the River Farset*. The motto of the city, *Pro tanto quid retribuamus*, means *For so much that we have been given, what shall we give back?* In 2010 the city of Belfast welcomed over nine million visitors.



## Queen's University Belfast: in a class of its own

One of the UK's great civic universities, with 160 years of heritage, Queen's University Belfast has gained global recognition for the impact of its research and education.

The institution is not only a member of the Russell Group of the UK's 20 leading research-intensive universities, but it has also won the *Queen's Anniversary Prize for Further and Higher Education* on five occasions – for world-class achievement in cancer research, green chemistry, environmental research, palaeoecology (the study of fossil animals and plants) and law.

Four prestigious *Times Higher Education (THE) Awards* further recognise the University's contribution to society. Queen's received the award for *Excellence and Innovation in the Arts* in 2008, was awarded the title of the *UK's Entrepreneurial University of the Year* in 2009, the *Outstanding Engineering Research Team of the Year* in 2010 and *Most Innovative Teacher of the Year* in 2011.

These accolades reflect Queen's spirit of innovation and invention. From new treatments for life-threatening diseases to protecting the lives and livelihoods of some of the poorest people on the planet, the University's research has a real impact.



For instance, its technology will provide arsenic-free drinking water for over 70 million people in South East Asia, while the Queen's-led programme for the improvement of cancer services in Northern Ireland has resulted in the creation of a comprehensive cancer centre and significantly improved rates of cancer survival.

In the University's Centre for Secure Information Technologies, one of the UK's first innovation and knowledge centres, world-class researchers are working to protect global society against cybercrime.

Furthermore, Queen's work in green chemistry, in partnership with Fortune 500 company Petronas, is revolutionising the chemical processing industry around the world. Two of the University's chemists in this field have been cited in the Times Higher Education listing of the world's *100 Top Chemists of the Past Decade*.

Meanwhile, in the arts, the Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry, home to many leading contemporary poets, underpins the University's reputation as a world literary force.

In addition to research, entrepreneurship is the lifeblood of Queen's. More than 50 businesses have emanated from the University's cutting-edge research, generating over 1,000 high-value jobs. The students create an environment in which enterprise can flourish, and Queen's graduates are much

sought after by all employers, including blue-chip companies and firms in the City of London. More than 1,000 students are involved in business activities, while initiatives such as *Students in Free Enterprise* help disadvantaged people from Belfast to Uganda. Queen's is also the UK's most active partner in the *Knowledge Transfer Partnership* programme, which enables small and medium-sized enterprises to access the skills and expertise within academic institutions.

An exceptional university requires exceptional facilities, and from the magnificent McClay Library to the new International and Postgraduate Student Centre, Queen's University is home to one of the world's best-equipped campuses.

Despite being rooted at the heart of Northern Ireland, the University's impact on society is truly global, as it works with many prestigious international partners, including leading institutions in the United States, India, Malaysia and China, to address global research challenges.

Combining heritage with innovation, and outstanding academic credentials with a welcoming culture, the University attracts students from more than 80 countries who are looking for a first-class university and to make an impact on society.

The following is a 'walkabout' guide to the main campus of Queen's University Belfast. It features nine

viewing locations, as illustrated, and directions to locate them.

## A tour of the main University campus

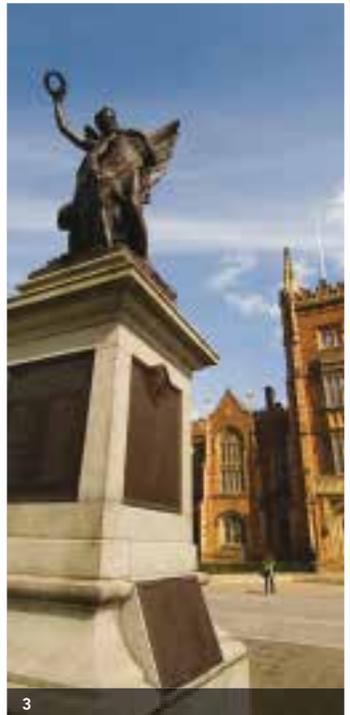
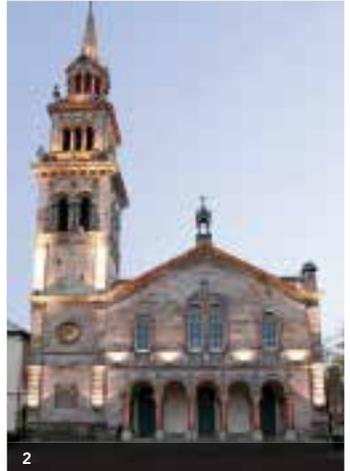
Go to the front of the University and face University Road. In 1845, where you are standing was a 'green-field' site. To the right, you can see the terrace of University Square<sup>1</sup>, built in the Georgian style between 1849 and 1872. Arguably one of the finest terraces in Belfast, it houses many of the Schools of the University's Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Across the road in front of you is the Students' Union, opened in 1966, and to the left is the Elmwood Hall<sup>2</sup>, once a church and now an examination hall and events venue. Next to the Hall is the Student Guidance Centre.

