

Floristry

- NPTC Level 3 Diploma in Floristry
- NPTC Level 2 Diploma in Floristry

Floristry is a diverse business sector offering a career in a fascinating and dynamic profession which combines creativity and technical ability with business skills.

Facilities

The facilities at Greenmount Campus are unique in Northern Ireland for floristry education and training.

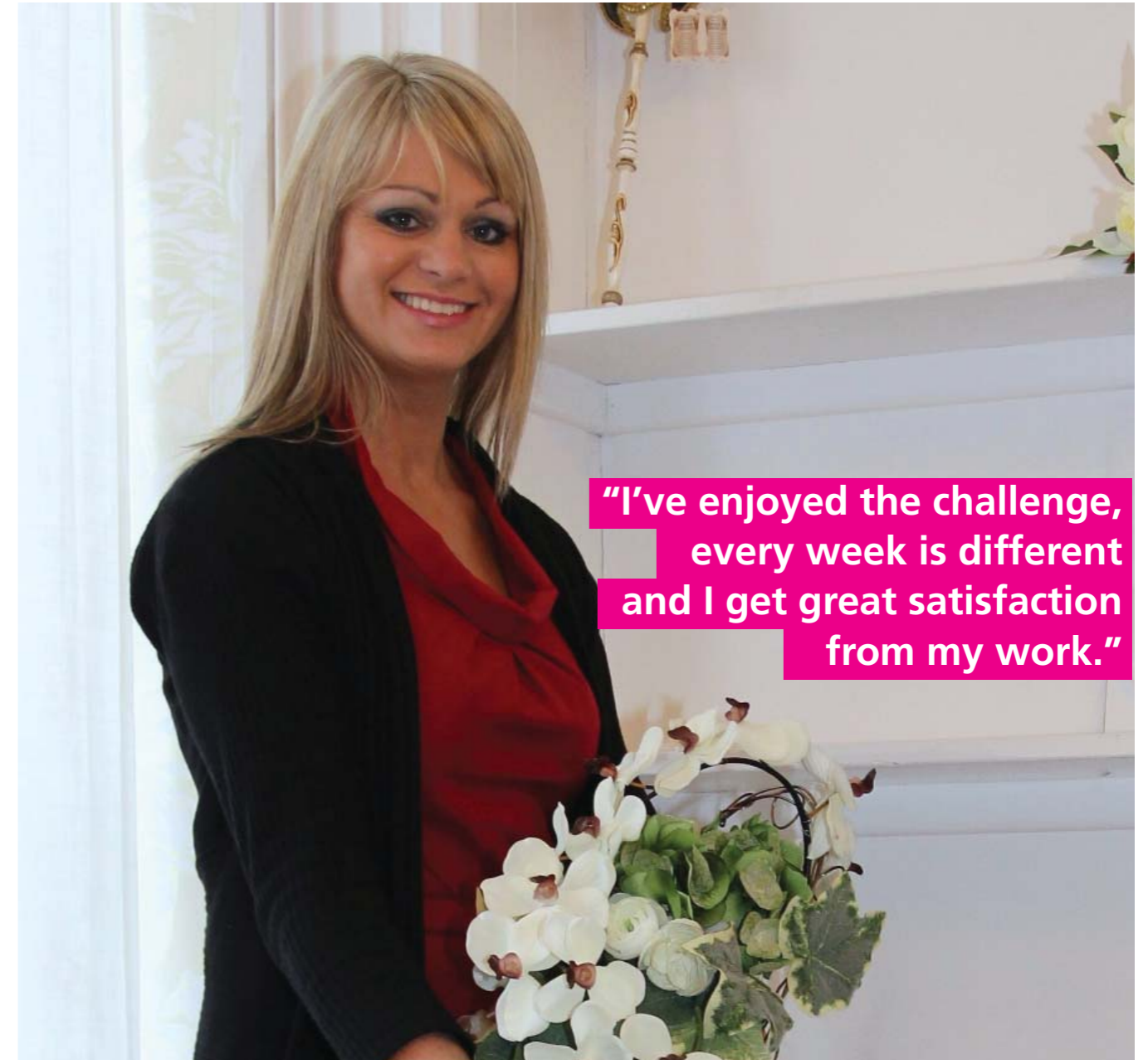
The College has excellent purpose built teaching facilities including two floristry studios within the Richardson's Walled Garden. The studios have dedicated areas for cut flower identification and conditioning, refrigerated display storage, design demonstration

and practice, and retail display windows plus a gift wrapping/ customer service area.

In addition, a range of summer cut flower and foliage crops are grown for development and demonstration to growers and florists at the College's Horticulture Development Centre. These allow floristry students to understand modern production methods.

