



Horticulture

- NPTC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Horticulture
- NPTC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Horticulture (Amenity Horticulture)
- NPTC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Horticulture (Landscape Maintenance)
- NPTC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Horticulture (Sports Turf Management)
- NPTC Level 2 Diploma in Horticulture
- NPTC Level 2 Diploma in Work-based Horticulture (Parks, Gardens and Green Spaces)/
Level 2 Apprenticeship in Amenity Horticulture
- NPTC Level 2 Diploma in Work-based Horticulture (Sports Turf-Greenkeeper)/
Level 2 Apprenticeship in Amenity Horticulture including Greenkeeping Cadetship

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

Facilities

Greenmount is a well established centre for horticulture education and has delivered full-time courses in horticulture since 1924.

The Campus is set in 18 hectares of landscaped grounds originally laid out in the 19th century. They are now planted with an extensive range of trees and shrubs with many interesting landscape features. The 'Richardson's Walled Garden' was redeveloped to celebrate the millennium. It is

of a formal design and includes a grand conservatory, pleached limes, a maze, water feature, knot gardens and a range of mixed and herbaceous planting.

The Amenity Horticulture Unit also features sports turf areas for student learning, including the Greenkeeping and Golf Academy as well as high specification sports pitches. The Greenkeeping and Golf Academy, supported by the Golfing Union of Ireland (Ulster branch), has

three full playing holes, a short game practice area, a putting green and a unique contoured driving range facility. The Machinery and Building Centre offers an area for undertaking skills training in landscape construction and machinery maintenance.

Students utilise the production facilities at the Horticulture Development Centre to study nursery stock and protected ornamental cropping.



"I completed a period of work experience with Antrim Borough Council which introduced to me many different aspects of the sector..."

Career profile: Michael Witherspoon

"While at school I became really involved in maintaining our garden at home, planting, pruning and trying out new shrubs, making sure that it always looked attractive. With this interest in gardening and my love for working outdoors I knew the Extended Diploma in Horticulture was the course for me. I quickly set about getting my hands dirty, gaining lots of practical knowledge, through the fantastic horticulture facilities at Greenmount Campus. I completed a period of work experience with Antrim Borough Council which introduced to me many different aspects of the sector; parks, cemeteries and even the sports turf facilities. Now that I've completed my Extended Diploma with Distinction I've decided to continue my education and study for a Foundation Degree in Horticulture at Greenmount."

NPTC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Horticulture (replaces the National Diploma in Horticulture)

This two year full-time course incorporates an industry placement and offers students both the practical experience and the theory required for a wide variety of careers in horticulture.

Course content

Students complete units to the value of 180 credits over two years including a work placement between the first and second year of the course.

The main areas of study are:

- business management
- construction of hard landscape features
- garden design
- horticultural machinery operations
- horticultural science
- identification of trees and shrubs
- landscape maintenance
- ornamental plant production
- turf management

Learners develop technical and general employment skills when on work placement. Typical placements include; working for council parks departments, nurseries, garden centres, private gardens/estates and landscaping companies. Students are provided with career planning guidance in preparation for their industry experience, however students are responsible for finding their own placement, which must be approved by CAFRE.

Entry requirements

Normally four GCSE passes at Grade C or above including English and Mathematics.

or

Level 2 Diploma in Horticulture at Merit level or above, or an equivalent qualification and normally Grade C in English and Mathematics or equivalent.

Applicants must also demonstrate that they have a minimum of 40 hours of work experience in horticulture, which can be acquired prior to leaving school.

Progression opportunities and career destinations

This course provides students with an opportunity to progress onto Foundation Degree in Horticulture programmes. Students can follow careers in garden centres, nurseries, golf courses, landscape companies and local councils in a wide range of jobs. Other options include horticulture therapy, education and training or self employment.

Fact file:

Course duration:

Two years.

Course location:

Greenmount Campus.

Contact details:

Course Manager:

Caroline Mathers

Telephone:

028 9442 6677

Email:

caroline.mathers@dardni.gov.uk

NPTC Level 3 Extended Diploma



Student profile:
Jonathan Gill

"I've been a keen gardener and delight in tending to my own vegetable plot at home in Saintfield. Having enjoyed my work experience with a landscape gardener, I thought a career in horticulture would be a good choice. Coming from a farming background gave me an insight into growing things. My time at Greenmount is very enjoyable and learning by doing outside in the gardens helps me with my written reports."



