

Discover CAFRE

Further Education
Course Prospectus 2023



DAERA
Department of Agriculture,
Environment and Rural Affairs
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

www.cafre.ac.uk

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Reach your potential in your chosen career

The courses within this prospectus are suited to those leaving school, after Year 12, with GCSE qualifications or for people already working within the agri-food and land based sectors who want to attain a formal qualification.

Studying a course that will lead you to job success is what every student wants. Our courses will develop your skills and knowledge in the agri-food and land based industries to help you reach your potential in your chosen career.

Welcome

95%

of our students gain employment or progress on to further education within six months.



Why choose CAFRE?

CAFRE has excellent links with businesses and organisations, many of which employ our graduates.



Great job prospects

Students of all ages study at CAFRE because they're interested in getting a good job at the end of their course. Our results speak for themselves - on average 95% of our students are in employment or progress on to further education within six months of completing their course.

Practice makes perfect

If you're a hands-on type of person who doesn't want to be stuck behind a desk all day, then CAFRE courses and the careers they lead to, are perfect for you. Relevant practical experience in modern specialist facilities is a part of all our courses.

Industry links

CAFRE has excellent links with businesses and organisations, many of which employ our graduates. They show their support by providing work placements, guest lecturers and real-life course projects.

Specialist facilities

You'll go far to find better facilities to study for courses in agriculture, land-based engineering, horticulture, floristry, food, veterinary nursing or equine studies than those at CAFRE. With ongoing investment, we keep our facilities up-to-date to benefit not just our full-time students but also people from industry, who continue their professional development through our short courses.

Financial support

The full-time Further Education courses in this prospectus are funded by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and most students are eligible for that funding. Our accommodation and living costs are competitively priced. If you are a Northern Ireland resident, you can apply for a means-tested living expenses grant.

Small and special

You are treated as an individual at CAFRE. Staff are friendly and approachable and make sure that you are supported both personally and academically to achieve your potential.

Opportunities to progress on to higher level courses

On completion of a Level 2 course you may be able to progress on to a Level 3 course. Gaining a Level 3 qualification offers the opportunity to apply to study on Foundation and Honours Degree courses.

Investing in your future

One of the great things about CAFRE is that each of our three campuses delivers a specific range of courses and has the specialist facilities to match. We've invested in our buildings, equipment and resources so you can get the most out of your time with us. Get ahead of the competition with the practical skills you learn on our courses.



Food fantastic

We're very proud of our Food Technology Centre at Loughry Campus, the largest facility of its kind in the island of Ireland. It's designed to show best practice in food manufacturing across all the main food product sectors, such as fruit and vegetables, meat, dairy and bakery. Our Food Innovation Centre incorporates product development, commercial kitchens and sensory assessment facilities together with modern teaching rooms - everything you'll need on your food course. Food packaging supports a multi-million pound industry, which you might want to work in. We've a Packaging Centre at Loughry Campus which is used by industry personnel and by our students too.

All things equine

At Enniskillen Campus you'll find indoor and outdoor arenas for all aspects of equitation. In the racing yard we give students invaluable

experience in handling and riding racehorses. Students make use of the gallops, which include a uphill section and the schooling track, where they experience the thrill of riding a racehorse over fences at speed. While working in the breeding unit students handle and manage the thoroughbred and sport horse brood mares and their young stock. They participate in the foaling rota, which can be either a quiet night or a very full-on experience. Students have the opportunity to prepare and take the weanlings to the sales. The equitation unit has a range of horses to meet the students' needs. The equitation club attends cross country schooling events and Balmoral. Students organise in-house competitions and demonstrations.

Green boots

Greenmount Campus is the centre of all things green - that's agricultural and horticultural. The 353 hectares around the campus

are used for arable, dairying and lowland beef and sheep farming. Our Dairy Centre accommodates 180 cows and has all the latest technologies including comfort housing and cow handling, waste management and parlour recording systems. Another 978 hectares of hill land carrying 1,100 ewes and 110 suckler cows, is managed in an environmentally sustainable manner to promote wildlife and protect habitats. Both farms are used by CAFRE technologists and advisers to demonstrate and promote the latest advances in agriculture and land use.

We also have a constructed wetlands system, which acts in a similar manner to the bio-filtration action of natural wetlands. There we channel waste water from the farm through a series of five ponds and at the end it is of good enough quality to release into a stream. Students use this site in their environmental science work.



