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For immediate release

New international student college launched at Queen's University Belfast

A new international student college has been launched at Queen's University Belfast.

A joint venture between Queen's University Belfast and INTO University Partnerships, the new INTO-Queen's College will bring hundreds of international students to Northern Ireland and is expected to create up to 40 new jobs over the next three to five years.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Gregson said the college would give added momentum to Northern Ireland's ambition to be a global player: "Our partnership with INTO will ensure that Queen's and Northern Ireland will be promoted around the world through INTO's international network. With over 4,000 students who have commenced INTO's academic preparation and English language programmes in 2008/09, the new alliance will make Northern Ireland a major player in the delivery of higher education to international students.

"This region has benefited enormously from the tens of thousands of Queen's alumni around the world who act as ambassadors for Northern Ireland and who support economic development.

"This new College, delivering pre-entry programmes to students who want to come to Queen's, will provide the next generation of ambassadors."

Andrew Colin, Chairman of INTO University Partnerships said: "UK universities are facing strong competition for international students, not only from universities in the United States and Australia, but from many emerging countries too. The joint venture aims to enhance the competitiveness of the university and transform the student experience.

"Belfast has enormous potential as an international study destination and in Queen's it has a University which is truly world-class. The quality associated with Queen's being a Russell Group member alongside the warmth of welcome and low cost of living in Belfast make INTO Queen's a high proposition for international students seeking a first class university experience and outcome."

The main intake of students will occur every January and September. Further information on the new College can be found at <http://into.uk.com/qub/index.php>.

End

About Queen's

Queen's University is a member of the Russell Group of the UK's top 20 research-intensive universities. In the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise, Queen's demonstrated it has significant research strengths. Eleven

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subjects are ranked in the top ten and all Units of Assessment (UoA) had research assessed as world-leading. In 25 of the 38 UoAs assessed, 50% or more of the research activity was recognised as world-leading or internationally excellent.

In addition to Queen's-INTO College, the University also has long-standing partnerships with many leading international institutions, including Shenzhen University in China, Georgetown University in Washington DC, the University of Malaya, the National Institute of Immunology in New Delhi, Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin the Beijing Institute of Technology in China and the Fortune 100 company Petronas in Malaysia.

About INTO

INTO University Partnerships (INTO) is a global organisation that works with universities worldwide to help them transform internationalisation strategies and student experiences in universities, through long-term joint venture partnerships. It has a strong marketing network of over 600 agents worldwide, a regional presence in 15 key countries, and over 4,300 students have commenced INTO's academic preparation and English language programmes in 2008/09.

Since its commencement in 2006, its partnership alliance has grown steadily. Its university partners in the UK include the Universities of East Anglia, Exeter, Newcastle, Manchester, Glasgow Caledonian; and Oregon State University in the US. In the next five years, INTO plans to invest up to £1 billion in strengthening its facilities and infrastructure.

For details, please see www.into.uk.com or www.into-global.com.

Notes for Editors

1. Images to accompany this story have been sent to all picture desks or are available by emailing us.
2. INTO centres are joint ventures with partner universities, established with the aim of attracting and preparing international students for undergraduate and postgraduate study by offering academic preparation supported by intensive English language training.
3. Students who successfully complete their programmes and meet all the entry requirements are assured a place on their chosen undergraduate or postgraduate programme.
4. INTO has an existing network of international agents and is proactive in student recruitment in all regions. It has a strong regional presence in 15 countries, including the following in Asia: major cities in China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taipei, Kuala Lumpur, New Delhi, Bangkok, Tokyo, Seoul and Ho Chi Minh City. In China, it has territory-wide servicing coverage with offices in Nanjing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Dalian. INTO also has a marketing network in Europe, Americas and the Middle East. Detailed contacts in local markets can be found at www.into-global.com/agents-into.php
5. Every year INTO recruits international students from all over the world including China. Currently, there are over 2,500 students from Asia studying with INTO. There is a growing diversity in the nationalities of students, with the proportion of students from China accounting for 50% of the overall student population, as compared to 60% last year.
6. Each INTO partner university defines, assures and is responsible for the academic content and standards.
7. INTO-Queen's is a joint venture partnership with shared board and management responsibilities.

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