





# Paul Cassidy Community Engagement



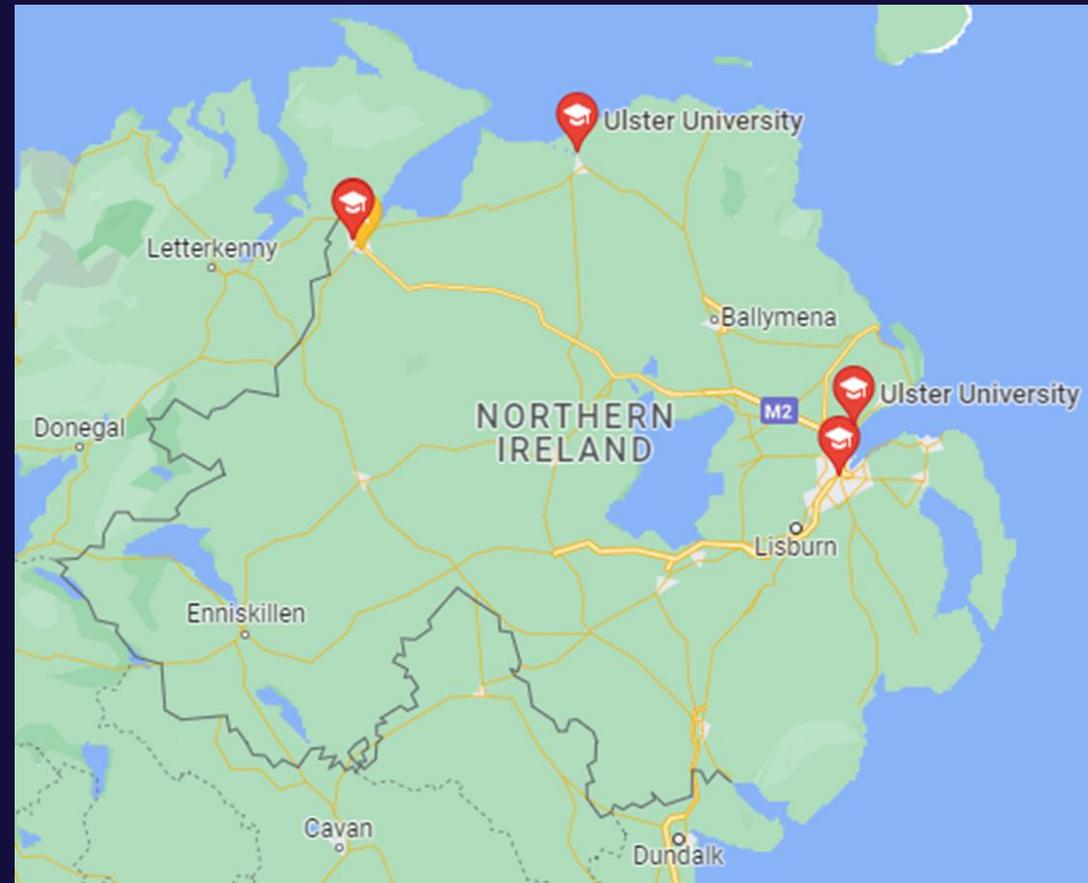


**Raising Aspirations of our Young People through Partnerships, Engagement and Outreach.**

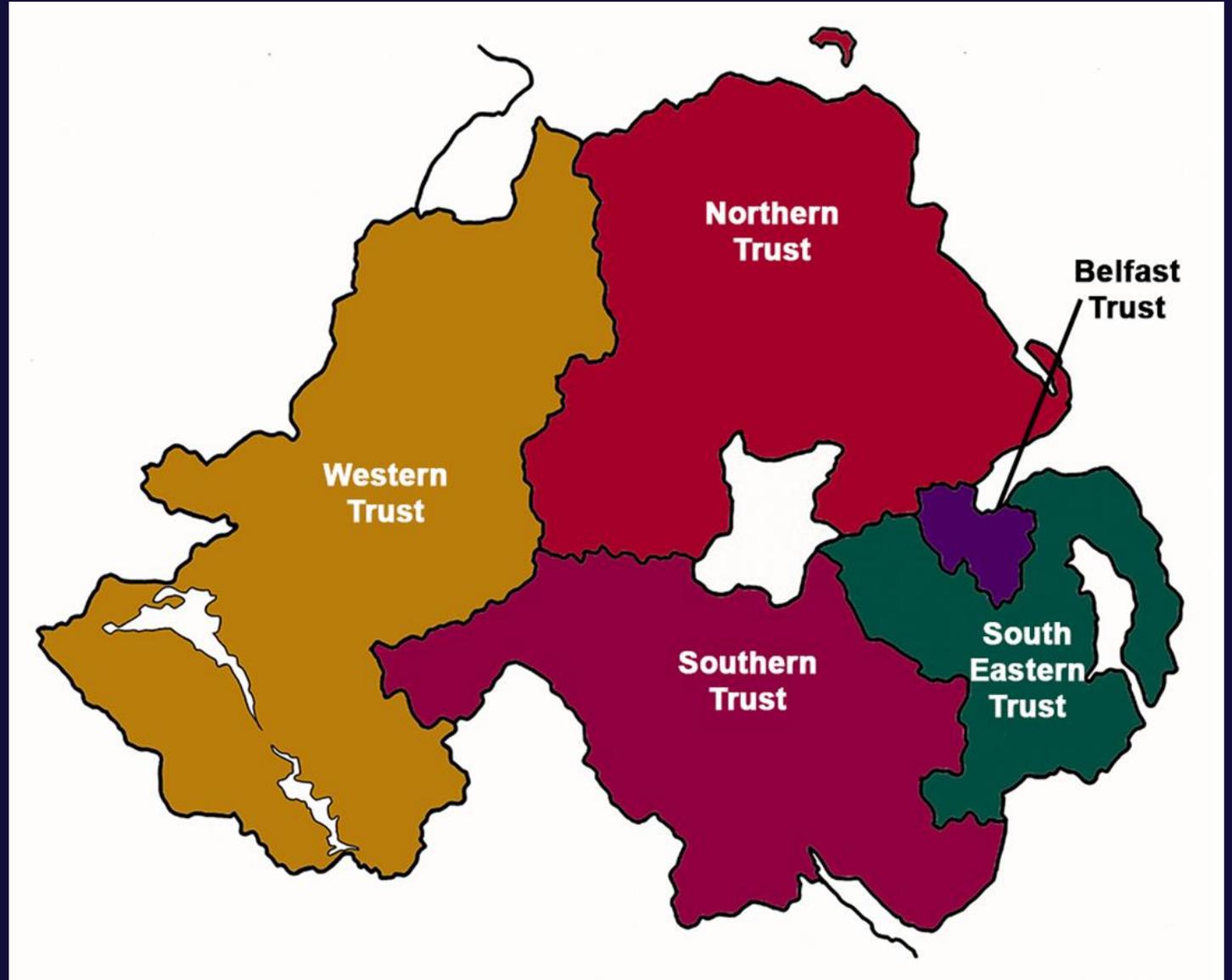
# Ulster University Campuses

Ulster University is a multi campus University, situated in 4 locations in Northern Ireland.

- Magee
- Coleraine
- Jordanstown
- Belfast



# Health and Social Care Trusts



# Partnerships





# Who are our Partners?

- All Health and Social Care Boards.
- All Further Education Providers in Northern Ireland.
- Careers Services NI.
- Department of Education.
- Department of Employment.
- Fostering Network NI.
- Include Youth.
- Student Finance NI.
- VOYPIC-Voice of Young People in Care
- Regional Multi-Agency Group on Attainment and Progression in Education and into Employment for Looked After Children

# Engagement





# Tick the Box

- In 2012 Ulster University partnered with The Fostering Network Northern Ireland and the Health and Social Care Board to launch the Tick the Box campaign. This initiative aims to encourage applicants who are care experienced to declare this by ticking the box on the UCAS application form. In this way students can help ensure they receive appropriate support from the university. At Ulster we are committed to ensuring that our Widening Access and Participation Plan supports those most in need
- The Tick the Box campaign was also aimed at foster carers and social work practitioners in order to support young people to go to university.
- It enables those in the Health Trusts to meet with relevant Higher Education staff and enables them to understand the funding and support processes for the young.