Each campus delivers a specific range of courses with specialist facilities to match.



Green fingers

Greenmount Campus itself is set in 18 hectares of landscaped grounds, originally laid out in the 19th century. The walled garden, built in 1801, is a major horticultural attraction with its knot garden, maze and fruit garden. Sportsturf enthusiasts will appreciate the six hectares devoted to playing fields and to the Greenkeeping and Golf Academy, with its driving range and course. Staff at the Horticulture Centre work with students and industry personnel in the modern production facilities for ornamental and edible crops. These include environmentally controlled glass houses with ebb and flow floors, automatic venting, water recycling and solar panels.

Machinery and Building Centre

Our Machinery and Buildings Centre allows agriculture, land-based engineering and horticulture students to carry out all their machinery and building activity in one specialist facility. It contains three fully equipped workshops for machinery maintenance, a series of welding/construction booths and a buildings demonstration facility for estate skills, as well as teaching rooms and IT facilities.

Access all (I.T.) areas

Due to the increasing use of online learning activities and the requirement to sometimes teach remotely we recommend students have their own computer with internet access. A large number of desktop computers are available for student use within the college buildings. Whilst enrolled as a CAFRE student you will be given a Microsoft Office 365 account to access Office 365 programs. Details of recommended computer specifications is available on the website www.cafre.ac.uk.

Once you're enrolled at the college you're given your log in details to the student intranet - CAFRE Online. It is the place to go for accessing lecture notes, submitting assignments, completing assessments and communicating with your lecturers. There's also an online storage system for all your downloads. Although we have top of the range IT facilities, you still need books so we have libraries with all the necessary specialist journals, technical reports and newspapers to help with projects and assignments too.

High-tech stuff

Many of our courses teach you the science you'll need in your career, so we have up-to-date laboratories where you can carry out biological, chemical and physical analyses on crop, livestock and food products. If you're looking for spectrophotometers and texture analysers or electrophoretic equipment, you'll know where to find them.



Hands on experience

CAFRE courses are designed to prepare you for a job in real life – so no more sitting in a classroom all day. We combine classes with practical sessions to allow you to apply what you've learned to real situations. Assignments and case studies will teach you how to solve problems that occur in everyday work.

Getting your hands dirty

Our extensive practical facilities are widely used by all students, who really put 'learning-by-doing' into practice, and along the way gain the skills that put them ahead in the job market.

Equine students get involved in the business units at Enniskillen Campus; breeding, equitation and racing, making decisions with support and advice from industry representatives. You can't get better hands-on experience than spending months preparing foals for the sales and then taking them right through to the sales ring.

Students at Loughry Campus are involved in the production of food products in the Food Technology Centre. Ever wanted to design and produce a new food product that actually makes it to the supermarket shelves? Well, food students do just that, through a New Product Development (NPD) competition sponsored by a leading food company. There's also the chance to have your say on food products in the sensory perception facilities.

Horticulture students produce and retail garden centre plants, such as poinsettias at Christmas and work on landscaping projects.

Agriculture students are involved in the day-to-day activities on the dairy, beef, sheep and arable farm enterprises.

Land-based Engineering students undertake maintenance and repair of a range of farm machinery.

Veterinary nursing teaching takes place in a specialist area, fitted with all the equipment necessary to learn the practical skills needed in the workplace.



Case studies will teach you how to solve problems that occur in everyday work.



Industry contacts

The connections you make on your course can help you get a great job after (or sometimes before) graduating. In the search for a job, CAFRE students benefit from our excellent links with businesses and organisations in all the land-based and food industries.

We involve people from the world of work in everything that we do, from the industry experts who sit on our College Advisory Group to the specialists who advise students on the management of enterprises or projects. This means that our course content is current and relevant to industry because we seek their feedback and take their opinions on board.

Work placements

There's no better way to boost your CV than through an impressive work placement. Some of our students make such a good impression on placement that they get offered a job before finishing their course.

On work placement you'll find out what it's really like to work in your chosen industry. It will help you develop your interpersonal and communication skills and improve your organisational abilities.

Many businesses contact our Work Placement Coordinators offering work placements for students.



Helping you towards your future career.

