



Horticulture

- FdSc in Horticulture (Landscape Management)
- FdSc in Horticulture (Sportsturf Management)
- FdSc in Horticulture (Amenity Management)
- Certificate of Higher Education in Horticulture
- FdSc in Horticulture (part-time)

Horticulture is big business and gardening is the UK's second most popular hobby. It impacts on many aspects of our lives and provides fascinating job opportunities in a wide variety of work activities.

There is scientific evidence that we work and feel better in pleasant planted surroundings and that trees and other plants have a positive effect on health, both indoors and outdoors.

A growing number of tourists come to Northern Ireland each year to play golf on our world-famous links courses and visit our very fine gardens.

Horticulturists play a major role in all areas concerned with managing and maintaining our environment to enhance biodiversity and ensure that sports facilities are kept to a high standard.

As the designers and managers of urban and rural landscapes, horticulturists are at the forefront of the world in which we live, work and play.



"I really appreciated getting practical experience along with classroom based learning. Greenmount Campus is at the cutting edge of plant technology and research..."

Career profile: Anita Begley

"The part-time Higher Certificate in Horticulture allowed me to fit the course around my family life and working life. I really appreciated getting practical experience along with classroom based learning. Greenmount Campus is at the cutting edge of plant technology and research and throughout the course I got to learn about all the latest developments in the horticultural industry. I have found Greenmount a welcoming and supportive place and have met loads of people from all walks of life with a similar passion to myself. The course has given me the skills and knowledge to get a job locally in Parkanaur College, where I am setting up a Garden Retail Outlet in the Walled Garden of the estate."

Horticulture is an international profession. Wherever there are people, there are plants grown for food and also for their aesthetic qualities. The possibilities are immense, the potential vast and the job satisfaction enormous.

Amenity managers

Careers in amenity and landscape management include positions in local authority parks, public and historic gardens and landscape centres. The work is often varied, including organising planting, managing tenders, monitoring contracts, managing staff, planning and consulting with the public.

Garden centre managers

Being a garden centre manager is a challenging position managing staff and resources, purchasing, merchandising, maximising sales and profits, and ensuring good customer service. Good people skills are very important in this job.

Garden designers

Designing gardens combines art and design with horticulture. Designers work with the owners of gardens, advising them how their grounds can be developed into places of beauty. Many designers offer a landscaping service as well. Other employment opportunities exist within local authorities or as garden designers for garden centres or contractors.

Landscape managers

Graduates can expect to enter the landscaping sector as supervisors or junior managers, or they may set up their own businesses. The work involves liaising with clients, sourcing supplies, tendering, recruiting, staff management, organising work and carrying out practical landscaping.

Journalists

A glance at the number of gardening magazines in newsagents gives an insight into journalism as a career option. Being a horticultural journalist is about meeting deadlines and looking at new and different ways to cover a story. You will also get the opportunity to travel and talk to a range of people about plants and horticultural topics.

Nursery managers

Nurseries come in many shapes and sizes, from large hi-tech operations producing millions of plants per year, to small specialist family-run businesses. In all cases, to be a successful nursery manager you will need to be technically up-to-date and have the business skills necessary to run a profitable business.

Sportsturf managers

The need for well trained, highly motivated head greenkeepers and head groundsmen to manage golf courses and sports facilities continues to grow. Managers need to have good interpersonal skills, technical knowledge and staff management skills.

The level at which graduates enter the horticulture industry will depend on their qualifications and experience.

Greenmount Campus is set in 18 hectares of landscaped grounds, originally laid out in the 19th century. Some of the original parkland trees provide the focus for today's modern gardens. Horticulture students develop practical, technical and management skills in the Horticulture Centres.

The Amenity Horticulture Centre includes a large walled garden. It has been in continuous use since it was built in 1801 and recently underwent major redevelopment. The garden has been redesigned in dramatic formal style in one of the largest public/private sector partnership projects in Northern Ireland aimed at celebrating the millennium. Renamed the 'Richardson's Walled Garden at Greenmount', with its grand conservatory, knot garden, maze, rose garden, fruit garden and other ornamental plantings it is

a showpiece for horticulture in Northern Ireland. The amenity centre also has extensive plant collections and modern facilities used to train students in landscape construction skills. A rose garden has also been added to showcase all the varieties of rose cultivars that have won the DARD award at the Belfast International Rose Trials over the past 40 years.

