

## Equine

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- National Diploma in Horse Management
- First Diploma in Horse Care
- Farriery Upskilling Programme
- Pre-Farriery Programme

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The equine industry is an international business with many job opportunities, enabling students to experience life and work around the world. Enniskillen Campus currently provides the widest range of equine programmes in Ireland. Courses have been developed which meet the needs of the industry and students alike, producing graduates with the ability to succeed in a wide range of careers.

Through the courses, the College aims to help develop a competitive equine industry and aspires to give students an insight into many different equine related careers.

### Facilities

Equine courses offered at Enniskillen Campus involve a strong practical dimension and the theme of 'learning by doing' is incorporated into all courses.

The College has excellent equestrian, classroom and residential facilities at the Campus and Necarne Castle on the outskirts of Irvinestown.

Necarne Castle hosts an International 3-day event cross-country and steeplechase course. The equine facilities include an extensive range of stables, horse walkers, a racehorse simulator, indoor and outdoor arenas,

all-weather ménages, a gallop, three all-weather grass arenas and a point-to-point course.

The College owns a number of Thoroughbred, Sport horse and Irish Draught mares and youngstock which enable students to gain experience in breeding. The racing enterprise gives students invaluable experience in handling and riding race horses in training.

A specialist breeding unit, purpose built in 2003, provides hands on experience in the routine care and management of all breeding stock. Facilities include 12 stables, four foaling boxes with CCTV, handling stocks and nursery paddocks.



## Equine

**"I can now use all the theory and practice learned in my current role."**

Career profile: Rachel McGuigan

"I'm currently employed as a Marketing Co-ordinator for Bluegrass Horse Feeds. I first studied at Enniskillen Campus for a National Diploma in Equine Studies. On completion of the course I progressed onto the HND and subsequently the Honours Degree. During my time at the campus I was heavily involved in the racing club, which gave a great insight into the Thoroughbred industry. I can now use all the theory and practice learned in my current role."



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## National Diploma in Horse Management

This two-year course provides excellent preparation for those wishing to pursue a career in the equine industry or progress to higher education. The course is taught using state-of-the-art practical facilities at Enniskillen Campus and at Necarne Castle (near Irvinestown).

### Fact File

**Course duration:**  
Two years full-time.

**Entry requirements:**  
Four GCSE passes (Grades A-C) or equivalent. Four D1s at Ordinary Level, Irish Leaving Certificate. Competence in riding is essential for those wishing to study riding options.

**Progression opportunities:**  
Students may progress onto Foundation Degree or Honours Degree programmes.

**Course location:**  
Enniskillen Campus which includes Necarne Castle.

**Course Manager:**  
Jane Elliott  
Telephone:  
028 6634 4823  
Email: jane.elliott@dardni.gov.uk

### Course content

The main areas of study are:

- Animal science, health and nutrition
- Breed development and welfare
- Breeding and young stock training
- Business planning and management
- Equitation - flat and jumping
- Horse husbandry, competition grooming and stable skills
- Training of the Thoroughbred and equine rehabilitation and therapy

### Work placement

National Diploma students complete ten weeks of work experience within the two-year course. Typically students work in a range of yards depending on their area of interest, such as breeding, racing, eventing, show jumping and dressage.

The Campus has a wide range of placements available within the equine industry during which students are encouraged to increase their skill base and broaden their horizons.

### Career destinations

Students with a National Diploma are ideally suited to find employment of a practical nature in a wide range of equine businesses. Examples of careers include: managing own business, breaking and schooling horses and/or livery; work riders in racing yards; stud grooms; competition grooms and sales representatives.

**Student profile:**  
Lisa Stewart



" I am currently in my second year on the National Diploma programme. Prior to coming to College I had ridden ponies but had little experience riding or working with horses. I am learning a lot about the biology and nutrition of the horse and am enjoying the flatwork and jumping lessons at Necarne. I have had good experience working with the foals and yearlings in the Breeding Unit. I spent my work placement with the equine vet, Bruce Steele where I was able to assist with the treatment of horses and got to see a few operations. I am considering progressing to a career in equine veterinary nursing."

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## First Diploma in Horse Care

This one year practical course in horse care offers young people the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills required for practical jobs within the equine sector.

### Fact File

#### Course duration:

One year, most of which is spent at the Campus with a minimum of five weeks being spent on approved work placement.

#### Entry requirements:

Normally two Grade Cs or three Grade Ds at GCSE or equivalent.

