



# HORTICULTURE

## FE2014

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



Horticulturalists play a major role in all areas concerned with designing, creating, managing and maintaining our environment.

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

**Horticulture 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 trees and other plants have a positive effect on health, both indoors and outdoors.**

# INDUSTRY INSIGHTS



**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 it looked attractive throughout the year. 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.

During the course I completed a period of work experience with Antrim Borough Council which introduced many different aspects of the sector; parks, cemeteries and even the sports turf facilities. When I completed my Level 3 qualification with a Distinction I decided to continue my education and study for a Foundation Degree in Horticulture. I graduated in June 2013 and I quickly secured full-time employment with Antrim Borough Council, thanks to my qualifications from Greenmount Campus.”

# HORTICULTURE CAREER PROSPECTS

Many of our Level 2 Diploma students go straight into employment after one year's training in horticulture, while some progress to study for the Level 3 Extended Diploma. Many Level 3 Extended Diploma students have come to Greenmount after completing their GCSEs while others have higher qualifications or employment experience. All our Level 2 & 3 courses include a period of work placement in a sector of your choice so you get a great opportunity to see if it's right for you. After completing your qualification you may develop your career in horticulture in some of the following ways.

## **Horticultural worker/ Gardener/Garden Supervisor**

This type of work involves preparing and maintaining areas of planting, mowing and maintaining turf areas, pruning plants and trimming hedges. There are opportunities with local authorities, historic public gardens and private properties. Some gardeners specialise in nursery work and may also need to be skilled in estate maintenance. You need to develop a good knowledge of botanical plant names and know what conditions will suit particular plants best. You will also need to enjoy working outdoors, in all types of weather, and like the challenge of hands on activity. In a

more senior post you may also be responsible for conserving valuable plant collections, supervising staff, organising garden events and dealing with the public.

## **Groundsman/woman, Senior Groundsman/ woman**

Groundsmen/women prepare and maintain natural and synthetic sports surfaces. Their work involves all the activities that ensure the best possible playing surfaces, whether this is for football, rugby, gaelic games, tennis, or bowling. As a groundsman/woman you will use a wide range of machinery and equipment to mark out pitches, apply fertilisers and maintain the condition of playing surfaces. You

need to be able to work well on your own and as part of a team to ensure high quality standards and tight deadlines are met. In a more senior post you will be responsible for managing staff, ordering equipment and planning future developments on your sites.

## **Garden Centre Assistant/ Supervisor/Manager**

If you have a good plant and product knowledge and enjoy working with the public this could be the career for you. As a garden centre assistant you will be responsible for the care and presentation of a wide range of plants and garden sundries. You will need to be able to provide good advice to customers and



develop your sales technique. More senior posts will also involve ordering and stock control, planning promotions, recruiting and managing staff and possibly organising catering facilities.

## **Greenkeeper/Head Greenkeeper**

Northern Ireland is internationally recognised as a premier location for golf courses, and CAFRE has supported this achievement over the years by helping to train the people responsible for looking after these golf courses.

CAFRE Level 2 greenkeepers and groundsmen and women are trained to safely operate the range of machinery in common use on

golf courses and sports grounds throughout Northern Ireland. As a CAFRE trained greenkeeper, you will be able to care for, and present turf surfaces for golf, ranging from tees and greens, to fairways and roughs. This involves managing the feeding and irrigation as well as pest and disease control, alongside the maintenance of the playing surface itself so that the sport can be played at the highest competitive level. CAFRE Level 3 sports turf students have taken this training one step further and are able to supervise the maintenance of sports turf, including making decisions on treatment regimes, machinery management and construction for example.

## **Landscape worker/ contractor**

CAFRE trained landscapers and contractors are trained at Level 2 to safely use a range of machinery for the landscape sector. Skilled people working in these areas are able to read from landscape plans and set out and construct gardens and landscaped areas, as well as looking after the plants, shrubs and trees in the gardens afterwards.

At Level 3, CAFRE-trained landscapers are able to plan and design gardens, as well as supervising the work of building and maintaining landscaped areas and gardens for customers.



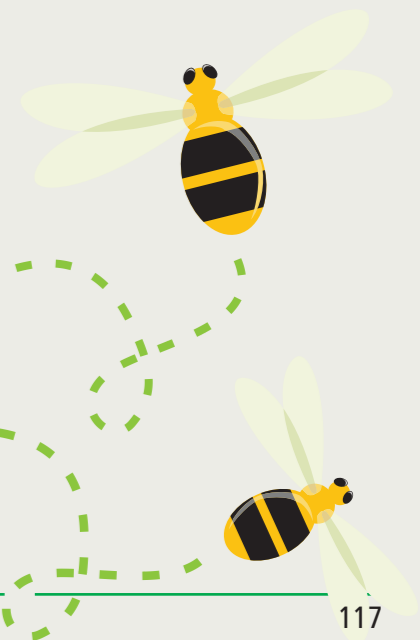
# OUR HORTICULTURE FACILITIES

**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 Richardsons 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 also use the well resourced Horticulture Development Centre to study an Integrated Crop Management approach to the production of nursery stock and protected ornamental crops.