Look to the future

We'll help you prepare for your future after graduation in a number of ways. You'll get training on how to write an eye-catching CV, assistance in interview preparation and practice at mock interviews. Some of this training starts in the first year of your course to help you obtain a work placement.

In the final year of your course you'll get a chance to meet potential employers at a careers fair. Students can talk to employers and pick up employability and interview tips from industry speakers. It's a great opportunity to find out what employers are looking for and what will help you stand out from the crowd.

Companies are aware of the high calibre of CAFRE graduates and keep us informed when they are advertising vacancies.

We have a jobs section on our website, www.cafre.ac.uk, which lists the jobs available in our specialist subject areas right across Northern Ireland and further afield. It provides a useful resource, for both past and present students, as you can access the site even after graduation.



Having fun

Our three campuses are set on the outskirts of the towns of Antrim, Cookstown and Enniskillen. The spacious campus rural estates offer the perfect settings for students to explore.

From Induction Week onwards you'll make new friends and quickly start to socialise both on and off campus. All of our campuses are near local towns and you'll soon hear of trips organised for fun further afield.

The Students' Council

Class representatives are elected to the Students' Representative Council (SRC) at each campus. Each SRC organises a lively programme of social events throughout the year and supports local charities through fundraising events. The highlight of the year is the Student Formal, held by each campus, when students dress up and let their hair down at the same time.

The clubs for sports and other activities vary from campus to campus, depending on the interests of the students.

Students at Enniskillen Campus make use of the equine facilities which includes three yards – equitation, racing and breeding. There are a number of clubs and members attend a range of competitions, races and sales. Livery is available for a limited number of student horses. Students with their own horses can access the horse walker, hacking track, indoor and outdoor arenas after hours.

Both Greenmount and Loughry Campuses have sports pitches. Greenmount also features a four hole golf course and practice range as part of the Greenkeeping and Golf Academy. Loughry students have access to a recreation centre on site incorporating a gym and sports hall in addition to the facilities available at the Mid Ulster Sports Arena, located on the edge of the campus.



Accommodation

Not all students live on campus, but those who do enjoy modern, competitively-priced accommodation with an attractive range of amenities, laundry and recreational facilities. Priority for on-site accommodation is given to students under 18 years of age, students with special needs and first year students.

Accommodation costs

It would be difficult to find better value student accommodation at any other college in the UK. The cost varies depending on the type of accommodation allocated but will fall within the region of £1,410-£1,900. Remember these charges include heating and electricity.

Meals

Our modern dining rooms and snack bars offer food and drinks throughout the day. To help you budget there is an electronic prepaid card facility to pay for the food that you buy on campus.

A catering package must be taken for those living in under 18 accommodation which costs in the region of £630-£960 per year, depending on campus.

Home from home

At Greenmount Campus, 125 students aged under 18 are accommodated in Halls of Residence and 70 rooms are available for students aged over 18 in the self-catering village blocks and small bungalows. Greenmount students can use the sports hall, multi-gym and sports and recreational facilities on campus.

Loughry Campus accommodates 95 students in single study bedrooms. Students have access to the Mid Ulster Sports Arena and the recreation centre on campus offering a range of activities.

Enniskillen Campus has accommodation for 70 students in single study bedrooms and student bungalows. Students can use the multi-gym as well as the recreation room which includes pool tables, air hockey and table tennis. In addition, they are encouraged to help develop their fitness by using the dressage and racing simulators on site.

Student Services Managers

Staff at each campus are always on-hand to offer advice and assistance should you need it.

You'll meet the Student Services Managers at our Open Days and they will provide support as you make the move away from home. For more information on our accommodation visit www.cafre.ac.uk


195

Greenmount
single study
bedrooms.


95

Loughry
single study
bedrooms.


70

Enniskillen
single study
bedrooms.

Money matters

There are no fees for CAFRE full-time Further Education courses. For information on costs associated with individual courses please refer to our website.

DAERA funding

CAFRE is part of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and most students enrolled on Further Education courses at CAFRE are eligible for funding by DAERA. However if you have previously undertaken a publicly funded Further Education course in the United Kingdom you will not normally be eligible for funding for a CAFRE course at the same or lower level.

What financial support is available?

If you are a Northern Ireland resident you can apply for a means tested living expenses grant. The amount of grant depends on whether you live at your parental home or away from home.

