

WE ARE THE UK AND IRELAND UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR

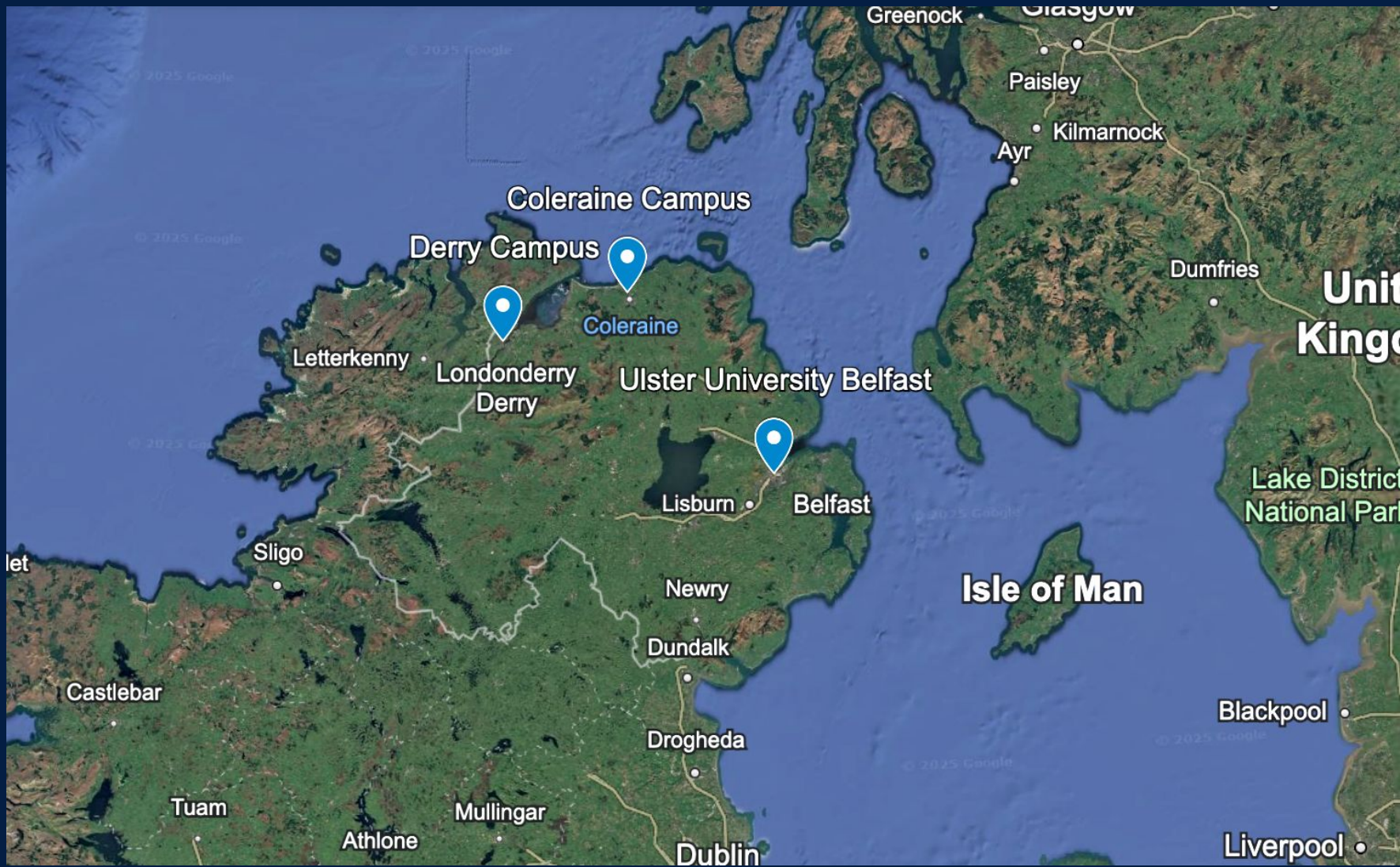
Times Higher Education Awards 2024

Session outline

- **People, Place & Partnership (Ulster Strategy)**
- **The Regional University of Northern Ireland**
- **New Belfast Campus**
 - **Northern Ireland Context**
- **The award**
 - **Belfast Campus**
 - **25 years since the Good Friday Agreement**
 - **Community Partnership**
 - **Multi-Campus regional impact**

People, Place and Partnership

“ Ulster University is extraordinary. We are one of the most complex large institutions within the UK, successfully maintaining a dual focus on research and teaching while actively driving exemplary social mobility and civic engagement. ”





