

Frequently Asked Questions for BSc (Hons) Agricultural Technology Degree course – September 2025 intake

Q1. How do I apply to this degree programme?

Application for admission to full-time undergraduate and sandwich courses at Queen's University Belfast should normally be made through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). Full information can be obtained from the UCAS website at: www.ucas.com/students.

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

Applications after this date are, in practice, considered by Queen's for entry to this course throughout the remainder of the application cycle (30 June 2025) subject to the availability of places. If you apply for 2025 entry after this deadline, you will automatically be entered into Clearing.

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 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.

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. What are the entry requirements for this degree programme?

For 2025 entry, the A-Level entry requirements are as follows:

BBB including at least two relevant subjects (see list below) + GCSE Mathematics grade C/4

OR

ABB including a relevant subject (see list below) + GCSE Mathematics grade C/4

Applicants not offering A-level Biology, A-level Chemistry or a BTEC in Agriculture should have GCSE Chemistry grade C/4 or GCSE Double Award Science grades CC/44.

Relevant Subjects

Agricultural Science, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Digital Technology, Environmental Science/Technology, Geography, Geology, Home Economics, ICT, Life & Health Sciences, Mathematics, Physics, Physical Education, Psychology, Software Systems Development, Technology & Design.

Other subjects considered on an individual basis.

For more information and the most up-to-date requirements, check the [QUB website](#).

Q8. How much does it cost to study this degree?

Details of fees and funding for this course can be found on the [QUB website](#). These have yet to be updated for 2025 entry; therefore, they are subject to change.

Information on funding options and financial assistance for undergraduate students is available at www.qub.ac.uk/Study/Undergraduate/Fees-and-scholarships/.

CAFRE also offers fees and funding assistance, more information on this can be found [here](#).

Q9. 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](#).

Q10. How are courses delivered?

The Agricultural Technology degree programmes are provided jointly by the School of Biological Sciences and the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (Greenmount Campus, Antrim). This partnership arrangement capitalises on the strengths of both institutions to provide a course that is academically challenging but also focused on the application of science, business and economic principles.

Stages 1 and 2 are delivered at the CAFRE Greenmount Campus. Stage 3 is delivered at Queen’s University in Belfast.

For more information on how the course is delivered check the [QUB website](#).

Q11. 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 purchase any equipment until you get an official confirmation of a place on a CAFRE course.

Q12. When will accommodation bookings become available for 2024-2025?

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

Q13. 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.

Q14. 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.

Q15. 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 £10. Ulsterbus operate service 108c to and from the campus, term-time only, Monday-Friday.

Q16. 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 worn during practical activities to reflect health and safety requirements – no jewellery, no or no trainers etc.