NPTC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Horticulture (Amenity Horticulture) (replaces the National Award in Horticulture)

This part-time course is aimed at those currently working in the amenity horticulture industry or those aspiring to join it. It runs for two years and offers students both the practical experience and the theory required to develop their career in horticulture. On completion of this course students receive a Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Horticulture.

Course content

The main areas of study are:

- construction of hard landscape features
- garden design and tree studies
- investigative project
- machinery and turf culture
- nursery stock production
- plant and soil science (core subject)
- plant identification and establishment

Students attend Greenmount one day per week from September to May over two years achieving 60 credits.

Entry requirements

Normally four GCSE passes at Grade C or above including English and Mathematics.

Applicants must also demonstrate that they have a minimum of 40 hours of work experience in horticulture, which can be acquired prior to leaving school. Normally applicants must be working in horticulture for a minimum of one day a week.

or
Level 2 Diploma in Horticulture at Merit level or above, or an equivalent qualification and normally Grade C in English and Mathematics or equivalent.

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.

Progression opportunities and career destinations

This course provides students with an opportunity to progress onto Foundation Degree in Horticulture programmes. Students can follow careers in garden centres, nurseries, golf courses, landscape companies and local authorities in a wide range of jobs. Other options include horticulture therapy, education and training or self-employment.

Students who complete only the first year of study may be eligible to be awarded the NPTC Level 3 Certificate in Horticulture.

Fact file:

Course duration:

Two years part-time (one day per week).

Course location:

Greenmount Campus.

Contact details:

Course Manager:

Caroline Mathers

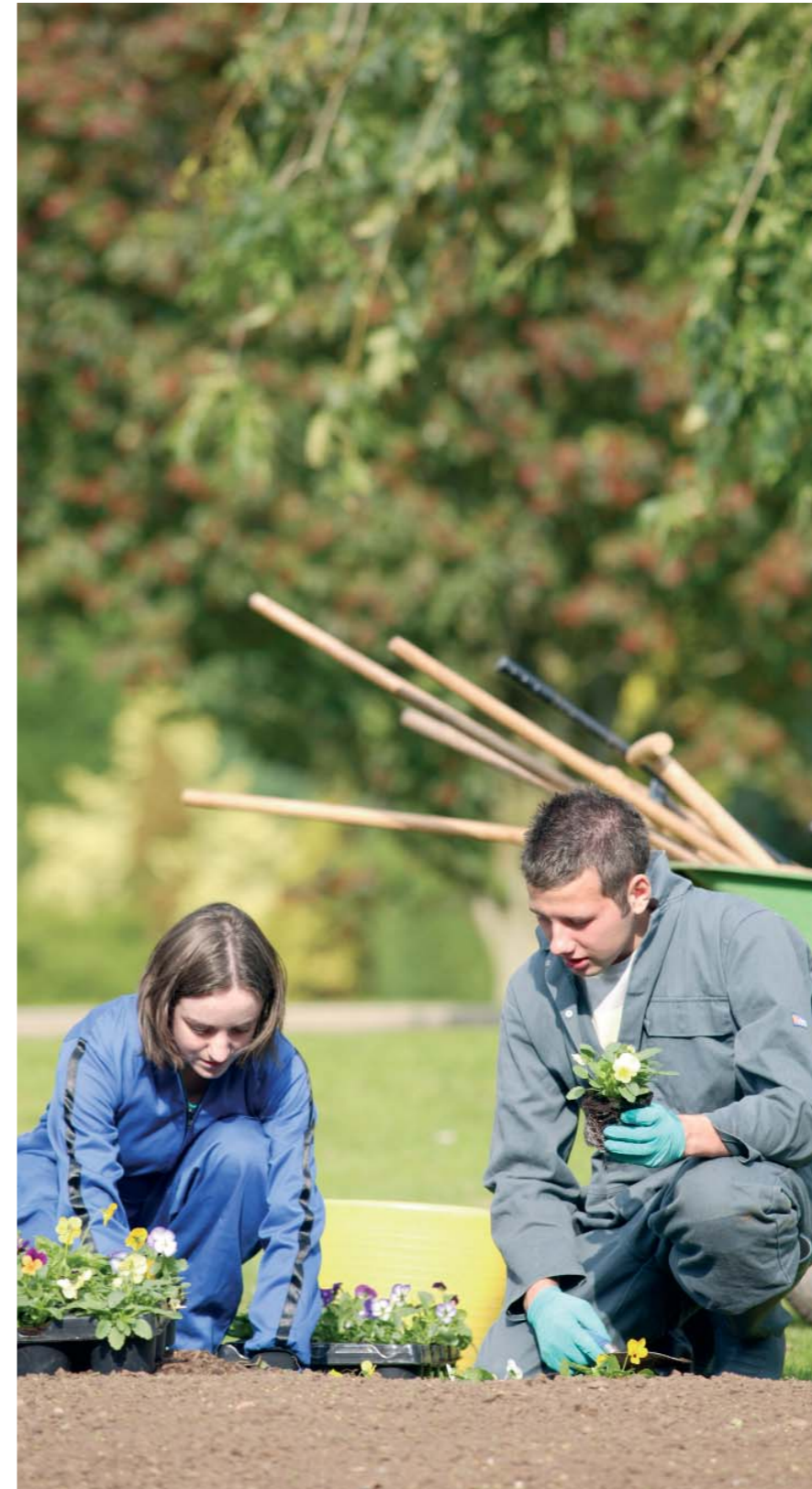
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NPTC Level 3 Certificate