DAERA's financial support is administered by the Further Education Awards Section of the Education Authority. A DAERA booklet called "Further Education Financial Support for Students" explains the details of this financial support and you can obtain a copy from CAFRE's Admissions Office or the Education Authority.

You can also download this information from www.daera-ni.gov.uk or www.eani.org.uk/feapplication

Additional support

There are other grants and allowances available to help you with the cost of undertaking your course if you have a disability or dependants. Information on all these grants and allowances, and how and when to apply, can be found in the DAERA booklet.

For more information on financial support for full-time Further Education courses at CAFRE please contact:

Education Authority

Further Education Awards Section
1 Hospital Road
Omagh
BT79 OAW

Tel: (028) 8225 4546

Email: feawards-wr@eani.org.uk



How to apply for a course at CAFRE

Applying to CAFRE

So you've decided that a CAFRE course is right for you. What next?

You apply to CAFRE online for any of the courses listed in this prospectus
www.cafre.ac.uk

Applications for a course will only be accepted from 1st October of the year preceding the year in which you expect to enrol.

Students must be at least 16 years of age on or before 1st July in the year they propose to enrol on the course.

You can apply for more than one course, but you must indicate your course preferences by ranking their order on your application. We will acknowledge receipt of your application form within seven days.

What happens next?

You will be invited to attend a short careers interview at the campus of your choice. If you are successful in your application you will be made an offer of a place on a course, but this may be conditional on achieving minimum examination results and/or undertaking work experience.

A letter will be sent to you within five working days of the interview.

As soon as you receive your examination results you should contact the College to check if your conditional offer can be confirmed. Before we can confirm your place on a course, you must provide us with a copy of your examination results/certificates. You can contact us for information or advice at any time during the application process. When your offer is confirmed and you inform us that you are accepting a place at CAFRE, we will send you details of accommodation, timetables and any protective clothing or equipment that you may require.

If courses are oversubscribed, minimum entry criteria may be enhanced and date of application may be considered.



**Apply online for a course
that suits you...**

www.cafre.ac.uk

Applications received after
30th June 2023 will only be
considered if there are places
left on the course.



Entry requirements

When we receive your examination results we convert the grade attained into points to enable the College to rank order the applications received based on scores.

Qualification	Grade	CAFRE points
GCSE	A*	6
	A	5
	B	4
	C*/C	3
	D	2
BTEC Level 2 Diploma / First Diploma	Distinction	20
	Merit	16
	Pass	12
Essential Skills / Key Skills	Level 2	3
	Level 1	2

Where an applicant has completed a Level 2 qualification or equivalent after completing GCSEs, CAFRE will normally base any offers on the qualification, which attracts the higher points.

Students enrolled on a CAFRE course, who do not have a GCSE in English Language and Mathematics at Grade C or above, or equivalent, will have to complete Essential Skills qualifications.