Immediately in front of you is the War Memorial<sup>3</sup> to the men and women of Queen's who died in two world wars. In the First World War, 254 died, and in the Second, 155, almost all being officers.

The Memorial shows a winged Victory cradling a dying soldier, designed by Sir Thomas Brock and executed by F. Arnold in 1923. The Memorial was unveiled in 1924 by the Duke and Duchess of York, later King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

To your left is the Sir William Whitla Hall, one of the most notable 20th century additions to the



University. Designed by Edward Maufe and Belfast architect John McGeagh, it was started in 1939, but not completed until 1946. Vice-Chancellor Sir Frederick Ogilvie decided that it would be the first building to break with the Tudor Gothic tradition.

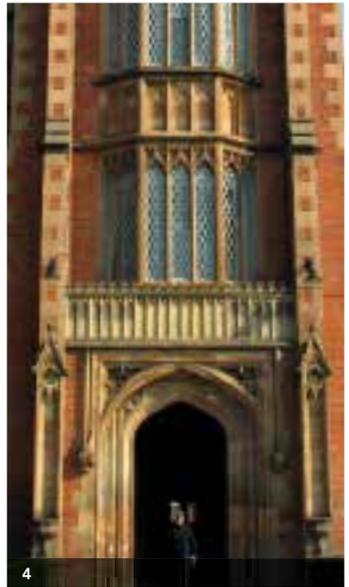
Now, turn around and face the front of the University.

In front of you is the original College<sup>4</sup>, designed by Sir Charles Lanyon, and opened in 1849. Lanyon was the great architect of Belfast and also its Lord Mayor. He designed the Crumlin Road Gaol and Court House, the Customs House, the Queen's Bridge and some 38 churches, but Queen's University's Lanyon Building is undoubtedly his finest creation.

It was completed in 1849 in the Tudor Gothic style, which is characterised by flattened arches, spires, gargoyles, and red brick<sup>5</sup>.

This style was popularised in the middle of the 19th century after Barry and Pugin completed the Houses of Parliament at Westminster. Lanyon supposedly used the Founder's Tower at Magdalen College, Oxford, (1474), as his inspiration for the central tower here, but this tower is more elegant because he gave it greater height.

Originally there were classrooms on your left; the President's Office was in the tower, the Great Hall





is on your right and the tower beyond it was the house of the Vice-President of the College<sup>6</sup>.

The image of the Lanyon Building is used on tourist literature, on bank notes, and is one of the most recognisable symbols of the city of Belfast and of Northern Ireland.

Move, now, into the entrance hall.

Just inside the main doors, you will see a mosaic<sup>7</sup> on the floor of the coat of arms of Queen's College. There are only two of these mosaics in the University – the other is in the entrance hall of the School of Music, the old Students' Union. It shows the arms of the Province of Ulster, quartered with the Royal arms of Queen Victoria. The 'red hand' of Ulster theme is to be found throughout the University, in stone, glass, and timber.



Go through the doors into the Black and White Hall. Immediately in front of you is a statue of Galileo<sup>9</sup> (1564–1642), by Pio Fedi (1816–92). Galileo found the earth revolved around the sun, for which ‘heresy’ he was forced to recant by the Inquisition, and imprisoned. Sir William Whitla (Professor of Materia Medica 1890–1919) brought the statue back from Italy and donated it to the University.