There is a large sportsturf area, which comprises golf greens, a new driving range facility and playing fields.



Horticulture facilities

The Horticulture Development Centre has a wide range of production facilities for edible and ornamental crops. There are polytunnels and facilities for growing nursery stock, pot plants, trees, bedding plants and cut flowers. A modern glasshouse has six environmentally controlled growing environments demonstrating systems such as nutrient film technique and ebb and flood floors.

These resources are used both for teaching and for technology development projects. Staff leading these programmes teach on the Foundation Degree programme so students obtain first hand experience of the projects. In addition the Machinery and Building Centre enables all machinery and building activity for horticultural students at Greenmount to be concentrated in a single specialist facility. This Centre includes three fully equipped workshops where students can practice machinery maintenance operations. There is also a buildings demonstration and display area used to develop estate skills such as fence construction and hanging gates. The Centre also has teaching rooms with IT facilities linked to the main Campus complex.



The second year project modules allow students to work in teams to take full responsibility for all or part of a horticultural enterprise at the College.

Working in teams, the students are responsible for planning and organising the enterprise with the agreement of their supervisor. Students gain experience in dealing with customers and staff, decision making, written and oral communication, leadership skills and problem solving. They also learn how to deal with issues such as coping with falling market demand, reducing wastage, managing budgets, handling cash and producing financial accounts.

Over the last number of years students have grown and sold poinsettias and planted baskets at Christmas and a range of plants on Plant Sales Days. This has proved very successful with the profits being donated to charity and helping to fund educational tours.



The Foundation Degree (FdSc) in Horticulture is validated by the University of Ulster and has three pathways. Students choose which pathway they wish to follow in semester two of the first year.

The Foundation Degree in Horticulture - Landscape Management, has been designed to provide students with the knowledge and technical skills to enter the industry at supervisor or trainee manager level. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to 'learn by doing' and become adaptable, flexible and ultimately employable. They learn a range of skills which will enable them to make a worthwhile contribution to the horticultural industry. During the course students undertake supervised projects with industry partners such as local councils, the National Trust and other voluntary sector groups. This provides them with real learning experiences and helps to develop contacts for the future.

Bursaries

A number of bursaries each worth £1000 are available to students studying on Higher Education courses at CAFRE (see page 23).

Placement

The industrial work placement allows students to develop technical and commercial expertise. The placement can be carried out locally or internationally. Students can work with landscapers, garden designers or local authorities in their design departments. During placement students undertake a work related project usually on garden design and gain first hand experience of human resource management. Students are encouraged to develop practical and managerial skills and avail of opportunities to demonstrate transferable skills in ICT, problem solving and communication.

Progression opportunities and career destinations

Students can progress onto relevant Honours degrees. There is a wide range of careers open to graduates including working in garden centres, landscape companies and local authorities or self-employment in the design and build landscape sector.



Fact file:

How to apply:

UCAS course code: D415

Course duration:

2 years full-time

Course location:

Greenmount Campus

Contact details:

Course Manager:

Claire Woods

Telephone:

028 9442 6665

Email:

claire.woods@dardni.gov.uk

Course content

This course is delivered over two years, including a five-month period of work placement.

Year 1

- Garden and planting design principles
- Hard landscape principles and practices
- Horticulture principles and practices
- Horticulture technology or Garden centre retailing and customer service
- Introduction to business management
- Plant and soil science
- Plant health
- Soft landscaping

Year 2

- Design project
 - Development of gardens through time
 - Human resource management
 - Improving business opportunities
 - Work based learning
- Plus options* from:
- Amenity tree management
 - Contract documentation
 - Public event management
 - Urban conservation management
- (*subject to sufficient demand)

Entry requirements

Students should normally have 100 UCAS tariff points, plus four GCSE subjects at Grade C including English and preferably Mathematics and Double Award Science.

