
Creating Opportunities for Northern Ireland's Youth

The U.S. Northern Ireland Mentorship Program

The Ireland Funds Support and Congratulate the First Program Graduates

The U.S. Northern Ireland Mentorship Program was established in June 2010 in Belfast by the former U.S. Economic Envoy to Northern Ireland Declan Kelly in partnership with the Northern Ireland Science Park and The Ireland Funds. After resigning as Economic Envoy, Declan Kelly agreed to personally sponsor and support the program on an ongoing basis in partnership with The American Ireland Fund. The program is designed to provide young people from Northern Ireland the opportunity to gain valuable business experience by spending one year working for a U.S. corporation.

The program is a one-year work placement program for young citizens of Northern Ireland, to work in a multinational corporation based in the United States. The objectives of the program are to develop the future business leaders and entrepreneurs of Northern Ireland by improving the essential business, management and leadership skills of the participants.

In November 2011, the first group of young people from Northern Ireland "graduated" from their placements with U.S. companies. Their graduation ceremony in NYC was bittersweet as they gave testimony to the importance of the experience in the U.S. and the valuable skills they would bring back to Northern Ireland.

The success of the program has been confirmed by the number of companies who have indicated they will participate in 2012. Follow up support by The Ireland Funds and by Joanne Stuart in Belfast for the graduates will include career advice, an opportunity to connect with The Ireland Funds Young Leaders Society and, where possible, interviews for placements with leading companies in Northern Ireland.



Above: The first program graduates with Declan Kelly and Kieran McLoughlin

Below: Special award received by the US Northern Ireland Mentorship Graduates





Above: Victoria Gass, Emma Bleakely

Below: David Bell, Declan Kelly



Above: US Northern Ireland Mentorship graduates in New York

Below: Kieran McLoughlin, Gemma Rafferty, Declan Kelly



In Their Own Words: The Graduates

"In this job I have been exposed to the highest level of professional standards. The work ethic of my colleagues has really struck me. As a graduate in my first full time job since leaving university, I can't think of a better organization to begin my career."

—Andrew McMaster (US—NI Mentorship Participant
2010 — UBS)

"The mentorship program has provided me with a tremendous opportunity. I intend to take full advantage of my time in the US to learn as much as I can and to develop a new network of business contacts."

—Gemma Rafferty (US — NI Mentorship Participant
2010 — Credit Suisse)

"This program has given me so much more confidence in my own ability than I ever had before. The opportunity to work with such skilled and enthusiastic colleagues has been enormously valuable, and this attitude towards work is one I will carry with me throughout my career."

—David Bell (US — NI Mentorship Participant — 2010 AXA)

"The US-NI mentorship program has provided me with an incredible opportunity to be emerged in a world of expertise and challenge, and to be involved in incredible projects that truly humble me. The value of my time here is priceless and my skills and knowledge are growing every single day. I know the experience I am gaining here will open up so many doors in the future."

—Emma Swift (2011 US-NI Mentorship Program),
placed with Teneo (Declan Kelly's office)

In Their Own Words: The Host Companies

"The caliber of students we have access to is exceptional and the support of the program in matching the right candidates with the right firm's is very valuable. A tribute to that success is that we are doubling our participation in the program this year."

—Robert MacGoey (PricewaterhouseCoopers)

"It has been truly rewarding to have had the opportunity to host and interact with such a fantastic ambassador for Northern Ireland. This experience has significantly added to the international dynamic that we have in our company."

—Barbara Evanchick (UBS)

"One of the US—NI Mentorship participants joined our team earlier this year. We have honestly been so impressed with the skills, attitude and dedication exhibited. It has been a pleasure getting to know and work with such a driven and entrepreneurial individual."

—Michael Brewster (Credit Suisse)

Participating Companies

Allstate	HBO
Almac	HSBC
AXA	Keefe, Bruyette & Woods
BNY Mellon	KPMG
Bank of America	Moet Hennessy USA
CIBC	NY E-Health Collaborative
Credit Suisse	PricewaterhouseCoopers
Coca-Cola	Targus
Cowen and Company	Teneo
First Derivatives	Sesame Street
Fitzpatrick Hotels	UBS