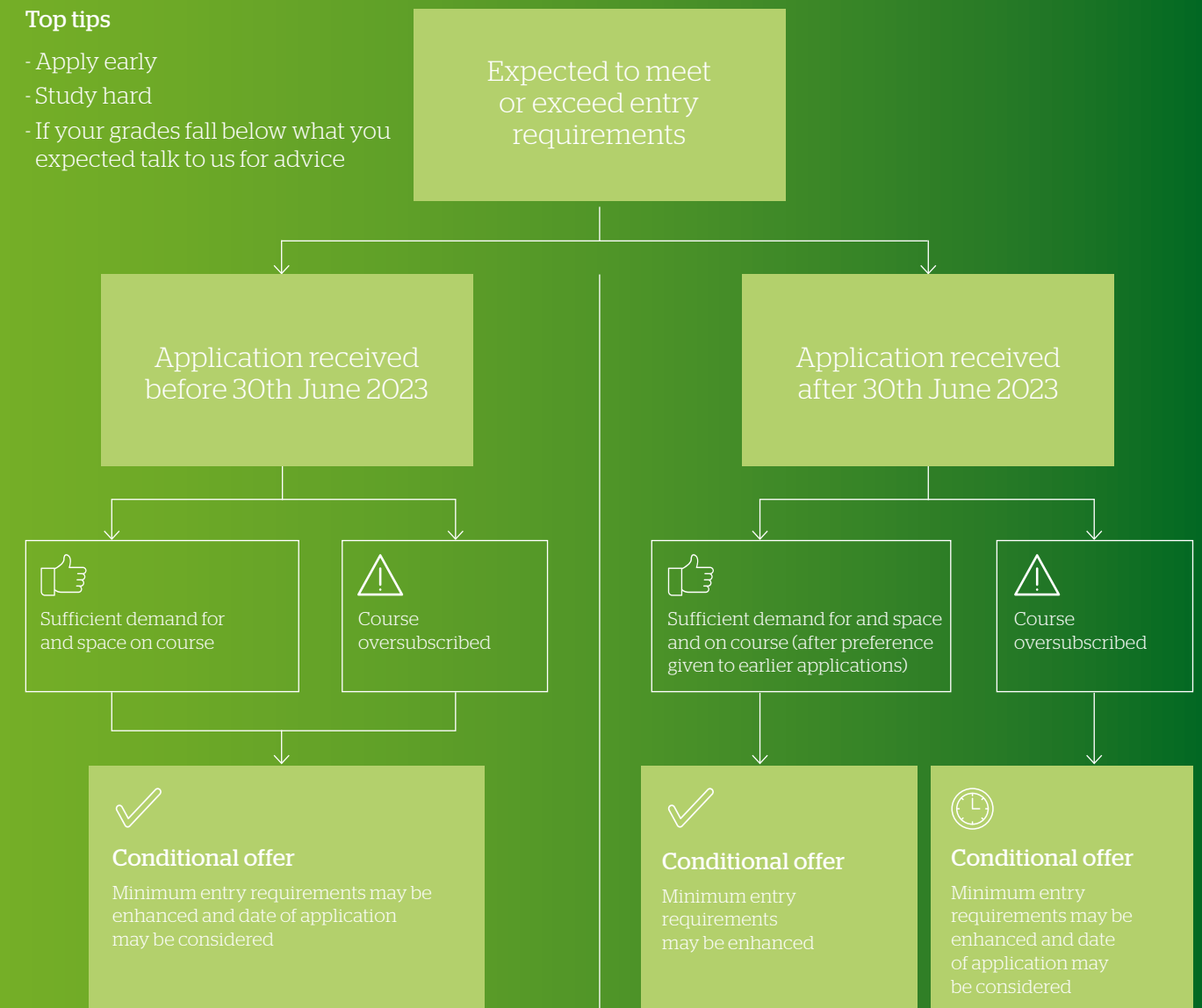
Applicants who have previously completed a qualification will only be offered a place on a programme at the same level after all other applicants have been considered. Further clarification on what constitutes progression is available by emailing: enquiries@cafre.ac.uk

Where a course requires a Science subject as an entry requirement and Single or Double Award Science has not been studied, please email: enquiries@cafre.ac.uk for clarification on other relevant Science subjects.

Application process

Top tips

- Apply early
- Study hard
- If your grades fall below what you expected talk to us for advice



On Results Day

Email results you have received from any Awarding Body other than CCEA, along with your name, address and date of birth, to the campus where your course will be delivered.

Once we have received all your results CAFRE will contact you regarding the status of your offer.

If your results obtained are below entry requirements, don't panic! Contact CAFRE Admissions to discuss your options on **0800 028 4291**

Here to help

You'll find that starting college, making new friends and studying a subject of your choice is exciting, but it can also be a bit challenging. No one will admit it of course, but the other students on your course will be feeling just as nervous as you. Part of college life is about learning to look after yourself, making decisions and managing your time and money.

Our Student Support Officer provides advice and guidance on personal, academic and financial matters. In the first few days of your course you'll take part in an induction programme during which you'll find out about our full range of support services.

Residential support team

Staff are available 24 hours a day at each campus to assist students living in accommodation.

Medical services

Residential students who wish to transfer to a local doctor, or who are living outside the practice area of their family doctor (generally 15km), may register with a local doctor of their choice. If you are unwell, the Residential Support Team will make arrangements for you to attend a doctor, or if necessary, take you to hospital.

Support for students with disabilities

If you have a disability or specific learning difficulty please let us know as early as possible so we can meet your individual requirements and provide timely support. Contact our Student Support Officer for further information.