Above the statue of Galileo is the memorial window<sup>10</sup>, designed by J.E. Nuttgens in 1939, but not erected until after the war.

It shows the ‘red hand’ theme, as well as other symbols of Queen’s College and Queen’s University, the city of Belfast (lower left), and Londonderry (lower right). Either side of the window are plaques commemorating former Chancellors, Presidents and Vice-Chancellors.

To your left, at the entrance to the Welcome Centre, is a plaque to the memory of Edwin Laurence Godkin – a student who left without a degree but became a war correspondent in the Crimean War before emigrating to the United States and founding *The Nation* which he edited for 35 years.

Go through this door, turn right and follow the stairs to the landing<sup>11</sup>.

At the top of the stairs to your right is the Canada Room<sup>12</sup>. This room was once used for lectures,



as a Zoology museum, and then offices, before being revitalised and redesigned by local architect Robert McKinstry in 1986.

Because Queen's graduates in Canada and the Canadian Provincial Governments responded so handsomely to the University development appeal, it was renamed the Canada Room, panelled in Canadian maple, and decorated with the coat of arms of Canada and the Canadian provinces. The carpet and lights featuring the maple leaf were also specially designed for the room, which is used for conferences and receptions.

Go through the double doors into the Council Chamber, a former lecture room, the full height of the building revealing Lanyon's roof trusses.<sup>13</sup>

The painting in front of you is entitled *Women Emerging from the Shadows*,<sup>14</sup> the work of award-winning Newry artist Michelle Rogers. The painting was commissioned by the Queen's Gender Initiative to commemorate the contribution of women to the life of the University. Please take the opportunity to cross the balcony and visit the award-winning Naughton Gallery, one of Belfast's most dynamic visual arts platforms, where there is a curator on duty to explain the latest exhibition.





15

Now go down the stairs to the Black and White Hall. Follow the signs to the Great Hall<sup>15</sup>.

The Great Hall was the College library until 1868, and has been used as a refectory and examination hall, as well as a setting for formal occasions, conferences, and exhibitions.

Above the fireplace is a copy of Titian's *The Death of St Peter Martyr* by James Atkins. The portrait to the right of the fireplace is of Queen Victoria, founder of Queen's College. Lanyon's original plan for the Great Hall was finally realised in 2001 when the room was restored to his original plans, with a proper gallery and extra roof trusses on the gables.

The oriel window<sup>16</sup> has been opened up to illuminate the dais area. The portraits, which include



16



17



18

Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney and former President of Ireland Mary McAleese, are part of the Queen's collection and can be identified on a separate leaflet. The angels<sup>17</sup> on the roof trusses resemble figureheads on sailing ships, with every other one bearing the arms of the Province of Ulster on her shield. The organ from Christ Church, Belfast, where Sir Charles Lanyon and his wife worshipped, has been restored with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and installed in the gallery. The restoration of the Great Hall received an RIBA Award in 2001 in recognition of the quality of the restoration and the rejuvenation of the space.

Go back through the entrance doors, and turn left going outside into the quadrangle<sup>18</sup>. Here you can see the rear of the original College with its later additions.

You are standing in the cloisters outside what was the President's house, and behind you, high on the chimney breast wall, you can see the cipher 'VR' (Victoria Regina) and the date 1848, marking the visit of Queen Victoria to Belfast to open the new Queen's College. The original 'E' shape of the old College can be seen clearly, built in dark red Belfast brick. In the middle of the cloistered facade is the clock.

An extensive building programme from 1910 to 1912 in effect created a quadrangle, the north and eastern sides of which have been replaced by subsequent buildings. To your right is the School of Mathematics and Physics, with its fine tower,

designed by Lanyon's partner, William Henry Lynn, in 1911. Opposite is the former library tower erected in 1952; next to it is the Peter Froggatt Centre, and facing you is the Administration Building.

Cross the quadrangle, go through the 1952 arch, and in front of you is the old Library<sup>19</sup>, also designed by William Henry Lynn and opened in 1868. It is built rather like a church, and complements the Lanyon Building beside it. This building owes much to the influence of John Ruskin (1819–1900). 'Ruskin-esque' Gothic is an eclectic mixture of continental and English architectural styles, with the result that there are gargoyles, round headed and square headed windows, plain and decorated columns, and string courses of bricks which suddenly end.