# Pathways

Ulster University worked with all our collaborative partners to update the 'Pathways to Further and Higher Education for Looked After and Care Experienced Young People's' Guide.

This year we provided both an online and a printed hard copy) which we disseminated to:

All Further and Higher Education Providers in Northern Ireland.

All Higher Education Providers in Northern Ireland.

Careers Services NI.

Department of Education.

Department for Education.

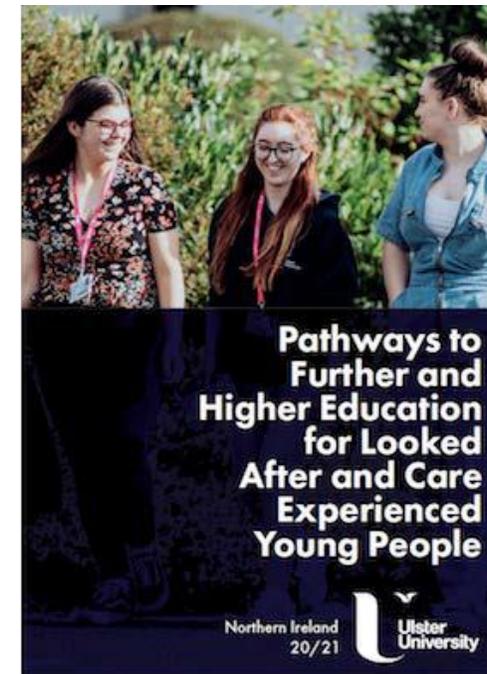
Fostering Network NI.

All Health and Social Care Boards.

Include Youth.

Student Finance NI.

VOYPIC-Voice of Young People in Care.





# Financial Support Offered

Direct financial support targeted for students includes:

- Widening Access Bursary;
- Care-Experienced Student Bursary;
- Fee Waivers for participation in the Accredited Flexible Learning;
- Technology fund;
- Accommodation vouchers;
- Externally Funded Scholarships; Belfast Harbour Commission.

# Outreach





# MyLaces

- Mentoring Young Looked After Children with Educational Support
- Recognising the national focus on the area of Care Experienced Students, the collaborative My Laces project, focuses on earlier intervention.
- This project offers ten young Looked After Children the opportunity to attend university and be mentored by Ulster University's Social Work Students every Wednesday.
- The collaboration between the Western Health and Social Care Trust and Ulster University is exclusive to Social Work Students who have volunteered their commitment for this period.
- The project is distinctive in that it matches the referred children with student social workers for a three-year period and is targeted at earlier intervention in primary school from primary 5 to primary 7 (Key Stage 2).



# Residentials

From 2009 we have worked with Fostering Network NI to facilitate on campus residentials for up to 30 15 – 17 year olds.



# Benefits of Residentials

- Young people get a taster week of a University experience
- Staying in University Residences
- Budgeting
- Cooking, Cleaning and looking out for others.
- Group Work
- Careers Guidance
- Taster sessions in pre identified/ requested courses
- Social Benefits
- Understand the different pathways to FE and HE.
- Student Finance



**NORTHERN  
IRELAND**  
**LARGE UNIVERSITY FOR  
STUDENT SATISFACTION**  
NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY (2022)

# Measuring Success

- Number of Care Experienced Students 2008/9 – 3
- Number of Care Experienced Students 2021/22 – 93
  
- Graduate numbers to Summer 2021 - 209





# Contact

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ULSTER  
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ULSTER UNIVERSITY  
(REF 2021)



TOP REGION  
TO VISIT IN 2018  
LONELY PLANET (2017)





**Thanks for listening**