

Frequently Asked Questions for Horticulture Degree courses at Greenmount Campus - September 2026 intake

Q1. How do I apply for CAFRE courses?

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

For the part-time degree courses, you apply directly to CAFRE through the 'apply for this course' on the website.

Q2. What happens if I miss the UCAS application deadline of 6:00pm 14th January 2026?

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 2026 are entered into 'Clearing' and are subject to course space availability.

Q3. Can I apply to a degree course at 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.

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 of this degree programme?

48 UCAS tariff points at A2 Level, plus four GCSEs or equivalent, including English Language and Mathematics at Grade C or above.

UCAS tariff points can be calculated using the tool on the [UCAS website](#).

Q8. 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](#).

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?

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.

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. The course team will go through the equipment list during course registration and induction week.

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 that 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 2026-2027?

[Accommodation booking](#) will open in early summer 2026. 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 trainers etc.

Q17. I am interested in a practical course. Is the FdSc in Horticulture for me?

The FdSc in Horticulture is a higher-level education qualification in Horticulture, aiming to educate students for managerial and technical positions upon graduation. Therefore, this is an academic course and covers the principles and theory within the horticulture sector. There are some practical elements of the course, but fewer than CAFRE courses at Level 2 and Level 3. The college offers practical summer jobs to a number of students each year.