



Floristry

- NPTC Level 2 Diploma in Floristry

Floristry is a diverse and expanding 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 now work full-time in a retail florists and enjoy my job, especially designing and creating seasonal displays."

* Amy photographed with leading Dutch Florist Miranda ter Voorde

Career profile: Amy Holdsworth

"I completed my course at Greenmount in June 2009 and was delighted to represent the College in the Northern Ireland heat of the UK Skills Floristry Competition. I now work full-time in a retail florists and enjoy my job, especially designing and creating seasonal displays. This year I was fortunate enough to meet Dutch Master Florist, Miranda ter Voorde, the guest demonstrator at Greenmount's Celebrations event. Attending design shows and trade events keeps me up to date with the creative world of floristry."

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

Students learn by completing assignments based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. They study the following units to develop their design and business skills:

- Display floristry goods
- Identify and maintain the condition of plants and planted designs
- Identify, check and monitor the quality of incoming cut materials
- Introduction to art and design for florists
- Introduction to function decorating using floral displays
- Introduction to working in the floristry industry
- Plan, prepare and construct floral arrangements
- Plan, prepare and construct funeral designs
- Plan, prepare and construct tied floristry designs
- Plan, prepare and construct wedding designs with floral materials

Entry requirements

Normally two GCSE Grade Cs or above in English and Mathematics are required. 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. Candidates with industry experience will also be considered.

Progression opportunities and career destinations

The course aims to prepare students for employment as skilled florists within the floristry industry. On completion of the programme students may enter full-time employment or continue study for the NPTC Level 3 Diploma in Floristry on a day release basis.

Students may progress to posts as senior florists, managers or freelance designers. With over 20,000 independent floristry businesses throughout the United Kingdom 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:

Claire Woods

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Student profile: Rachel Gibson

"After leaving school I studied Art and Design for two years and became interested in floristry through competing in floral art competitions organised by the YFC. I got a part-time job with my local florist, Clare Flower in Irvinestown, and knew I wanted to gain a recognised qualification in floristry when I attended a Taster Day at Greenmount Campus last year. I'm now studying the full-time floristry course at Greenmount and doing my work placement with Clare Flower. I'm enjoying student life and know floristry is the right career choice for me."

