

Frequently Asked Questions for BSc (Hons) Food Innovation Management degree course- September 2025 intake

Q1. How do I apply for this course?

For all full-time **Higher Education** courses i.e. degree programmes after A- Levels or Leaving Certificate you must apply through [UCAS](#).

Q2. What happens if I miss the UCAS application deadline of 29th January 2025?

Whilst we encourage all those interested in studying at CAFRE to apply before the deadline, if you miss this you can still apply through UCAS. We will consider late applications if we are not oversubscribed. All UCAS applications received after 30th June 2025 are entered into 'Clearing' and are subject to course space availability.

Q3. Can I apply to CAFRE after my Junior Certificate?

No. Students must be studying for or have their Leaving Certificate before they can apply to a degree course at CAFRE.

Q4. Where do I get my Unique Learner Number (ULN)?

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 contact your school.

Q5. Are there interviews to get onto a course?

For those applying to degree courses we hold career advisory discussions. These 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 or using video call technologies such as Teams or Zoom.

If you are under 18 years of age you should have a parent(s) or guardian with you.

Q6. What are the minimum grades required in English and Maths to get onto degree programmes?

The minimum standard of English and Maths to get on to the course is a Grade C at GCSE or equivalent.

The equivalent of this is an O4 in Irish Leaving Certificate (2017) or a C2 in Irish Leaving Certificate (pre-2017). If English and Maths are completed at Higher a minimum of a H6 is acceptable.

Q7. How much does it cost to study at CAFRE?

Details of the fees and funding support for Higher Education – Honours Degrees and Foundation Degrees courses at CAFRE can be [viewed here](#).

Q8. When do courses begin?

The first teaching week for Higher Education courses is normally the third week in September. The academic calendar is available on the college website under the [‘Student Life’ tab](#).

Q9. How are courses delivered?

All CAFRE courses include both classroom and practical learning opportunities. 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.

Q10. Do I need to purchase anything in advance if I get an offer on a course?

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 definite offer for a place on the course. Once you have accepted the offer you will be informed exactly what PPE you need to purchase.

Some elements of your course will involve online learning activities. Although desktops with internet access are available for use on campus, we recommend that you bring your own device (BYOD). Further device information is available on the [‘Student Life – Learner Policies’](#) tab on the website.

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

Q11. When will accommodation bookings become available for 2025-2026?

[Accommodation booking](#) will open in early summer 2025. Applications will be made online on the CAFRE website under the ‘Student Life’ tab.

Q12. How much does accommodation cost?

Accommodation cost varies depending on the type of accommodation and if you are on a catering package. Please visit [accommodation pages](#) for detailed information.

Q13. Is transport assistance available?

yLink is a free smartcard for all 16-23 years olds using Translink services within Northern Ireland. You get third off Translink bus travel in Northern Ireland. Apply for a free card using this link <https://www.translink.co.uk/ylink>. Students travelling on bus Eireann can receive up to 15% off fares, and the yLink card is suitable to use for this.

Q14. How far away is the bus station from the college/ how much does a taxi cost from the station?

The bus depot is approximately 2 miles away from the campus. Taxi transfers cost approximately £6. Ulsterbus operate a 'stop' at the Tullywiggan entrance which serves Cookstown and Dungannon.

Q15. Is there a 'uniform' for students? Are there any rules for what you can wear?

CAFRE branded clothing is available to order online. The items offer good value for money and can be [viewed using this link](#). There are rules regarding clothing when completing practical classes to reflect health and safety requirements.

Q16. Are you allowed piercings?

Jewellery, including those for piercings, is not allowed when you involved in practical food production activities.

Q17. Do I need to choose my pathway (Nutrition or Technology) before applying to the course?

No. You do not need to choose a pathway until the end of your first year.