College of Agriculture, Food & Rural Enterprise

# Frequently Asked Questions for Level 2 and 3 Work-Based Agricultural Business Management Course at Greenmount Campus - September 2026 intake

## Q1. How do I apply for this course?

For all CAFRE **Further Education** courses i.e. Certificate and Diploma programmes after GCSEs, you must apply through the CAFRE website www.cafre.ac.uk
Visit the page on the website you want to apply for and click on 'Apply for this course' button which will take you into an 'application basket' area.
The application process is in two stages:
*Registration* – where you record all your personal details and qualifications including predicted grades, then
*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 usually takes place face to face on campus.

If you do not hear from us, you should contact CAFRE on cafreenquiries@daera-ni.gov.uk

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)?

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 who will be able to give it to you.

## Q3. Are there interviews to get onto this course?

No, we hold application discussions for all Level 2, and 3 Further Education courses. 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 usually takes place on campus, face to face.
If you are under 18 years of age you should have a parent(s) or guardian with you. We encourage all students to have a parent(s) or guardian present at these discussions.
You will receive a letter afterwards with an update on your offer – either conditional, unconditional or a decline. Firm offers will only be made when all exam results are available.

## Q4. If I miss the application discussion meeting, can I reschedule?

If you are unable to make your application discussion meeting, it can be rescheduled through the education admin office. They will help arrange a date and time that suits you.

## Q5. What if I don't come to the application discussion can I still get on a course?

Attendance at the application discussion is not compulsory but highly recommended. As long as you fully meet the academic requirements of the course including any additional prerequisites such as relevant industry experience then you may still be accepted on the course.

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

There are no tuition fees for Further Education programmes. Applicants living in Northern Ireland can apply for a means tested grant to help towards accommodation and living costs (Further Education Funding Support | Funding Support | CAFRE).

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

Grade Cs in GCSE English Language and Mathematics or equivalent are essential for entry on to the Level 3 course. Applications for the Level 2 course may be considered with lower grades but students will be required to complete Essential Skills qualifications in the relevant subject in order to bring up their grades during their programme. Apprentices must complete Essential Skills in Application of Number, Communication, and Information and Communication Technology as part of their programme of study if GCSE English Language, Mathematics or ICT at Grade C or above have not been attained.

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

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 Level 3 courses. If you have a specific enquiry about equivalent qualifications, please contact the relevant Course Manager.

## Q9. How will CAFRE make offers?

CAFRE will make conditional offers to students based on predicted grades and the outcomes of the applicant discussion. 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.

## Q10. Will CAFRE accept other qualifications, such as BTECs?

Schools now offer a wide variety of qualifications and CAFRE will consider these courses on an individual basis subject to their relevancy to our courses.

## Q11. I have an unconditional offer. What does that mean?

If your offer is unconditional and if you firmly accept it, your place on a course is confirmed at CAFRE.

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

No. Students must be studying for or have their Leaving Certificate (Ordinary or Higher, not Foundation) before they can apply to CAFRE. Applied Leaving Certificate is not considered but applicants should contact the Programme Manager for further information on alternative qualifications. Applications to study on an Apprenticeship programme are only accepted for students living and working in Northern Ireland.

## Q13. When do courses begin?

The first teaching week for most Further Education students is normally early September. The academic calendar is available on the college website under the 'Student Life' tab.

## Q14. How are courses delivered?

All CAFRE courses include both classroom and practical learning opportunities. Level 4 students will have a higher percentage of practical compared to other courses. 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.

## Q15. 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 not to purchase any equipment until you get an official confirmation of a place on a CAFRE course.

## Q16. Can I apply for a grant to study at CAFRE?

Further Education Grants are available for students from Northern Ireland who have applied for full-time and part-time Level 2, 3 and 4 courses.
See link below for information and the FE grant application form
www.eani.org.uk/fegrants

## Q17. 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.

## Q18. 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 Greenmount Campus. Taxi transfers cost approximately £10. Ulsterbus operate service 108c to and from the campus, term-time only, Monday-Friday.
If you are completing your part-time course at an out centre, please consult the Ulsterbus timetable in your area.

## Q19. 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 on the farm to reflect health and safety requirements – no jewellery or trainers etc.

## Q20. What are the requirements for placement on the Level 2 course?

The Technical Certificate in Agriculture requires students to complete one day per week on placement for 20 weeks and this usually starts in late October. Placement can be on your home farm or any other farm. All farms must have a reasonable amount of livestock so that students can gain the necessary livestock husbandry skills required.

In addition, all farms must have public and employer liability insurance in place, agree to have a Health and Safety Inspection carried out by HSE NI and be willing to pay the student at least minimum agricultural wage, as set out by Agricultural Wages Board NI.

At the end of the placement the farmer (Work Experience Provider) will be asked to complete an employer's report which is required by City & Guilds.

## Q21. What are the requirements for placement on the Level 3 course?

The Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Agriculture requires students to complete 52 weeks placement on one farm and this usually starts at the beginning of September of Year 2. Students must complete a minimum of 40 hours per week for 52 weeks but most students are working much more than this.

Placement cannot be on your home farm or on a farm of any relative. CAFRE has an extensive list of 'approved farms' which students can apply to for their placements. In addition to the 'approved farms' CAFRE also encourages specialist farms and international travel to both New Zealand and USA. More details on these options are provided to students at registration and enrolment on the programme.

All farms must have a reasonable amount of livestock so that students can gain the necessary livestock husbandry skills required. In addition, all farms must have public and employer liability insurance in place, agree to have a Health and Safety Inspection carried out by HSE NI and be willing to pay the student at least minimum agricultural wage as set out by Agricultural Wages Board NI.

At the end of the placement the farmer (Work Experience Provider) will be asked to complete an employer's report which is required by City & Guilds