

Press Release

**Queen's University Belfast law student wins prestigious
F&C Investment Trust Prize**

- *Aminaa Adams from Nottingham won the regional Prize for her entry about the rise of the Gen Z entrepreneur: the “zentrepreneur”*
- *The law student is now shortlisted to win the overall competition which could see the School of Law at Queen's University Belfast win £5,000*

London, 17 February 2020 – Law student Aminaa Adams from Queen's University of Belfast has won the prestigious “F&C Investment Trust Prize”. The competition is designed to inspire students' financial thinking and showcase their financial knowledge.

Adams created a short video investigating the financial challenges Gen Zs (those aged 16 to 24 years old) face, including home ownership and securing high income and stable work. The video entry explored how this generation can provide for their future through the potential rise of the Gen Z entrepreneur or “zentrepreneur”, as these individuals can use their unique skills and predisposition to technology to provide for themselves.

The law student from Nottingham has won a laptop worth up to £1,000 and will now join other shortlisted entries from the University of Bristol, City of Glasgow College and the University of Leeds. The overall winner, which will be announced in April, will win £5,000 for their faculty.

About F&C Investment Trust Prize

This is the first year that F&C Investment Trust has run the competition in partnership with Queen's University of Belfast. The competition helps showcase students' financial understanding and entrants are invited to answer one of the three following questions:

1. *How do young people today provide for their future?*
2. *How does sustainability and ethical principles affect your choices?*
3. *How will diversity and inclusion continue to impact society?*

Taking about her winning entry and what this means to her, Aminaa Adams said: *“I am hugely honoured to receive this award and would like to thank the university and F&C Investment Trust for making it all possible. I was encouraged to apply to the competition due to my own curiosity about the financial challenges facing my generation and, in particular, the scarcity of 9-5 jobs that will drive us towards other means of generating an income. The application process allowed me to convey my ideas creatively, whilst addressing an issue that directly affects me, and this was something I really enjoyed doing.”*

Deirdre Lynskey, Student Development Manager at Queen's University of Belfast, said: *“Our congratulations go to Aminaa Adams, a very deserving winner. Careers, Employability and Skills, and School of Law here at Queen's University, Belfast are very proud of this achievement. The entry she submitted showed superb creativity and innovative thinking as well as a strong financial understanding. We were delighted with the standard of submission and the level of engagement with this partnership competition which afforded our students the*

opportunity to build their own financial knowledge whilst gaining insight into the world's first collective investment fund."

Beatrice Hollond, Chair of F&C Investment Trust, said: *"We're delighted to run the F&C Investment Trust Prize for a second year running and expand the competition to include more universities around the UK. We received high quality entries from students at Queen's University Belfast which made it a tough competition to judge. Aaminaa should be proud of her win.*

"This competition is extremely important to us and our commitment to financial education. As Aaminaa points out in her entry, Gen Zs face a lot of financial concerns and this competition is designed to help students improve their financial knowledge around investing and saving for the future. We believe that learning financial skills from a young age can really help set people up for life."

Young peoples and financial education

Research by BMO and F&C Investment Trust shows that there is an appetite for financial education among young people – especially among 16 to 21-year olds (Generation Z):

- Almost nine out of 10 (87%) Gen Zs say they want more help when it comes to their finances
- Over a third (36%) say they would be encouraged to save more money if teachers taught them how to save at school
- Half of this age group (50%) would appreciate financial education around investing money
- A similar number of Gen Zs would like help with saving products (47%)
- More than one in three (34%) young people would like help understanding financial jargon (34%)
- Families can also play an important role in financial education as one in five (20%) 16 to 21-year olds say they would save more money if their family talked about it more often

Ends

Media Contacts:

Campbell Hood, BMO GAM (EMEA)
campbell.hood@bmogam.com
Tel: 020 7011 4243 or 0786 091 1622

FTI Consulting
BMOIT@fticonsulting.com
Tel: 020 3 319 5642

Notes

1. Further details about all the entries and the Prize can be found online at: <https://www.bmogam.com/fandc-investment-trust/fcit-prize-home/>
2. Judges included: A BMO representative, Deirdre Lynskey, Student Development Manager at Careers Employability and Skills at Queen's University and Gareth Campbell, Professor, Queen's University Belfast.

3. The data in this release is from two separate pieces of research:
 - i) Online survey of 4,519 people aged 16+ conducted by Opinium from 20-27 March 2019
 - ii) Online Survey of over 2,004 people aged 16-21 conducted by Censuswide from 25-29 March 2019
4. Both F&C Investment Trust and BMO Global Asset Management are committed to improving financial education and increasing financial literacy for future generations, so they can achieve financial security. They support a range of projects to help young people understand how saving and investing can help short-term life goals, as well as long-term ambitions. Learn about the projects at: www.bmogam.com/fandc-investment-trust/our-commitment-to-financial-education

About Queen's University Belfast

Queen's University Belfast is a public research university in Belfast, United Kingdom. The university was chartered in 1845, and opened in 1849 as 'Queen's College, Belfast'. Queen's University Belfast is one of the leading universities in the UK and Ireland with a distinguished heritage and history.

About F&C Investment Trust

Launched in March 1868, F&C Investment Trust is the oldest collective investment fund and has since gone on to amass an impressive track record and grow into one of the largest of its kind, with assets under management of £4.5bn (as at January 2020). Its aim is to generate long-term growth and income by investing primarily in an international portfolio of listed equities. The Trust is well diversified and cautiously managed, with exposure to over 450 individual companies from around the world. More at: www.bmogam.com/fandc-investment-trust/

About BMO Global Asset Management

BMO Global Asset Management is a global investment manager with offices in more than 25 cities in 14 countries, delivering service excellence to clients across five continents.

Our four major investment centres in Toronto, Chicago, London and Hong Kong are complemented by a network of world-class specialist managers strategically located across the globe: BMO Real Estate Partners, LGM Investments and Pyrford International Ltd.

BMO Global Asset Management is a signatory of the United Nations-supported Principles for Responsible Investment initiative (UNPRI).

BMO Global Asset Management is a part of BMO Financial Group, a highly diversified financial services provider based in North America with total assets of CDN \$852 billion as of 31 October 2019.

The value of investments and income derived from them can go down as well as up as a result of market or currency movements and investors may not get back the original amount invested.