Eighteen hectares of amenity grounds at the College provide excellent opportunities to gain plant knowledge.

The NPTC Level 2 Diploma in Floristry is the only full-time floristry programme in Northern Ireland. The course can also be studied on a day-release basis by those already employed in the industry.



"I've enjoyed the challenge, every week is different and I get great satisfaction from my work."

Career profile: Julie Anne Skelton

"I have always been creative and ran a successful model agency before deciding to combine my interest in flowers with fashion. I got a job with a retail florist and enrolled on the part-time Level 3 Floristry programme at Greenmount Campus. While training as a florist I worked on my business plan to develop a bridal and florist shop, Vintage Rose, working alongside my husband who has an established limousine business. It has been really hard work but I've enjoyed the challenge, every week is different and I get great satisfaction from my work."

This is a practical work-related course designed to develop the skills of those working in the floristry industry, who have achieved the NPTC Level 2 Diploma in Floristry or equivalent, or who have extensive industry experience.

Course content

The main areas of study are:

- Business skills for floristry
- Creative design process for florists
- Design and evaluation: arrangements, tied, sympathy and wedding
- Flower and plant care
- Function and event decoration
- Working in the floristry industry

Entry requirements

Applicants must be currently employed in retail floristry. Normally four GCSE Grade Cs or above including English and Mathematics with at least one year's full-time employment with a retail florist.

or

NPTC Level 2 Diploma in Floristry, at Merit level or above, or an equivalent qualification.

Progression opportunities and career destinations

The course aims to develop the skills of those working in the floristry industry. On completion of the programme students may continue in employment and progress to posts as senior florists, managers or freelance designers. There are excellent career prospects for trained florists both in the UK and abroad.

Fact file:

Course duration:

Two years part-time, one day per week.

Course location:

Greenmount Campus.

Contact details:

Course Manager:

Caroline Mathers

Telephone:

028 9442 6677

Email:

caroline.mathers@dardni.gov.uk



Graduate profile:
Ashleen McEvoy

"I've really enjoyed my training at Greenmount over the last two years and have been delighted to see my work progress. I've made great friends and industry contacts and have had the opportunity to compete at national level in several design competitions. I was a finalist in the prestigious RHS Young Chelsea Florist of the Year Competition and was awarded the prize for First Overall in Floristry at Greenmount when I graduated in 2011. At 21, I feel my career is well established now and look forward to keeping in touch with everyone through floristry and public events at the College in the future."

This is a practical, work-related course designed to give students a broad understanding and appreciation of the floristry industry. This programme aims to develop and support the floristry industry and is not a leisure course.

Course content

The main areas of study are:

- Cut flower identification and conditioning
- Design arrangements: sympathy, tied and wedding
- Display of floristry goods
- Interior plant identification and planted design
- Introduction to art and design for florists
- Introduction to function decorating
- Introduction to working in the floristry industry

Entry requirements

Normally two Grade Cs or three Grade Ds or above at GCSE including English and Mathematics. Students who have not attained a Grade C or above in English and Mathematics at GCSE or an equivalent qualification have to complete Essential Skills in Literacy and Numeracy.

or
Applicants who can demonstrate significant relevant industry experience will also be considered. These applicants may be required to submit work-based evidence and undertake written assessments and/or practical competence tests as part of the assessment.

Full-time students must also complete a minimum of 40 hours work placement with a retail florist before starting the course and have arranged a work placement for one day per week during term-time.

This course may be studied over two years part-time by those already employed in retail floristry.

Progression opportunities and career destinations

This course provides students with an opportunity to progress onto the NPTC Level 3 Diploma in Floristry on a day-release basis. The course aims to prepare students for employment as skilled florists within the floristry industry. Students may progress to posts as senior florists, managers or freelance designers. There are excellent career prospects for trained florists both in the UK and abroad.

Fact file:

Course duration:

One year full-time or two years part-time.

Course location:

Greenmount Campus.

Contact details:

Course Manager:

Caroline Mathers

Telephone:

028 9442 6677

Email:

caroline.mathers@dardni.gov.uk

Graduate profile: Rebekah McClean

"After I completed my GCSEs I knew I wanted a career that would use my talent for art and design and when I got a job with a local florist I knew I'd found it! My employer, Nigel Close, of Memento Flowers and Gifts, had trained at Greenmount and he recommended that I complete the Level 2 programme. It has been a great year and I'm now much more confident in my design work and customer service skills. I even won the Northern Ireland heat of the Worldskills UK Intermediate Floristry Competition, held at Greenmount, and was selected to compete in the UK Final at RHS Tatton Park."

