

Frequently Asked Questions for new CAFRE Applicants applying to study a FOOD course in September 2023

Applications for September 2023 entry for Level 3 courses open through www.cafre.ac.uk on 1st October 2022

Students who have yet to submit their application to study at CAFRE

Q1. How do I apply for CAFRE courses?

A1. For all full-time **Higher Education** courses i.e. degree programmes after A-Levels, you must apply through UCAS.

For part-time **Higher Education** courses, including Level 5 and Level 6 Apprenticeship courses you apply directly to CAFRE through our website www.cafre.ac.uk

For all CAFRE **Further Education** courses i.e. Level 3 Extended Diploma programmes after GCSEs, you must apply through the CAFRE website www.cafre.ac.uk

For **Further Education** courses, the application process is in two stages:

1. Registration – where you record all your personal details and qualifications including predicted grades, then
2. Application – where you apply for up to five courses. You should rank them in order of choice - first choice, second choice etc.

Once you have applied you should receive an email acknowledging your application. Within a couple of weeks you will be invited to participate in a course / career advisory discussion with a member of CAFRE staff. This discussion can be conducted by on campus, over the telephone or through a video call.

If you do not hear from us you should contact CAFRE on cafreenquiries@daera-ni.gov.uk or Freephone 0800 028 4291.

Applications are open until the 30th June each year however late applications may be accepted after this date.

Q2. Where do I get my Unique Learner Number (ULN)?

A2. You will have received your Unique Learner Number through your school. The Unique Learner Number (ULN) is a **10-digit reference number** which is used to access the Personal Learning Record of anyone over the age of 13 involved in UK education or training. If you do not remember it or have mislaid it please continue your application without it. Your school should be able to get it for you once they reopen. As soon as you get it please email it to us with you name, address and date of birth to enquiries@cafre.ac.uk

Q3. Are there interviews to get onto a course?

A3. For those applying to CAFRE Further Education ie: the Level 3 and Apprenticeship courses, we hold a course and career advisory discussion. The aim of this discussion is to make sure you have applied for the right course, fully understand the entry requirements, including work experience, and answer any questions you may have. The discussion can take place on campus, over the telephone or a video call. If you are under 18 years of age you should have a parent(s) or guardian with you. You should receive a letter afterwards hopefully with an offer – conditional or unconditional.

A firm offer can only be made when all your results are available in August unless you already have them.

Q4. What if I don't come to the careers advisory discussion can I still get on a course?

A4. Attendance at the careers advisory discussion is not compulsory but highly recommended. If you fully meet the academic requirements of the course including any additional prerequisites such as work experience then you may still be accepted on the course.

Q5. Do I have to come to one of the campuses for the careers advisory discussion?

A5. In the past we have always invited students to come to the relevant campus for the careers advisory discussion. However, there is no reason that the careers advisory discussion couldn't be held over the phone through a video call.

Q6. How much does it cost to study at CAFRE?

A6. Higher Education - Degrees and Foundation Degrees

The provisional tuition fees for Ulster University validated **Higher Education courses** for 2023 entry delivered by CAFRE are in the region of:

BSc Honours Full-time	£4,7100 per year
BSc Honours Part-time	pro rata of Full-time fees
Foundation Degree Full-time	£2,595 per year
Foundation Degree Part-time	pro rata of Full-time fees

Further Education – Level 3 Extended Diplomas

There are no tuition fees for **Further Education** programmes.

Apprenticeship programmes

There are no course fees for Apprenticeship programmes and as funding is provided by the Department for Economy if you are employed in the food industry.

Q7. Can I get on a course if I don't have a GCSE Grade C in English and/or Maths?

A7. Grade Cs in GCSE English Language and Maths or equivalent are essential for entry on to all of CAFRE courses. However, some Level 2 courses will consider lower grades but will insist students complete Essential Skills qualifications in the relevant subject in order to bring up their grades in the first year of their programme.

Q8. What equivalent qualifications does CAFRE accept instead of GCSEs?

A8. CAFRE accepts a range of qualifications from other awarding bodies as equivalent to GCSEs. However, remember that Grade Cs in English Language and Maths or equivalent are essential for entry on to all of CAFRE courses. Each student application is treated individually so please liaise directly with CAFRE by emailing enquiries@cafre.ac.uk

Students who have already applied for a CAFRE course

Q9. How will CAFRE make offers?