The new McClay Library<sup>20</sup> is named after Sir Allen McClay, a major benefactor of Queen's University. It was opened in July 2009 and is situated in College Park, adjacent to the beautiful Botanic Gardens. This landmark building is one of the finest university libraries in the world, housing 1.5 million volumes and 2,000 reader places.

Go through the archway and you can see the scale of University Square. It was once the 'Harley Street' of Belfast, and the doctors were responsible for the bay windows. Until the 1960s, the men and women at Queen's had



separate unions, and numbers 20 and 21 housed the Women Students' Hall, known as 'WISH'. This whole area, including the houses, has been refurbished in recent years, and includes several University Schools and the excellent Queen's Film Theatre which is open to the public.

If you go back through the arch and turn left, you will come to the School of Music<sup>21</sup>. By 1895 Queen's was described as a 'medical school with a university attached', and medical students raised the money to build the original male Students' Union which originally formed the central part of this block. It was extended in 1911, and again in 1933. This latter extension was originally a refectory, but is now the Harty Room<sup>22</sup>, and it has reputedly the finest hammer-beam roof in Ireland.

The old Union is remembered with affection by generations of Queensmen, but by the 1950s it had become totally inadequate for the body of students it was designed to support, so a new union, combining the men's union with the Women Students' Hall, was opened on the site of the former Queen's Elms in 1966. If the School of Music is open, go inside and ask if it is possible to see the McMordie Hall, once a debating chamber, with its stained glass windows<sup>23</sup> reflecting the Queen's College themes, and the Harty Room, if it is not in use.



Leave the School of Music and walk down the ramp in front of you, across the car park to the International and Postgraduate Student Centre which stands on the site of the old Drill Hall of 1912, and turn right up the steps and go to Lynn's Old Physics Tower<sup>24</sup> (on your left). This tower is a fine piece of architecture with interesting features.

On the quadrangle side above the arch is the coat-of-arms of the old Royal University of Ireland (RUI)<sup>25</sup>, carved by Morris Harding in 1948, as were the shamrocks, leeks, roses, and thistles carved on the corbels of the springing of the vaults in the archway.

Underneath the RUI arms, on the left, are the arms of Lord Kelvin, and on the right the arms of the Earl of Rosse.

On the far side of the archway, and underneath the arms of the University, you can see on the left the arms of Sir Isaac Newton and on the right the arms of the Earl of Cork and Orrery.



Returning to the Welcome Centre, you will pass the lawns in the quadrangle which were dug up and used for food production during the Second World War in the 'Dig for Victory' campaign<sup>26</sup>. Today the lawns are a beautiful enhancement to the quad, enjoyed by everyone, and are used for summer graduation garden parties..



We hope you have enjoyed your tour of Queen's University.

Thank you very much for your visit.

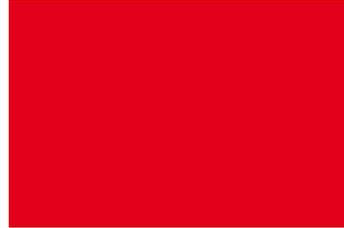
Merci beaucoup.

Muchas gracias.

Grazie mille.

Vielen dank.





### **Queen's Welcome Centre**

Queen's University Belfast  
Belfast BT7 1NN  
Northern Ireland  
T: +44 (0)28 9097 5252  
F: +44 (0)28 9097 5252  
E: [queens.welcomecentre@qub.ac.uk](mailto:queens.welcomecentre@qub.ac.uk)  
W: [www.qub.ac.uk/welcomecentre](http://www.qub.ac.uk/welcomecentre)

### **Opening Hours**

Monday to Friday 8.30am – 5.30pm  
Saturday and Sunday (March to  
October) 11am – 4pm

The Welcome Centre is accessible  
by wheelchair.

This publication is also available in  
alternative formats on request, including  
large print, Braille, tape, audio CD and  
Daisy CD. For further information, please  
contact the University's Marketing and  
Creative Services on +44 (0)28 9097  
2586