

Law student wins F&C Investment Trust Prize for the City of Glasgow College with an entry providing tips to help young people become financially secure

- *Scottish law student Kirstie Anne Duncan won the coveted award for her submission on young people providing for their future*
- *The student has now been shortlisted to win the overall competition which could see the College win £5,000 for faculty members for a second year running*

London, April 2020 – Kirstie Anne Duncan, a 20-year old student studying for a Higher National Diploma in Legal Services, has won the F&C Investment Trust Prize for the City of Glasgow College, following in the footsteps of last year's winner, Heather Ramsey.

Kirstie's winning entry was a creative video laying out the greatest financial challenges facing young people today, and how to overcome them.

Kirstie provided four simple, but innovative ways to improve financial security, including:

1. Discouraging the card culture and using cash to keep track of spending
2. Taking advantage of financial products, such as student and graduate bank accounts, as well as help to buy ISAs
3. Splitting costs with a housemate, to ease the burden of bills and rent / mortgages
4. Getting into the habit of saving little and often, to support financial goals in the long-run

Kirstie's winning submission, which can be viewed [here](#), has won her a laptop worth £1,000. Her entry will now go forward to the final stage of the competition, going up against the winning entries from Queen's University Belfast, University of Bristol, University of Leeds and the open category¹ for a chance to win £5,000 for their faculty. The winner will be announced next month.

Talking about her winning entry, Kirstie Anne Duncan said: *"This is an incredible award to win and I am very thankful to the City of Glasgow College for their support and to the F&C Investment Trust for creating this opportunity to explore our financial future. Throughout this competition I learned there are many things we can do to secure a financial future and I hope young people can watch my video and come away feeling more positive and thinking differently about their finances."*

Principal Paul Little of City of Glasgow College said: *"Our congratulations go to Kirstie who is a very deserving winner. Our college and her faculty and friends are very proud of her achievement. We are also very proud to be the only college taking part in the competition alongside UK universities. I am delighted the F&C Investment Trust Prize continues to engage students and motivate them to think creatively about finances."*

¹ The open category allowed students from other UK universities, outside partnering universities, to submit entries for a chance to win the F&C Investment Trust Prize

“As Scotland’s largest college, we are committed to equipping each and every one of our students with the core skills they need for the world of work. Being able to navigate the many challenges of the financial market place alongside making good financial decisions are essential elements at the heart of our curriculum. That will be more vital than ever when we return to business as usual following this crisis period.”

Beatrice Hollond, Chair of F&C Investment Trust, said: *“Kirstie’s submission highlights what we, as a Trust, set out to achieve; helping young people think about their finances and how they can realistically meet their long-term financial goals.”*

“While we hope Kirstie has learnt a lot from this experience, we also hope that those who have viewed her entry can take away tips to help them save for the future. Financial education is more important than ever, as a Trust we are committed to helping younger generations to understand how to spend, save and invest money, especially as they face increased economic uncertainty.”

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

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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 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 £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, Pырford 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 \$807 billion as of 31 January 2019, and over 45,000 employees.

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.