Belfast Campus



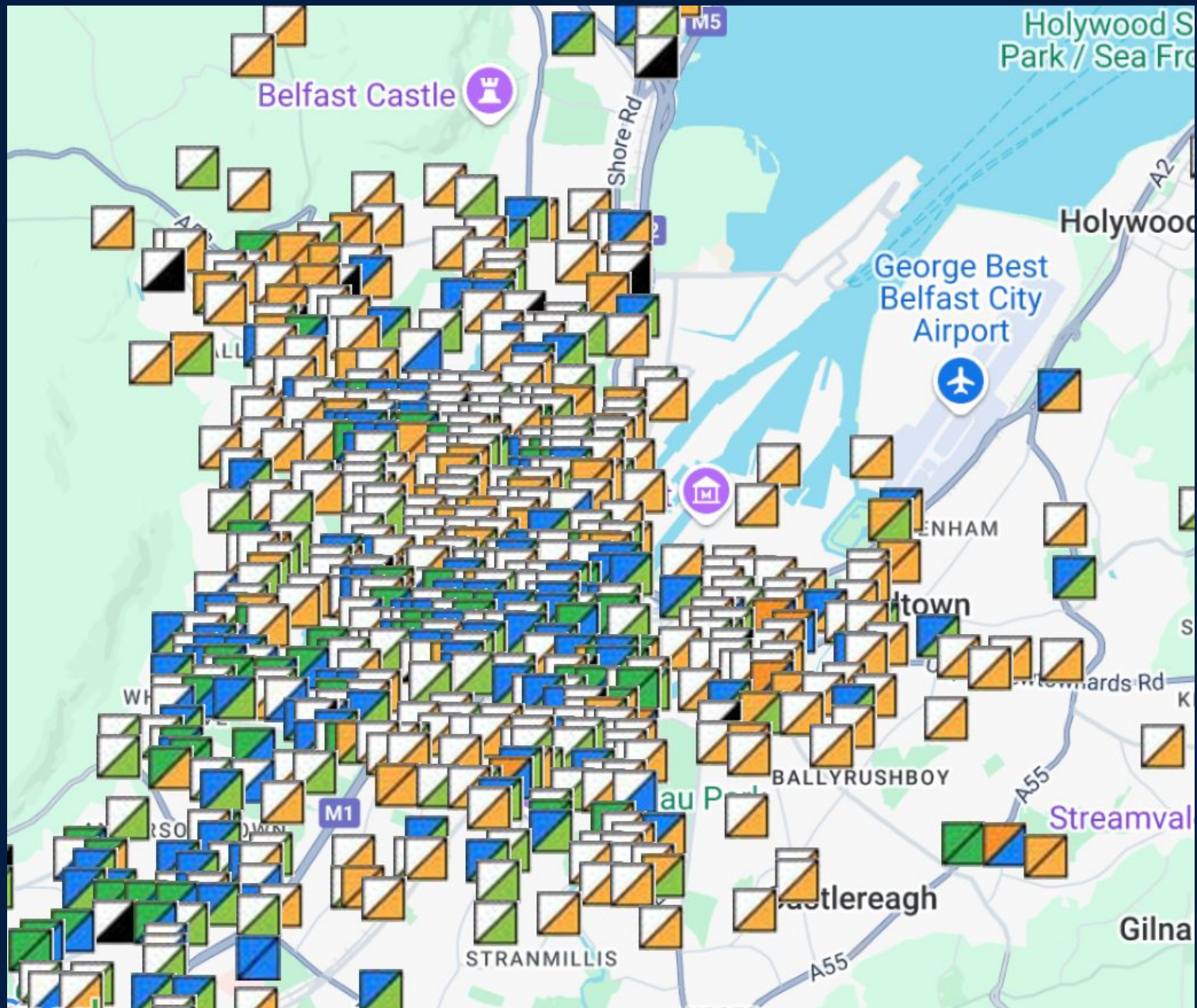
- **Re-location of 15,500 staff and students to North Belfast in 2022, was the most significant regeneration project in the city since the Good Friday Agreement in 1998.**
- **1 million sq foot development, metres from an established residential community.**
- **One of the largest capital projects in higher education in Europe (£364 million pounds).**
- **Recently named 'Building of the Year' by the Royal Society of Ulster Architects.**
- **Continues to make a significant economic, social and cultural impact on the city and region.**
- **Building opened in the run up to the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement – President Biden visited the building as part of the events to recognise this milestone.**