## City & Guilds Level 3 Extended 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.

### Fact file

#### Course duration:

Two years.

#### Course location:

Greenmount Campus.

#### Course Manager:

Caroline Mathers

#### Telephone:

028 9442 6677

#### Email:

caroline.mathers@dardni.gov.uk

### Course content

Students complete units to the value of 180 credits over two years including a work placement in a sector of their choice 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, golf clubs, 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 with 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.



Ryan Killen

“

I graduated with my Level 2 Diploma in Horticulture in June 2011 and returned to Greenmount to study for the Level 3 Extended Diploma. I'm now completing my final year and feel I have built up a great range of skills and experience. I especially enjoyed my summer work placement in greenkeeping last year and the practical assignments for the landscaping units this year. A highlight for me was being invited, along with two classmates, to showcase my horticultural skills at The Skills Show in the NEC, Birmingham. It was a great opportunity to introduce thousands of young people to a career in horticulture by encouraging them to 'have a go' at some of the skills we had learned at College.”

## City & Guilds Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Horticulture (Amenity 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.

### Fact file

#### Course duration:

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

#### Course location:

Greenmount Campus.

#### Course Manager:

Caroline Mathers

#### Telephone:

028 9442 6677

#### Email:

caroline.mathers@dardni.gov.uk

### Course content

Course content

The main areas of study are:

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

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 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 City & Guilds Level 3 Certificate in Horticulture.



Patricia O'Neill

“

I've always had a keen interest in growing plants and signed up for the Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Horticulture so I could develop my skills in horticulture. In first year, I studied plant and soil science, the basis for any good horticulture programme, and gained a thorough grounding in plant selection and use. This year I've chosen to study the Advanced Nursery Stock Production and Plant Propagation units and completed a project on renewable materials. It has been great to put much of what I've learned into practice in planning my own small nursery business.”



## City & Guilds Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Horticulture (Landscape Maintenance)

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.

### Fact file

**Course duration:**  
Two years (one day per week).

**Course location:**  
Greenmount Campus.

**Course Manager:**  
Ciaran Mulholland

**Telephone:**  
028 9442 6659

**Email:**  
ciaran.mulholland@dardni.gov.uk

### Course content

The main areas of study are:

- Investigative project
- Machinery operations
- Plant and soil science (core subject)
- Pruning trees and shrubs
- Constructing hard landscape features

### Entry requirements

Normally applicants must be working in landscape maintenance for a minimum of one day a week and have a:

Level 2 Diploma in Horticulture 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 and career destinations

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



Cormac Duffin

“I have just completed my first year of the Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma. The course has been very informative and well explained by the tutors. I have been able to apply things I have learned on the course to my workplace, which has been beneficial to both me and my work colleagues. I have found the facilities at Greenmount excellent, the staff have been extremely friendly and helpful. I would recommend Greenmount to anyone wanting to further their career and knowledge and I look forward to the second year of my course.”

## City & Guilds Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Horticulture (Sports 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.

### Fact file

**Course duration:**  
Two years (one day per week).

**Course location:**  
Greenmount Campus.

**Course Manager:**  
Ciaran Mulholland

**Telephone:**  
028 9442 6659

**Email:**  
ciaran.mulholland@dardni.gov.uk

### Course content

The main areas of study are:

- 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 a week and have a:

Level 2 qualification in sports turf 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 and career destinations

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.



Steven Andrews

“I work for North Down Borough Council. I’m responsible for maintaining and developing three outdoor international bowling greens. The facilities and staff at Greenmount Campus are superb. I studied the Level 3 course to give me added knowledge of the sports turf sector and to formalise my experiences with the hope of progressing my career to supervisory level in the near future.”



## City & Guilds Level 2 Diploma in 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.

#### 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 City & Guilds Level 3 Extended Diploma in Horticulture. Students can follow career paths in landscape, sports turf, nursery and retail sectors.



Adam Kelly

“I had a part-time job with an established local nursery and started a small business of my own while I was still at school - so after I completed my GCSEs - Greenmount was a natural choice for me. I've studied the Level 2 Diploma in Horticulture and it has given me a really good foundation in a whole range of work areas. The mixture of classroom teaching and practicals works well and I get great satisfaction from being able to do the practical tasks well. My hard work has paid off and I've been included in a group of six students selected to take part in Landscaping Skills Trials in York this summer. I hope to return to Greenmount to study on the Extended Diploma in Horticulture course next year.”

## Level 2 Apprenticeship in Amenity Horticulture\*/City & Guilds Level 2 Diploma in Work-based Horticulture (Parks, Gardens and Green Spaces)

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.