For other qualifications, please refer to table on page 27 or consult the UCAS website

http://www.ucas.ac.uk/students/ucas_tariff/qualifications

Student profile:
James Cuffey

"Growing up in the family landscaping business, I realised that this was a career I wanted to pursue. Although I had a basic knowledge of the industry, I chose the course to further develop my skills. I have enjoyed the course at Greenmount, in particular the fact that I can choose modules that interest me. I also got the chance to participate in the UK Landscaping Skills competition which was really enjoyable as I received additional training in England, and subsequently won the competition. I am currently competing for a place on the UK team for the WorldSkills competition in London in 2011. I am looking forward to bringing the new ideas and skills I have learnt through the course back to the family business."



The second pathway for the Foundation Degree (FdSc) in Horticulture, is Sportsturf Management. The choice to study this pathway is not made until the second semester of first year.

Fact file:

How to apply:

UCAS course code: D415

Course duration:

Greenmount Campus

Course location:

2 years full-time

Contact details:

Course Manager:

Claire Woods

Telephone:

028 9442 6665

Email:

claire.woods@dardni.gov.uk

The Foundation Degree in Horticulture - Sportsturf Management has been designed to provide students with the knowledge, technical skills and motivation to enter the industry as greenkeepers or groundsman at supervisor or trainee manager level. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to 'learn by doing' and become adaptable, flexible and ultimately employable. They learn a range of skills which will enable them to make a worthwhile contribution to the horticultural industry. During the course students undertake supervised projects on the wide range of sports surfaces at Greenmount and with industry partners such as local councils. This provides them with real learning experiences and helps to develop contacts for the future.

Bursaries

A number of bursaries each worth £1000 are available to students studying on Higher Education courses at CAFRE (see page 23).

Placement

The industrial work placement helps students to develop technical and commercial expertise. The placement can be carried out locally or internationally. In the past Greenmount students have completed placements at Gleneagles, the 'K Club', Co Kildare, the Hilton, Templepatrick and Nuremore Golf Courses. Whilst on placement students undertake a work related project and gain first-hand experience of human resource management. Students are encouraged to develop practical and managerial skills and avail of opportunities to demonstrate transferable skills in ICT, problem solving and communication.

Progression opportunities and career destinations

Students can progress onto relevant Honours degrees.

There is a wide range of careers open to graduates including parks and landscape management, sportsturf management, grounds maintenance, contract management, horticultural consultancy, and in the delivery of education and training programmes.



Course content

This course is delivered over two years, including a five-month period of work placement.

Year 1

- Construction, design and performance of sportsturf surfaces
- Horticulture principles and practices
- Horticulture technology
- Introduction to business
- Plant and soil science
- Plant health
- Turf mechanisation and irrigation

Year 2

- Design and planning of sportsturf facilities
 - Human resource management
 - Improving business opportunities
 - Sportsturf management project
 - Work-based learning
- Plus options from*:
- Amenity tree management
 - Contract documentation
 - Public event management
 - Urban conservation management
- (*subject to sufficient demand)

Entry requirements

Students should normally have 100 UCAS tariff points, plus four GCSE subjects at Grade C including English and preferably Mathematics and Double Award Science.

For other qualifications, please refer to table on page 27 or consult the UCAS website
http://www.ucas.ac.uk/students/ucas_tariff/qualifications

Student profile:
Ross Burns

"The course has introduced me to a new and exciting future where I can be flexible within the horticulture sector. It has helped me expand my practical skills and understand the theory behind essential tasks within a golf course. Previously I worked for Shandon Golf Club and Mount Ober Golf Club and really enjoyed working outdoors maintaining the course. Through the course I hope to develop my knowledge and practical skills so that I can become a Head Greenkeeper at a top golf course in the UK or abroad."



The Foundation Degree (FdSc) in Horticulture - Amenity Horticulture, is the third pathway option that students may choose in semester two of Year 1.

Fact file:

How to apply:

UCAS course code: D415

Course duration:

Greenmount Campus

Course location:

2 years full-time

Contact details:

Course Manager:

Claire Woods

Telephone:

028 9442 6665

Email:

claire.woods@dardni.gov.uk

The Foundation Degree in Horticulture - Amenity Management has been designed to provide students with the knowledge, technical skills and motivation to enter the industry at supervisor or trainee manager level. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to 'learn by doing' and so become adaptable, flexible and highly employable. They learn a range of skills which will enable them to make a worthwhile contribution to the efficiency and profitability of the horticultural industry. During the course students undertake supervised projects with industry partners such as local councils and voluntary sector groups such as the National Trust. This provides them with real learning experiences and helps to develop contacts for the future.

