

# North Belfast Ethical Investment Studentships

Over the course of delivery, the North Belfast Ethical Investment Programme created 5 research studentships for postgraduate students who were enrolled on the MSc Planning and Development course. These studentships provided students with access to fieldwork opportunities with participating NBEI social enterprise projects which ultimately allowed them to complete their final year “work based study”. It also helped them develop a better understanding about how social enterprises work in practice. Some of the studentships were delivered in partnership with Santander and covered research areas that included; the potential of heritage based social enterprises, the financial impact of social enterprises across North Belfast and the community benefits of an asset based social enterprise model. A brief summary of the 3 studentships that were completed over the course of the North Belfast Investment Programme is provided below:

## Establishing an integrated tourist experience at Clifton House

The work based study explored how Belfast Charitable Society could make better use of their existing asset—Clifton House as a tourist experience.

The study provided a comprehensive review of existing best practice heritage experiences elsewhere, a user survey examining recent visitor attitudes towards the house, a secondary analysis of the Northern Irish tourist economy and finally a list of recommendations of how the society could make Clifton House more attractive to tourists. The study has since been used by Clifton House to help inform how they plan to move forward with their heritage based social enterprise beyond the life-course of the North Belfast Ethical Investment Programme.



## Mapping the impact of North Belfast’s social economy

This work based study aimed to better understand the size and economic impact of projects that have at some stage received investment and technical support from the North Belfast Ethical Investment Programme. Using an analysis of secondary data from online financial sources such as Duedill, desk based research and case study interviews this research examined how the programme has impacted on their performance and pre and post participation in the programme. It will also outline the broader implications of such local social enterprise activity across North Belfast and beyond in terms of policy implications and further research.



## The community benefits of an asset based social enterprise model

This work based study has looked at the broader impacts of a community based social enterprise; the HUBB Resource centre and its proximity to a local football club—Crusaders FC. The study has used both fan and users surveys to model the local economic contribution of both organisations, in terms job creation, salary/supplier expenditure and supply chain relationships. By conducting stakeholder interviews with key representatives from the HUBB and Crusaders the research demonstrates the value of an asset based social enterprise approach for the local community terms of physical, economic and social regeneration.