A9. CAFRE will make conditional offers to students based on their predicted grades provided by their schools. Depending on your results which are released in August, CAFRE will offer you a place on the first choice course or on your second choice or another course or decline your application if you do not meet the minimum entry requirements.

Students applying through the UCAS system for study on full-time degree courses will receive a decision on their application shortly after the UCAS 25th January closing date.

Q10. Will CAFRE accept other qualifications such as BTECs?

A10. We are fully aware that GCSE and A-Level exams are not the only qualifications offered in schools in Northern Ireland. There are many others, including BTECs that we accept.

Q11. I already have an unconditional offer. Is that still valid?

A11. Yes. If your offer is unconditional and if you firmly accept that offer, your place is confirmed at CAFRE.

Students from the Republic of Ireland (RoI)

Q12. Can I apply to CAFRE after my Junior Certificate?

A12. No Students must be studying for or have their Leaving Certificate before they can apply to CAFRE.

Q13. How do students from RoI apply to CAFRE?

A13. The application process is the same for all students no matter where they are from. For full-time Degree and Foundation Degree programmes you apply through UCAS www.ucas.com

For all other courses you apply directly online to CAFRE through the website www.cafre.ac.uk

Other Questions

Q14. When do courses begin?

A14. The first teaching week for most Further Education students is normally the second week of September each year. The first teaching week for all other courses is normally the third week in September. Please refer to the academic calendar on the website www.cafre.ac.uk

The academic calendar for 2023 has not yet been finalised.

Q15. How are courses delivered?

A15. All CAFRE courses include both classroom and practical learning opportunities. Level 3 students will have a higher percentage of practical compared to Degree students. As CAFRE's ethos is "learning by doing" we want to make sure that you can enjoy the benefits of learning in our state-of-the-art, modern facilities and make the most of your time as a CAFRE student.

Q16. Do I need to purchase anything in advance if I get an offer on a course?

Q16. Yes, some courses will require that you purchase specific Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) before you come to CAFRE. However, do not purchase anything until you have a confirmed offer of a place on the course. Once you have accepted the offer you will be informed of what PPE you need to purchase.

There may be some element of online learning activities as part of your courses, therefore you will need a computer / device with internet access. We recommend that you bring your own device, however the College operates a laptop loan scheme, subject to availability.

Suitable devices are:

- A Windows laptop running Windows 10 or later operating system
- An Apple Mac laptop running OS X 10.9 or later operating system.

Tablet computers, such as the Apple iPad, Microsoft Surface Pro and tablets which use the Android operating system may be suitable; however, please ensure that your device is capable of running the latest Microsoft 365 Apps and one of the latest versions of the following web browsers.

- Safari
- Chrome
- Firefox
- Edge

You will receive further details when your place on a CAFRE course is confirmed. Again we strongly advise you not to purchase any equipment until you get an official confirmation of a place on a CAFRE course.

Q17. When will accommodation bookings become available for 2023/24?

A17. Accommodation booking will open in early summer 2023. Rooms will be allocated in August, with priority being given to new students. Applications will be made online on the CAFRE website www.cafre.ac.uk

Q18. How much does accommodation cost?

A18. Accommodation cost varies depending on the type of accommodation and if you are on a catering package. Please visit the CAFRE website for more detailed information.

<https://www.cafre.ac.uk/student-life/accommodation/>

Q19. Can I apply for a grant to study at CAFRE?

A19. Further Education

Further Education Grants are available for students from Northern Ireland who have applied for full time and part time Level 2 and Level 3 courses.

See link below for information and the FE grant application form

www.eani.org.uk/fegrants

Higher Education

You can apply for a non-means tested Tuition Fee Loan and a means tested Maintenance Loan and Maintenance Grant for day to day living costs. Other supplementary grants such as the Disabled Students' Allowance and Dependants' Grants are also available. Please contact Student Finance NI for more information or visit their website <https://www.studentfinancenl.co.uk/>

Keep in touch through:

Email: cafreenquiries@daera-ni.gov.uk

Freephone: 0800 028 4291