Bursaries

A number of bursaries each worth £1000 are available to students studying on Higher Education courses at CAFRE (see page 23).

Placement

The industrial work placement helps students to develop technical and management expertise. The placement can be carried out locally or internationally. In the past students have worked in local authorities, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, the National Trust and in large private gardens. Those with an interest in production can work in hardy ornamental nurseries, cut flower nurseries or in large garden centres in the UK, Ireland or the Netherlands. While on placement, students undertake a work related project and gain first hand experience of human resource management. Students are encouraged to develop practical and managerial skills and avail of the opportunities to demonstrate transferable skills in ICT, problem solving and communication.

Progression opportunities and career destinations

Students can progress onto relevant Honours degrees. There is a wide range of careers open to graduates including parks, gardens and landscape management, sportsturf management, grounds maintenance, contract management, horticultural consultancy and in education and training delivery.

Course content

This course is delivered over two years, including a five-month period of work placement.

Year 1

- Garden centre retailing and customer care or Horticulture technology
- Horticulture principles and practices
- Introduction to business
- Nursery stock production
- Plant and soil science
- Plant health
- Soft landscaping

Year 2

- Development of gardens through time or Principles of organic horticulture
 - Human resource management
 - Improving business opportunities
 - Production management project
 - Work-based learning
- Plus options* from:
- Amenity tree management
 - Contract documentation
 - Public event management
 - Urban conservation management
- (*subject to sufficient demand)

Entry requirements

Students should normally have 100 UCAS tariff points, plus four GCSE subjects at Grade C including English and preferably Mathematics and double award Science.

For other qualifications, please refer to table on page 27 or consult the UCAS website
http://www.ucas.ac.uk/students/ucas_tariff/qualifications

Student profile:
Claire Leckey

"I worked in a bank for over 20 years until taking voluntary redundancy last year. I was determined to make the most of a golden opportunity and see if I could turn my hobby into a new career. Greenmount has opened up a whole new world to me. I'm enjoying the diversity of the course. Practical sessions ensure that I'm equipped with the necessary hands-on skills and plant knowledge. Returning to study has been a challenge but the support I've had from tutors and fellow students has been fantastic. I haven't regretted my decision to re-train and after an office based job, it's great to get my hands dirty!"



The Certificate of Higher Education in Horticulture, validated by the University of Ulster, is designed to equip students with the knowledge, technology and technical skills required by the industry.

It is recognised that people already in the industry have a wide breadth of experiences and abilities and the course is tailored to suit their needs. Students study a broad range of modules. This course which can be studied over one year full-time or two years part-time is aimed at individuals who are currently working in the horticulture and related landscape industries, such as local authorities, nursery-stock producers, landscape contractors, designers and garden centres. They are also suitable qualifications for those wishing to change career and enter the horticulture industry.

Progression opportunities and career destinations

Students can progress onto the Foundation Degree in Horticulture. The Certificate in Higher Education course is aimed at developing the business management and technical competence of people already working in, or with an interest in the horticultural industry to assist career development or support business development.

Fact file:

How to apply:

Direct to CAFRE

Course duration:

2 years minimum part-time

1 year full-time

Course location:

Greenmount Campus

Contact details:

Course Manager:

Claire Woods

Telephone:

028 9442 6665

Email:

claire.woods@dardni.gov.uk



Course content

Core modules: (60 credit points)

- Plant and soil science
- Horticulture principles and practices
- Soft landscaping

Plus options* from:

(to the value of 60 credits)

- Construction of sportsturf surfaces for quality performance
 - Garden and planting design
 - Garden retailing and customer service
 - Hard landscape principles and practice
 - Horticulture technology
 - Introduction to business management
 - Nursery stock production
 - Plant health
 - Sustainable enterprise management
 - Turf Mechanisation and irrigation
- (*subject to sufficient demand)

The Course Manager can provide guidance on the sequence in which the modules can be studied to complete the Certificate in Higher Education.

Course delivery

Part-time students study on Tuesdays during the first year and on Mondays during the second year of the course. Sportsturf options are delivered on Mondays in both the first and second year of the course.

Entry requirements

Students should normally have 100 UCAS tariff points, plus four GCSE subjects at Grade C including English and preferably Mathematics and double award Science.