Belfast Campus

- **103 years equivalent of training, placements and apprenticeships**
- **69% sustainable transport shift**
- **Public membership of Campus library**
- **5,500 student residents in the city centre**
- **Visitor footfall on Campus trebled since Campus opened**
- **25 joint community projects as part of the Community Benefit Framework designed to maximise social, educational and economic benefits of the new location.**
- **40 new businesses opened in proximity of the Campus since opening**

Biden Visit

25 years ago, buildings in Belfast were not made of glass – it was simply too risky. Our new campus has around a quarter of a million square foot of glass and was recognised by the President, and wider society, as truly reflecting the hope and promise of the Agreement.





25th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement



- Ulster hosted 20 events across NI and the USA, with an emphasis on looking to the future.
- 25 @ 25 Leadership Programme
 - 25@25 was a fully funded leadership programme to develop and nurture the leaders of tomorrow.
 - “We inherit our history. We choose our future.”

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Research backed outreach programme

- Aimed at raising aspirations and educational achievement among adolescent boys.
- Taking boys Seriously Programme – longitudinal study uncovering systematic and personal barriers which prevent young men flourishing in Education.
- Worked with 36 research sites, 450 boys and 120 educators to develop and embed 10 key principles

<https://www.ulster.ac.uk/research/topic/social-work-and-social-policy/research-themes/taking-boys-seriously>

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Research backed outreach programme

- The percentage of pupils achieving grades A to C has risen from 53 to 70 per cent;
- Number of pupils achieving five GCSEs with English and mathematics has nearly doubled;
- 49 pupils received offers of higher and further education places and 38 chose Ulster University;
- Percentage of pupils getting three good A-level grades has risen from 30 to 70 per cent;
- A to AS level results were the best in the history of the school. Every boy passed every exam.

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Cross campus investment

- **Shared Island investment - €44.5 million (£37 million) investment from the Irish government for the development of Ulster's Derry~Londonderry campus, making it a ground-breaking cross-jurisdictional project.**
- **Innovative drug discovery centre in Coleraine to complement the existing Biomedical Science and Pharmacology offering.**
- **Establishment of new programmes in Coleraine (Golf Management, Adventure Sports, Veterinary Nursing)**

Recognition

Alongside this substantial programme of work our delivery of high-quality teaching, research and professional services continued and was recognised externally

- **outstanding results in the NSS and Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey and across league tables**
- **For the first time, Ulster University secured a spot among the top 30 UK universities in The Guardian University Guide**
- **Ulster University achieved joint second place in the UK for "Value Added," which compares students' degree results with their entry qualifications, highlighting the quality and impact of teaching**
- **Highest-ranking UK university for outreach activities, and fifth in the world overall, in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings**

Recognition

Over the period between 2017 and 2023, this represents an increase in rank of:

- **Up 68 places in the Guardian, from 96th in the 2018 table to 28th in 2024 table;**
- **Up 33 places in the Times/Sunday Times, from 73rd in the 2018 table to joint 40th in 2024 table;**
- **Up 22 places in the Complete, from 71st in 2018 table to 49th in 2024 table.**

Correlation does not imply causation however we did start partnering with Studiosity (or Yourtutor as they were known then) in 2017!

A final self-indulgent ‘yarn’ to end..

Historically, and socially, the area where Ulster University now sits has had such an interesting history (often being a place of radical ideas and safe spaces during turbulent times)

- The only known armed rebellion by school children, in 1792.
(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belfast_Royal_Academy)
- The establishment of an Anarchist youth and community group, grown out of the strands of the punk movement.
(<https://cathedralquarter.northernvisions.org/portfolio/giros/>)
- The establishment of Belfast’s first social enterprise Pub to support the work of the Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre.
(<https://allpointsarts.com/locations/the-john-hewitt/>)
- Site of one of Belfast’s oldest running raves (Art College
<https://districtmagazine.ie/music/the-rare-photos-reliving-belfasts-golden-era-raves/>)
- Where Belfast’s LGBTQ social community was established and continues to thrive

A final self-indulgent yarn to end..

A few minutes walk from the Campus is the location where the Society of United Irishmen was formed in Belfast in 1791

(<https://www.causewaycoastalroute.com/united-Irishmen>)

The objectives of the society was to create a freer society governed in a way that represented all people, a less dictatorial rule with civil liberties for all, the abolishment of unfair practices, equality for women, the removal of child labour and the development of an educational system for all.

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