### Fact file

**Course duration:**  
12-18 months  
(one day per week).

**Course location:**  
Greenmount Campus.

**Course Manager:**  
Ciaran Mulholland

**Telephone:**  
028 9442 6659

**Email:**  
ciaran.mulholland@dardni.gov.uk

### 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 and should normally have 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.

### 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.



Philip Quinn

“

I've changed my career from plumbing into environmental matters. I'm currently studying one day per week on the course while the remainder of the week I'm an environmental worker. The course is great. I'm learning lots; names of plants, how to safely operate machinery and all about planting. I hope once I have a bit more experience I'll start up my own business or work for an environmental management project.”

\* Refer to page 26 for more information.

## Level 2 Apprenticeship in Amenity Horticulture\*/ City & Guilds Level 2 Diploma in Work-based Horticulture (Sports Turf-Greenkeeper)

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.

### Fact file

**Course duration:**  
12-18 months (one day per week).

**Course location:**  
Greenmount Campus.

**Course Manager:**  
Ciaran Mulholland

**Telephone:**  
028 9442 6659

**Email:**  
ciaran.mulholland@dardni.gov.uk

### 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.

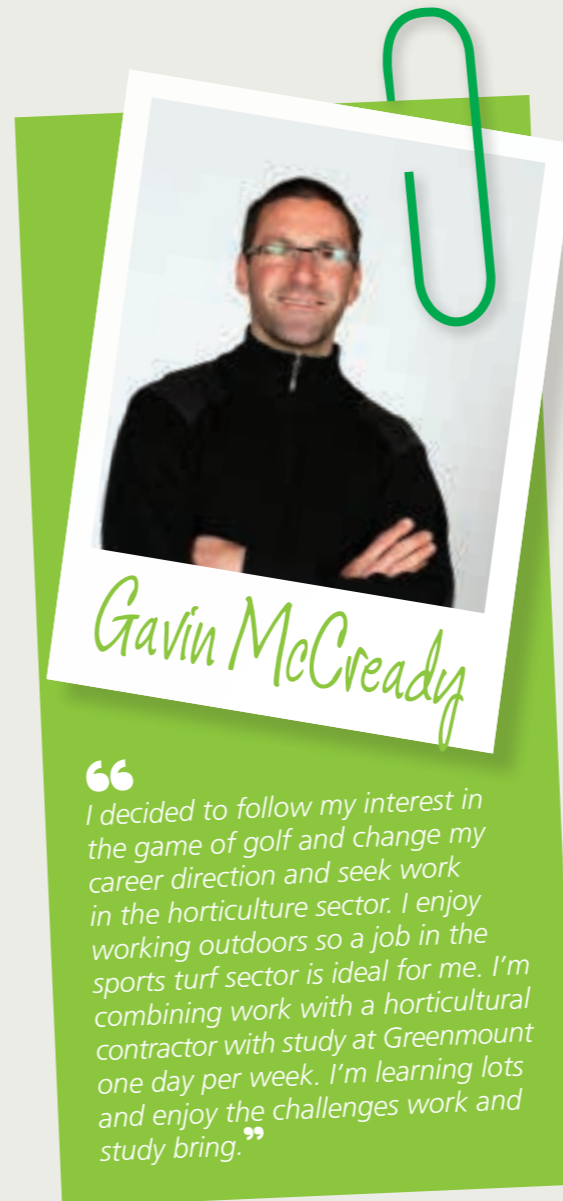
### Entry requirements

Applicants must be employed or self-employed in a relevant job within the sports turf sector for at least three days per week and should normally

have 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.

### 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.



“I decided to follow my interest in the game of golf and change my career direction and seek work in the horticulture sector. I enjoy working outdoors so a job in the sports turf sector is ideal for me. I’m combining work with a horticultural contractor with study at Greenmount one day per week. I’m learning lots and enjoy the challenges work and study bring.”

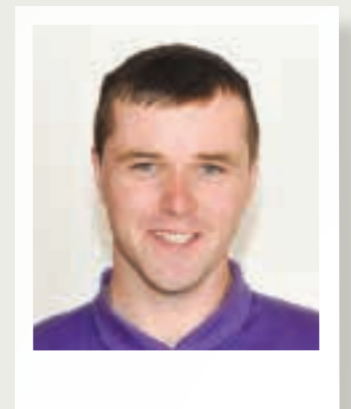
## Greenkeeping Cadetship programme.

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

The programme is aimed at people aged 18-24 who have a keen interest in developing a career in greenkeeping. The GUI supports two or three greenkeeping students per year with a generous financial bursary. Each year up to three 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 May 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 City & Guilds 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 Ben Moore



“The cadetship has given me the opportunity to secure full-time employment in the Golf Industry. I have progressed my career through further classroom based study and through hands-on working with some of the world’s most experienced superintendents at prestigious world class venues on the island of Ireland. Equally, training gained at CAFRE has also afforded me the skills set required to travel and work abroad. I am considering the possibility of following some of the previous cadets to the USA to further broaden my sports turf experience.”

\* Refer to page 26 for more information.