Safeguarding at CAFRE

Our team of Safeguarding Officers help keep students safe whilst studying at CAFRE. They will respond to concerns about alleged or suspected harm and have plans in place to help and protect those who cannot protect themselves.

Counselling service

As a CAFRE student you will have access to a free 24/7 independent and confidential service either by telephone or by face-to-face counselling on or off campus. The service is discreet and professional and its staff have experience in dealing with all types of issues. We hope you will not need this service but it is reassuring to know that it is there.

CAFRE student support services comply with our policies on; Anti-bullying, Drugs and Alcohol, Pastoral Care, Health Promotion, Equality and Diversity, Sexual Orientation discrimination and Health and Safety. Full details of these policies and our Student Charter are available at www.cafre.ac.uk

Agriculture courses

Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Agriculture

Level 2 Technical Certificate in Agriculture

Level 3 Diploma in Work-based Agriculture

Level 2 Diploma in Work-based Agriculture

Multi-Skilling Programme



Industry insights

The agriculture sector is one of the largest employers in Northern Ireland and produced a gross output of £2.15 billion in 2019.

With the current challenges and opportunities facing the agricultural industry it is essential that those considering a career in this sector are capable of adapting to change and availing of market opportunities.

Further Education Agriculture courses at Greenmount Campus are highly practical and business focused and aim to develop students' skills to enable them to work either on the home farm or to pursue a career in the agriculture sector.



Employers want staff who are capable of adapting to change and availing of market opportunities.

Career profile

"I completed the Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Agriculture course at Greenmount Campus in 2022. The course allowed me to develop my understanding of agriculture during lectures and gain practical skills whilst working on the CAFRE farms.



We also got to cover environmental issues, identifying the impact of farming, which I found very interesting. As part of the course, we attended study tours and farm walks, where I was able to pick up new ideas for our home farm. I thoroughly enjoyed being outdoors and the social aspects offered through the course.

The Level 3 course is delivered over three years, with the second year spent on work placement. I completed my placement on a dairy and sheep farm in Limavady where I gained valuable experience in the management of each enterprise. I found it very beneficial and was encouraged by how quickly confidence and trust was placed in me to get along with the jobs I was assigned. It was great to broaden my outlook and see how a similar sized farm to our own was managed.

On returning home to the family farm, I am full of enthusiasm and ideas. Our farm is predominately dairy along with beef finishing cattle and we finish 1,000 head of store lambs annually. We have increased the size of our herd from 270 to 300 cows and

renovated a calf shed to improve both efficiency and health of the calves.

This new venture was a big step for me, and I really enjoyed planning and overseeing the implementation of some of my learning. Through my course I have developed a network of contacts within the agriculture industry and no doubt these will be very valuable to me in the future. One of the key things I have learnt is that successful farmers are always adaptable to change.

Studying at Greenmount Campus certainly provided me with a range of knowledge and experience that has helped shape my understanding of the agricultural industry. I feel I have developed the confidence to take on new challenges and to push on the success of our own farm."

Agriculture career prospects

Students enter the industry at different levels depending on their qualifications and experience. Graduates from our further education courses have the option of continuing their study for a higher level qualification or may seek employment after graduation.

For more information on career choices visit the Alumni section of the website:
www.cafre.ac.uk

Farmers/Practical agriculture

Some graduates return to farming either as farmers or assistants on large farms. Successful farmers need to be technically and practically competent and be able to make good business decisions in a changing environment.

Unit manager - pigs, dairy, beef or sheep

Unit managers will focus on one livestock enterprise within a farm business, managing the daily running of that unit. Work will vary depending on the livestock involved but will generally involve breeding, feeding and animal health. Unit managers may need to work closely with other section heads.

Agriculture machinery operator

There is a wide variety of work involving machinery operations, including cultivation and planting, spraying, sowing, fertilising, harvesting crops and silage, digger work and spreading slurry. Basic maintenance of machinery will also be expected.

Assistant farm manager

Carry out the day-to-day running of a farm working closely with the farm manager. Work may involve grassland management, crop and livestock husbandry depending on the farm.

Livestock technician

There are many variations of a livestock technician, but most offer specialist services to dairy, beef and sheep farms including cattle foot trimming, artificial insemination of cows and ewes, and pregnancy diagnosis through scanning.



Employers are continually seeking graduates with a sound grasp of new developments.