Graduate profile:
Christopher McCann

"I am committed to starting my own garden maintenance and landscape business. I studied at Greenmount one day per week and loved the wide range of subjects which will help in setting up my own business. The staff were helpful and it was great to be at college again. This course was an excellent stepping stone in my career journey."



NPTC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Horticulture (Landscape Maintenance) (replaces the Level 3 Diploma in Work-based Horticulture, Parks, Gardens and Green Spaces)

This two year part-time course is specifically aimed at people maintaining parks and open spaces and those offering professional landscape maintenance services. On completion of this course students receive a Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Horticulture.

The course teaches students both the practical skills and underpinning knowledge related to working in the landscape sector of the horticultural industry. It is ideal for those who have already completed a Level 2 qualification in Horticulture and wish to further develop their knowledge and skills.

Students attend Greenmount one day per week from September to May over two years achieving 60 credits.

Course content

The main areas of study are:

- Contract management
- Creating and maintaining outdoor plant displays
- Machinery operations
- Maintaining turf in parks and gardens
- Plant identification
- Plant and soil science (core subject)
- Pruning plants

Entry requirements

Normally applicants must be working in landscape maintenance for a minimum of one day a week. or
Level 2 Diploma in Horticulture at Merit level or above, or an equivalent qualification and normally Grade C in English and Mathematics or equivalent. or
Normally four GCSE passes at Grade C or above including English and Mathematics.

Applicants must also demonstrate that they have a minimum of 40 hours work experience in horticulture, which can be acquired prior to leaving school. 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.

Progression opportunities

This course provides students with an opportunity to progress onto a Certificate of Higher Education or Foundation Degree programmes, where there is a specific landscape pathway offered.

Student profile:
Thomas Simpson

"This course reflects what I am doing in my management position within Ards Borough council. It felt like it had been designed to suit my needs perfectly. I now want to progress onto the Foundation Degree."



Fact file:

Course duration:

Two years (one day per week).

Course location:

Greenmount Campus.

Contact details:

Course Manager:

Ciaran Mulholland

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028 9442 6659

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NPTC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Horticulture (Sports Turf Management) (replaces the Advanced National Certificate in Sports and Amenity Turf Management)

This two year part-time course develops the practical skills and underpinning knowledge related to working in the sports turf sector. It is specifically aimed at people employed in maintaining sports turf and is ideal for those who have already completed a Level 2 qualification in sports turf and wish to further develop their career. On completion of this course students receive a Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Horticulture.

Students attend Greenmount one day per week from September to May over two years achieving 60 credits.

Course content

The main areas of study are:

- Contract management
- Investigative project
- Irrigation and soil drainage
- Machinery operations
- Management of golf surfaces or winter games surfaces
- Plant and soil science (core subject)
- Sports turf construction

Entry requirements

Normally applicants must be working within the sports turf sector for a minimum of one day per week. or
Level 2 qualification in sports turf (or equivalent). Students must be currently working in the sports turf industry. or
Normally four GCSE passes at Grade C or above including English and Mathematics. 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.