For other qualifications, please refer to table on page 27 or consult the UCAS website

http://wwwucas.ac.uk/students/ucas_tariff/qualifications

Industrial experience and prior qualifications of applicants who have worked for a minimum of three years are taken into account and for some modules it may be possible to apply for Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL).

Student profile:
Samantha Buchanan

"I first studied part-time at Greenmount for the National Award in Horticulture. I really enjoyed the course and felt it gave me a good starting point to continue my horticultural studies. I decided to return to study part-time on the Certificate in Higher Education. The course allows continue to work and at the same time increase my knowledge of horticulture subjects. I'm particularly interested in gardening for wildlife so perhaps is a direction I will explore in the future."



The Foundation Degree (FdSc) in Horticulture is validated by the University of Ulster. The first year is common for all students, after which they can choose from a range of options in Sportsturf Management, Landscape Management or Amenity Management.

Fact file:

How to apply:

Direct to CAFRE

Course duration:

3-5 years part-time (FdSc)

Course location:

Greenmount Campus

Contact details:

Course Manager:

Claire Woods

Telephone:

028 9442 6665

Email:

claire.woods@dardni.gov.uk

The Foundation Degree in Horticulture has been designed to provide students with the knowledge and technical skills required by the industry at supervisor or trainee manager level. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to 'learn by doing' and become adaptable, flexible and ultimately employable. They learn a range of skills which will enable them to make a worthwhile contribution to the horticultural industry.

It is recognised that people already in the industry have a wide breadth of experiences and abilities and the course is tailored to suit their needs. This part-time course is aimed at individuals who are currently working in the horticulture and related landscape industries, such as local authorities, nursery-stock producers, landscape contractors, designers and garden centres. It is an ideal qualification for those wishing to change career and enter the horticulture industry.

Placement

The industrial work placement allows students to develop technical and commercial expertise. Part-time students already in horticultural employment do not have to find a separate work placement. However, students not working in the industry can undertake a placement locally or internationally.

Students can work with landscapers, garden designers or local authorities in their design departments. During placement students will undertake a work related project and gain first hand experience of human resource management. Students are encouraged to develop practical and managerial skills and avail of opportunities to demonstrate transferable skills in ICT, problem solving and communication.

Progression opportunities and career destinations

Students can progress onto relevant Honours degrees. Completion of the Foundation Degree can open up career progression or promotion opportunities for those already working in the industry. For new entrants there is a wide range of careers open to graduates including working in garden centres, landscape companies and local authorities or self-employment in the design and build landscape sector or sportsturf management.

Course content

This course is delivered over three to five years (depending on how many modules are studied each semester) and will include a five-month period of work placement if the student is not employed in an appropriate post in the industry

Core modules (150 credit points)

- Horticulture principles and practices
- Human resource management
- Improving business opportunities
- Introduction to business management
- Plant and soil science
- Plant health
- Soft landscaping
- Work placement

Plus options* from: (to the value of 90 credits)

- Amenity tree management
- Construction, design and performance of sportsturf surfaces
- Contract documentation
- Design and planning of sportsturf facilities
- Design project
- Development of gardens through time.
- Garden centre retailing and customer service
- Garden design principles
- Horticulture technology
- Principles of organic horticulture
- Public event management
- Sportsturf management project
- Sustainable enterprise management
- Turf mechanisation and irrigation
- Urban conservation management (*subject to sufficient demand)

The Course Manager can provide guidance on the sequence in which the modules can be studied to complete the Foundation Degree in Horticulture.

Entry requirements

Students should normally have 100 UCAS tariff points, plus 4 GCSE subjects at Grade C including English and preferably Mathematics and double award Science.

For other qualifications, please refer to table on page 27 or consult the UCAS website http://www.ucas.ac.uk/students/ucas_tariff/qualifications

Industrial experience and prior qualifications of applicants who have worked for a minimum of three years are taken into account and for some modules it may be possible to apply for Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL).

Student profile:
Dougal Dorman

"I chose to do a part-time Foundation Degree in Horticulture because this was an area in which I always wanted to get involved but didn't want to give up the security of a job. I reduced my hours at work, so I am now able to work and study together. I am learning loads of new information about the industry, which will hopefully lead me to a new career in the future."

