

City of Glasgow College student secures £5,000 for her faculty by winning the F&C Investment Trust Prize

- *Scottish law student Kirstie Anne Duncan outshined students from Bristol, Belfast, Leeds and Anglia Ruskin University to win the competition*
- *The student took first place with her entry on four ways to improve your financial security as a young person*

London, XX May 2020 – Law student, Kirstie Anne Duncan, has won this year's F&C Investment Trust Prize and secured £5,000 for her faculty. This is the second year that a City of Glasgow College student has won the prestigious competition.

Kirstie secured the win with a creative submission exploring the financial difficulties facing young people today, looking at four practical ways to overcome these challenges, including: the use of cash to keep track of spending; taking advantage of financial products; splitting costs with others to ease the burden of bills and getting into the habit of saving little and often.

For her submission, Kirstie drew upon her own experience of budgeting and managing money as a first-time student living away from home. She recognised the challenges facing young people today as they navigate the financial burdens of early adulthood, but hoped tips and tricks and other educative methods would alleviate some of the concerns people have when it comes to money.

Kirstie's successful entry, which can be viewed [here](#), has won her law school faculty £5,000 to spend at their discretion. Kirstie will also be invited to spend a day at the BMO offices as part of her prize, meeting with senior executives to gain insight into the business as well as advice on finding a job after college.

Talking about her winning entry, Kirstie Anne Duncan said: *"I am overjoyed to be awarded with this year's F&C Investment Trust Prize. I'd like to thank the Trust as well as faculty members within the City of Glasgow College Law School who provided me with tremendous support throughout the competition. This experience has given me some invaluable skills and the knowledge to manage my own finances going forward. As I begin my undergraduate degree later this year, money management will be more important than ever. I hope to save where possible in order to invest further down the line and set myself up for the future."*

Principal Paul Little of City of Glasgow College said: *"We would like to congratulate Kirstie on this tremendous achievement and applaud her for the hard work that went into her submission. The F&C Investment Trust Prize is proving to be a success for the City of Glasgow College and the students who take part. As an institution, we recognise the importance of financial education and the vital skills that students must be equipped with as they enter into adulthood. We'd like to thank F&C Investment Trust for running the competition for another triumphant year."*

Beatrice Hollond, Chair of F&C Investment Trust, said: *"We are delighted to award Kirstie with this year's F&C Investment Trust Prize. This is the second time we have collaborated with the City of Glasgow College to run the competition and we hope this will become a thriving partnership for*

years to come. We look forward to welcoming Kirstie to the BMO offices in the future when possible.”

“Supporting and promoting financial education is one of our core values at F&C Investment Trust. We believe it’s really important to encourage young people to think about their finances early on and work to meet long-term financial goals through saving and investing.”

Young people 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 www.fcitprize.com
2. Judges included:
 - i) Beatrice Hollond, Chair of F&C Investment Trust
 - ii) Marrack Tonkin, BMO, Head of Investment Trusts
 - iii) Heather Ramsey, 2019 recipient of the F&C Investment Trust Prize
 - iv) Deirdre Lynskey, Student Development Manager at Careers Employability and Skills, Queen’s University Belfast
 - v) Rebecca Shaw, Student Education Service (Undergraduate Research), Student Placement, University of Leeds
 - vi) Robbie Fox, Alumni Mentoring Coordinator, Careers Service, University of Bristol
 - vii) Dr Sheila Lodge, Deputy Principal & COO, City of Glasgow College
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 F&C Investment Trust Prize

This is the second time that F&C Investment Trust has run the competition in partnership with the City of Glasgow College after its success in 2019. However, this year, competition was even tougher as the competition was opened up to universities in Leeds, Bristol and Belfast.

The competition, designed to showcase students' financial understanding, invited entrants 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?*

About City of Glasgow College

City of Glasgow College is Scotland's largest college. Its twin site super campus is designed for 40,000 students across a range of nearly 2,000 courses from Access Level to Masters. Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, the campus buildings are closed. Staff are providing remote/online learning and teaching and continue to offer students full support as they progress their learning.

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 £3.8bn (as at 31 March 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 \$880 billion as of 31 January 2020.

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.