

Frequently Asked Questions for Equine Apprenticeship courses at Enniskillen Campus - September 2025 intake

Q. How do I apply for a Level 2 or Level 3 Apprenticeship 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 can be conducted by telephone, Microsoft Teams, Zoom or 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 of 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 a course?

We hold career advisory discussions for all Level 2 and Level 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 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.

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. 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.

Q5. How much does it cost to study at CAFRE?

There are no tuition fees for Level 2 and Level 3 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](#)).

Q6. 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 will consider 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.

Q7. 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.

Q8. How will CAFRE make offers?

CAFRE will make conditional offers to students based on their predicted grades provided by their schools. Depending on your results, CAFRE will offer you a place on your first-choice course or another course, or decline your application if you do not meet the minimum entry requirements.

Q9. 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.

Q10. 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.

Q11. 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.

Q12. How do students from ROI apply to CAFRE?

The application process is the same for all students no matter where they are from. For Further Education courses, you apply directly online to CAFRE through the website www.cafre.ac.uk.

Q13. When do courses begin?

The first teaching week for Apprenticeship students is usually the last week of September each year. Other FE courses start first week in September. The academic calendar is available on the college website under the '[Student Life](#)' tab.

Q14. How are courses delivered?

Equine Apprenticeships are delivered in blocks at CAFRE Enniskillen Campus, online classes and in the workplace. 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.

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. 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](#). It is recommended that students have one piece of this for visits and trips. There are rules regarding clothing on the yards to reflect health and safety requirements – no jewellery, no hoodies, no trainers etc.

Q17. Are you allowed piercings?

No jewellery, including those for piercings, are allowed when you involved in practical yard duties or riding. Jewellery may be worn in the classroom.

Q18. Do you have to wear a hairnet or body protector when riding?

Yes, a hairnet is a good way to keep your hair tidy when riding and should be worn under an appropriate riding hat. Hair must be tied up when on the yard. Back protectors must be worn when riding over fences or raised poles.

Q19. What level of riding is required for the riding modules?

All those wishing to ride, must take and be successful in the campus riding assessment. Please note the weight limit for riding is 89kg (14 stone), including tack and equipment. The following qualifications are used as a guide, you are not required to hold either of these qualifications.

For Level 2 riding, you should be at British Horse Society (BHS) Stage 1 standard (<https://youtu.be/W-u22oXh2Q>).

For Level 3 riding, you should be at BHS Stage 2 standard (<https://youtu.be/MlyfS47BwB8>).

All courses include a non-riding option.

Q20. What equipment for riding is required?

The equipment list for riding is available [here](#). This equipment is compulsory for all riding classes. Again, we strongly advise you do not purchase any equipment until you get an official confirmation of a place on a CAFRE course.