#### Progression opportunities:

Students who successfully complete the course may be eligible to progress to the National Diploma in Horse Management.

#### Course location:

Enniskillen Campus which includes Necarne Castle.

#### Course Manager:

Jane Elliott  
Telephone:  
028 6634 4823  
Email: jane.elliott@dardni.gov.uk

### Course content

The main areas of study are:

- Horse handling and exercise
- Horse industry and organisations
- Introduction to animal and plant biology
- Introduction to horse care
- Practical land based skills
- Riding horses
- Work related experience in the horse industry

### Work placement

A minimum of five weeks approved work placement is an integral part of this course. Students are encouraged to find work in their area of interest such as breeding, racing, competition yards or riding schools.

### Career destinations

The course provides an opportunity for students to progress to the National Diploma in Horse Management.

Alternatively, students are well positioned to find employment in a diverse range of sectors within the equine industry including: racing, show jumping, eventing, dressage and showing, riding schools, livery yards and studs.

### Student profile:

Claire Mawhinney



"I enjoy the practical work with the horses especially riding out the racehorses in the morning. I am learning a lot at the College. The lecturers are really friendly and helpful when it comes to working on course assignments. The whole atmosphere is so different from school. Enniskillen Campus is a great place to live and study."

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"The lecturers are very approachable and helpful when it comes to working on the course assignments."

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## Farrier Upskilling Programme

The Farrier Upskilling programme at Enniskillen Campus is designed for those already working in the industry, seeking to achieve the Diploma award of the Worshipful Company of Farriers (WCF).

### Fact File

#### Course duration:

The programme is delivered on two days per month for approximately two years.

#### Entry requirements:

Suitable for farriers already practising in the industry, with two years of verifiable experience.

#### Progression opportunities:

Students may progress onto an appropriate Foundation Degree.

#### Course location:

Enniskillen Campus.

#### Course Manager:

Sam Nelson  
Telephone:  
028 6634 4625  
Email: sam.nelson@dardni.gov.uk

### Course content

The course covers the principles of equine anatomy, physiology, conformation, dynamics and movement, injuries and ailments/diseases affecting the foot and limb and the fundamentals of farriery.

Practical skills include making different types of shoes from basic steel strips. Students are required to produce a portfolio of hand made shoes for live horses (for the Diploma examination), using coke and/or gas forges, as well as undertake a practical and written examination.

The course tutor is a career farrier with international shoeing achievements and has attained the Associateship of the Worshipful Company of Farriers (AWCF).

### Career destinations

Through the course farriers have the opportunity to become qualified diplomates and from there they can apply to the Farriers Registration Council to become registered.

### Student profile: Heather Maguire

" I have started the Farrier Upskilling course at Enniskillen. The forgework sessions are good for improving my shoemaking skills and the theory that we learn in class is helpful for my understanding of the horse's foot and leg."

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## Pre-Farriery Programme

Farriery is the shoeing of horses and similar animals. A farrier is a skilled craftsperson who is able to make shoes for all types of horses' feet according to the needs and welfare of the animal. A farrier is not a blacksmith but needs training in blacksmithing in order to make or modify the shoes correctly.

### Fact File

#### Course duration:

One year, most of which is spent at Enniskillen Campus, with a minimum of five weeks being spent on an approved work placement.

#### Entry requirements:

Normally two Grade Cs or three Grade Ds at GCSE or equivalent.

#### Progression opportunities:

This programme offers progression onto the Modern Apprenticeship in Farriery, or onto a NVQ Level 3 or National Diploma in Horse Management.

#### Course location:

Enniskillen Campus.

#### Course Manager:

Sam Nelson  
Telephone:  
028 6634 4625  
Email: sam.nelson@dardni.gov.uk

### Course content

- First Diploma in Horse Care
- Certificate awarded by the Worshipful Company of Farriers
- Key skills in Communication Level 2 and Application of Number Level 2
- NPTC Level 2 Certificate in Forgework

### Work placement

Students spend five weeks working in an equine establishment to improve their horse care skills.

### Career destinations

Successful students can progress to the Modern Apprenticeship in Farriery, ultimately sitting the Diploma of the Worshipful Company of Farriers and becoming a registered member.

### Student profile: Dean Campbell



" The pre-farriery course is great. I'm learning a range of new skills. My family has always had an interest in horses. I got a taster of farriery work when I helped out at a local forge. I love life at Enniskillen Campus, I enjoy all the social activities which the students organise and it's proving life living away from home can be fun."