Progression opportunities

This course provides students with an opportunity to progress onto a Certificate of Higher Education or Foundation Degree programmes, where there is a specific sports turf pathway offered.

Student profile:
Lee McCord

"I decided to take a Level 3 course in Sports Turf Management to enhance my knowledge of the greenkeeping industry. Already the course has helped me do my job better and I believe in the future it will help me in my career progression."



Fact file:

Course duration:

Two years.

Course location:

Greenmount Campus.

Contact details:

Course Manager:

Ciaran Mulholland

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NPTC Level 2 Diploma in Horticulture (replaces the First Diploma in Amenity Horticulture)

This course may be studied over one year full-time or one day per week over two years. It provides students with a wide range of basic skills in horticulture. Students are taught mainly through practical based tuition in the ornamental gardens, woodlands, glasshouses and sports turf areas on campus. Work experience is an essential part of the programme.

Fact file:

Course duration:

One year (4 days/week) or two years (1 day/week).

Course location:

Greenmount Campus.

Contact details:

Course Manager:

Caroline Mathers

Telephone:

028 9442 6677

Email:

caroline.mathers@dardni.gov.uk

Course content

The main areas of study are:

- Amenity turf
- Nursery stock and protected cropping
- Outdoor plant establishment
- Plant science
- Setting out from a plan
- Work experience

Entry requirements

Normally two Grade Cs or three Grade Ds 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 Numeracy and Literacy.

Applicants must also demonstrate that they have a minimum of 40 hours of work experience in horticulture, which can be acquired prior to leaving school.

Progression opportunities and career destinations

This course provides students with an opportunity to progress onto the NPTC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Horticulture. Students can follow career paths in landscape, sports turf, nursery and retail sectors.



Graduate profile:
Ryan Killen

"I have always been interested in working outside. During my summer holidays I worked in a landscaping business, which helped me decide on this career. I learnt so much on this course - the plant names can be tricky to get the hang of but you're given plenty of support from the tutors. It was a super course!"



NPTC Level 2 Diploma

Student profile:
James Hamilton

"I have my own vegetable plot and greenhouse and have always been interested in growing plants. I decided to train for a new career in horticulture studying part-time. This course has been a breath of fresh air for me and is making me think about working in a garden centre. While on the course I completed the spraying courses, PA1 and PA6 which add another string to my bow."



NPTC Level 2 Diploma in Work-based Horticulture (Parks, Gardens and Green Spaces)/Level 2 Apprenticeship in Amenity Horticulture*

This course provides valuable in-service training for those already employed or self-employed in the amenity horticulture sector. It is primarily designed for those who are already working in parks maintenance or delivering professional landscape maintenance services. Students attend college on a day-release basis over 12-18 months.

Course content

The main areas of study are:

- Clearing horticultural and landscaping sites
- Control of pests, diseases and disorders
- Effective working relationships
- Health and safety
- Maintenance of amenity turf
- Personal development
- Plant identification
- Pruning
- Site preparation, seeding and planting
- Use of tools and equipment

Students attend college one day per week from late September for 12-18 months to develop their knowledge, understanding and competence levels. Candidates must develop their skills in the workplace, gather supportive evidence for assessment of practical skills and complete a personal portfolio.

Entry requirements

Applicants must be employed or self-employed in a relevant job within the amenity horticulture sector for at least three days per week. Normally two Grade Cs or three Grade Ds at GCSE including English and Mathematics. Students who have not attained a Grade C or above in English and Mathematics at GCSE or equivalent will be encouraged to complete Essential Skills in Numeracy and Literacy.

Start earning now

As an apprentice you must find paid employment with an employer from the beginning of the programme. The hours worked and the amount paid must be agreed with your employer before you start work.

Progression opportunities and career destinations

This course provides students with an opportunity to progress onto the Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Horticulture. The Level 2 qualification produces skilled operatives who can quickly become team leaders within the grounds care and amenity horticulture sectors. This qualification may allow students to obtain better rates of pay, permanent positions or alternative job roles within the industry.

* This course forms part of a Level 2 Apprenticeship in Horticulture when combined with other qualifications, subject to approval.

Fact file:

Course duration:

12-18 months (one day per week).

Course location:

Greenmount Campus.