Our agriculture facilities

Greenmount Farms

The globally recognised LEAF Marque (Linking Environment And Farming) assurance standard promotes sustainable and profitable production from environmentally responsible and sustainable farm businesses. The College farm is LEAF Marque accredited. The three centres ensure integrated decision making and high environmental standards are used to produce premium quality food.

The three farm centres, known as the Hill Farm Centre (978 hectares), the Dairy Centre (238 hectares) and the Beef and Sheep Centre (115 hectares), provide excellent practical learning resources for students.

The Lowland Beef and Sheep Centre also provides areas for producing LEAF certified cereal and potato crops.





Fact file

How to apply

Course duration:

Three years full-time including one year work placement in Year 2

Course location:

Greenmount Campus

Course Manager:

Joe Mulholland

Telephone:

028 9442 6923

Email:

Joe.Mulholland@daera-ni.gov.uk

Level 3 in Agriculture

This City & Guilds Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Agriculture (1080 award) is a three-year course, equivalent to three A-Levels.

The course is designed to provide the knowledge and skills for a career in the land-based sector.

The course combines practical skills development on the college farms, classroom theory and one year of industry work experience.

Course content

The main areas of study are:

- Animal health and nutrition
- Animal, plant and soil science
- Beef, sheep and dairy production
- Business management
- Crop production
- Estate skills
- Farm habitat management
- Health and safety
- Livestock husbandry
- Machinery operations
- Pollution and waste control management
- Work placement

Year 2 comprises of a 52 week work placement where students develop skills in commercial decision making, enterprise management and problem solving.

Entry requirements

Normally four GCSE passes at Grade C, or equivalent, including English Language, Mathematics and a Science subject or equivalent qualifications are required. Applicants must also demonstrate that they have relevant industry experience, which can be acquired prior to leaving school.

or

Level 2 qualification in Agriculture normally at Distinction level, or an equivalent qualification and normally Grade C in English Language and Mathematics or equivalent.

or

Applicants who can demonstrate significant relevant industry experience will also be considered. These applicants may be required to submit work-based evidence and undertake written assessments and/or practical competence tests as part of the assessment.

Entry requirements will be enhanced if the course is oversubscribed.

Course progression

This course may provide students with an opportunity to progress on to relevant Foundation and Honours Degree programmes.

Career opportunities

There is a wide range of employment opportunities including supervisory posts in the feed, agrochemical and fertiliser sectors as well as herd and farm management roles.





Fact file

How to apply

Course duration:

One year full-time

Course location:

Greenmount Campus

Course Manager:

Joe Mulholland

Telephone:

028 9442 6923

Email:

Joe.Mulholland@daera-ni.gov.uk

Level 2 in Agriculture*

This one year full-time City and Guilds Technical Certificate in Agriculture course covers a wide range of farm enterprises. It is ideal for those who want to start a career within the agriculture sector. Students will learn practical crop and livestock skills both on the college farms and in the classroom. Students will also complete work experience as part of their course.

*This course will be offered subject to sufficient numbers

Course content

The emphasis is on the application of skills and knowledge and over half of the course is practical.

The main areas of study are:

- Crop husbandry
- Estate maintenance
- Farm animal production
- Health and safety
- Machinery operations
- Working in the agriculture industry

Students who have not attained a Grade C or above in English Language and Mathematics at GCSE or equivalent qualifications, have to complete Essential Skills in Communication and Application of Number.

Entry requirements

Applicants must normally have obtained at least two GCSE Grade Cs or three Grade Ds, including English Language and Mathematics (or equivalent Essential Skills qualifications in Communication and Application of Number).

Applicants should also normally have completed 40 hours of relevant work experience before starting the course.

Where courses are oversubscribed, entry criteria may be enhanced in line with the College's Admissions Policy.

Course progression

This course may provide students with an opportunity to progress on to Level 3 Agriculture courses.

Career opportunities

After completing this course the majority of students work in practical agriculture.





Fact file

How to apply

Course duration:

Two years

Course location:

Based in the workplace with 'off-the-job' training and assessment at Greenmount Campus and Enniskillen Campus

Course Manager:

Philip Holdsworth

Telephone:

028 9442 6642

Email:

Philip.Holdsworth@daera-ni.gov.uk

Level 3 Diploma in Work-based Agriculture

This City & Guilds Diploma provides education and training to Level 3 and gives applicants the flexibility to combine work and education. The course reinforces production and management skills in a chosen livestock enterprise.

