

Frequently Asked Questions for New CAFRE Applicants September 2021 intake

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 you can apply directly to CAFRE through our website www.cafre.ac.uk

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
Applications for September 2021 courses will open 1st October 2020

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 telephone or through social media, Zoom or on campus if COVID-19 guidelines allow us to do so.

If you do not hear from us you should contact CAFRE on enquiries@cafre.ac.uk or Freephone 0800 028 4291.

Applications are open until the 30th June each year, however 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 your 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 courses particularly the Level 2 and Level 3 (Certificate & Diploma) 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 over the telephone or using social media or other technologies such as Zoom or on campus if COVID-19 guidelines allow us to do so. If you are under 18 years of age you should have a parent(s) or guardian present with you. You should receive a letter afterwards hopefully with an offer – either conditional, 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 particularly for applicants to the Level 2 and 3 Certificate and Diploma courses. As long as 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 or using social media or other

methods. This is the approach we are currently taking during the current COVID-19 restrictions.

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

A6. Higher Education - Degrees and Foundation Degrees

Tuition fees for Ulster University validated **Higher Education courses** are £1,735 per year for 2021/2022.

The BSc (Honours) in Agricultural Technology is awarded by Queen's University Belfast and their tuition fees are £4,395 per year.

There are currently no fees for Higher Education students studying part-time.

Further Education – Level 2 and Level 3 Certificates and Diplomas

There are no tuition fees for **Further Education** programmes. However some courses such as Level 2 Certificate for Animal Nursing Assistants and Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing do incur other expenses such as professional registration, tuition and exam fees – please see the specific course pages on the website for further information.

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 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 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 anticipated 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.

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 have an unconditional offer, do I need to do anything?

A11. Yes. If your offer is unconditional and you have accepted it, your place is confirmed at CAFRE and you don't need to do anything else.

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 2021 has not yet been finalised.

Q15. How are courses delivered?

A15. All CAFRE courses include both classroom and practical learning opportunities. Level 2 and 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 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.

There may be some element of remote and online learning activities as part of your courses, therefore you will need a computer / device with internet access and we recommend that you bring your own device.

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 2021/22?

A17. Accommodation booking will open in early summer 2021. 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 1, 2 & 3 courses.

See link below for information and the FE grant application form

<https://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 Dependents'

Grants are also available. Please contact Student Finance NI for more information or visit their website <https://www.studentfinanceneni.co.uk/>

Q20. Can I bring my horse if I am studying an equine course at Enniskillen Campus?

A20. Due to Covid-19 restrictions the livery facility for horses owned by students is not currently available. Please discuss the option with the Course Manager at time of application.

Keep in touch through:

Email: enquiries@cafre.ac.uk

Freephone: 0800 028 4291

DiscoverCAFRE