Contact details:

Course Manager:

Ciaran Mulholland

Telephone:

028 9442 6659

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NPTC Level 2 Diploma



Student profile:
Tomasz Siudek

"Attending CAFRE opened up new opportunities for me including additional short courses such as manual handling and first aid. I also greatly enjoyed meeting up with my classmates one day per week. It is a great opportunity for me being able to study and continue to work in my full-time job with Belfast City Council."



NPTC Level 2 Diploma in Work-based Horticulture (Sports Turf-Greenkeeper)/ Level 2 Apprenticeship in Amenity Horticulture*

This course provides valuable in-service training for those already employed or self-employed in the sports turf sector. It is primarily designed for those who are already working as trainee and assistant greenkeepers or grounds persons. Students attend college on a day-release basis over 12-18 months.

Course content

The main areas of study are:

- Effective working relationships
- Health and safety
- Maintain the health and condition of sports turf surfaces
- Personal development
- Repair of sports turf surfaces
- Site preparation, seeding and planting
- Tractor operation
- Use of machinery and equipment

Students attend college one day per week from late September for 12-18 months to develop their knowledge, understanding and competence levels. Candidates must develop their skills in the workplace, gather supportive evidence for assessment of practical skills and complete a personal portfolio.

Entry requirements

Applicants must be employed or self-employed in a relevant job within the sports turf sector for at least three days per week. Normally two Grade Cs or three Grade Ds at GCSE including English and Mathematics. Students who have not attained a Grade C or above in English and Mathematics at GCSE or equivalent, will be encouraged to complete Essential Skills in Numeracy and Literacy.

Start earning now

As an apprentice you must find paid employment with an employer from the beginning of the programme. The hours worked and the amount paid must be agreed with your employer before you start work.

Progression opportunities and career destinations

This course provides students with an opportunity to progress onto the Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Horticulture (Sports Turf Management). The Level 2 qualification produces skilled operatives who can quickly become key workers within the grounds care and sportsturf sectors. This qualification may allow students to obtain better rates of pay, permanent positions or alternative job roles within the industry.



Fact file:

Course duration:

12-18 months (one day per week).

Course location:

Greenmount Campus.

Contact details:

Course Manager:

Ciaran Mulholland

Telephone:

028 9442 6659

Email:

ciaran.mulholland@dardni.gov.uk

* This course forms part of a Level 2 Apprenticeship in Horticulture when combined with other qualifications, subject to approval.

Greenkeeping Cadetship

CAFRE, in association with the Golfing Union of Ireland (GUI) Ulster Branch, offers a Greenkeeping Cadetship programme.

Greenkeeping Cadetships

The programme is aimed at people aged 17-25 who have a keen interest in developing a career in greenkeeping. The GUI supports two greenkeeping students per year with a generous financial bursary. Each year two cadets are selected on the basis of competitive interview by a panel of GUI and CAFRE representatives. The Cadetship programme runs from early September to the following August each year.

Applicants must have relevant practical experience, a minimum of four GCSEs at Grade C including Mathematics and English and a keen interest in the game of golf. Successful candidates complete the NPTC Level 2 Diploma in Work-based Horticulture (Sports Turf-Greenkeeper) programme and gain practical experience while working on the sports turf areas and campus grounds.



Greenkeeping Cadet profile:
Reece Killen

"An interest in playing the game of golf coupled with some limited experience of greenkeeping at my local course at Newtownstewart prompted me to follow a career in golf course management. The GUI bursary provided me with the ideal fast track opportunity to further my turf management knowledge and develop my practical skills in a state of the art greenkeeping learning environment. I found the balance of classroom based theory work coupled with hands-on practice and tuition delivered daily has left me well equipped to enter and progress within the turf industry. Working at Greenmount has given me a first hand insight into the needs of the customer - the golfer, with course aesthetics and presentation rated as important as the playing standard of the turf."

Student profile:
Chris Mallon

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my course primarily because of the opportunity to study the theory and science behind the practical activities which I carry out day-to-day at Allen Park Golf Course, Antrim. While I found the prospect of a return to the classroom daunting, I soon realised the learning environment had changed greatly and for the better! Informed discussion between tutors and fellow workers from the turf industry was very beneficial. The concept of portfolio building suited my style of learning as I could manage my studies to tie in with work and domestic life. Experience gained working on computers at CAFRE proved invaluable in progressing course work from home."