This course can also be studied through the Apprenticeship work-based training programme, if you are between 16 and 24 years old. Please refer to our website for further information.

Course content

Students study either Beef and Sheep production OR Milk production and cover nutrition, grassland management, housing, animal health, selecting stock, business management and the environment

Entry requirements

Applicants must have completed a Level 2 Diploma in Work-based Agriculture and normally a Grade C in English Language and Mathematics or equivalent.

or

Level 2 Apprenticeship, Diploma or Technical Certificate in Agriculture or equivalent qualification and normally a Grade C in English Language and Mathematics or equivalent.

Applicants must be working within the agriculture sector for at least 21 hours per week for the duration of the course.

Applicants who can demonstrate significant relevant industry experience will also be considered. These applicants may be required to submit work-based evidence and undertake written assessments and/or practical competence tests as part of the assessment.

Those eligible for the Apprenticeship Scheme will be required to undertake the programme as an Apprentice.

Course progression

This course may provide students with an opportunity to progress on to the Level 4 Diploma in Work-based Agricultural Business Management.

Career opportunities

On completion of the course, students will have the necessary skills to work in a variety of businesses connected with farming and practical agriculture.





Fact file

How to apply

Course duration:

Two years

Course location:

Based in the workplace with 'off-the-job' training and assessment at Greenmount Campus, Enniskillen Campus and outcentres

Course Manager:

Philip Holdsworth

Telephone:

028 9442 6642

Email:

Philip.Holdsworth@daera-ni.gov.uk

Level 2 Diploma in Work-based Agriculture

This City & Guilds Level 2 Diploma places an emphasis on practical skills development. Students attend class one day per week with the other four days being spent on the farm.

This course can also be studied through the Apprenticeship work-based training programme, if you are between 16 and 24 years old. Please refer to our website for further information.

Course content

Basic skills include:

- Animal health and welfare
- Animal selection and breeding
- Feeding livestock
- Keeping farm records
- Manual handling
- Routine treatments, for example, dosing, injecting

Students who have not attained a Grade C or above in English Language and Mathematics at GCSE or equivalent qualifications, will complete Essential Skills qualifications in Communication and Application of Number as part of their programme of study.

Entry requirements

Applicants must normally have obtained at least two GCSE Grade Cs or three Grade Ds, including English Language and Mathematics (or equivalent Essential Skills qualifications in Communication and Application of Number).

Applicants must be working within the agriculture sector for at least 21 hours per week for the duration of the course.

Where courses are oversubscribed, entry criteria may be enhanced in line with the College's Admission Policy.

Those eligible for the Apprenticeship Scheme will be required to undertake the programme as an Apprentice.

Course progression

This course provides students with an opportunity to progress on to the part-time Level 3 Work-based Diploma in Agriculture or on to the full-time Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Agriculture.

Career opportunities

On completion of the course, students will have the necessary skills to work in a variety of businesses connected with farming and practical agriculture.





Fact file

How to apply

Course duration:

59-78 weeks (depending on the main programme category)

Course location:

Greenmount Campus

Course Manager:

Philip Holdsworth

Telephone:

028 9442 6642

Email:

Philip.Holdsworth@daera-ni.gov.uk

Multi-skilling programme

This programme aims to provide young people with the opportunity to gain a qualification in agriculture whilst training for a trade at a local Regional College.

Course content

Students will undertake study at Greenmount Campus, on block release, to gain a City & Guilds Level 2 Diploma in Work-based Agriculture - Livestock Production.

Students must apply to a Regional College to complete training in a trade area, for example: joinery, plumbing, plastering, bricklaying or motor mechanics.

Students attend Greenmount Campus for five one-week blocks. Skills undertaken include:

- Grassland management
- Health and safety
- Livestock husbandry and nutrition
- Record keeping

Entry requirements

Applicants must normally have obtained at least two GCSE Grade Cs or three Grade Ds, including English Language and Mathematics (or equivalent Essential Skills qualifications in Communication and Application of Number).

Applicants should also normally have completed 40 hours of relevant work experience before starting the course.

Where courses are oversubscribed, entry criteria may be enhanced in line with the College's admission policy.

Course progression

This course provides students with an opportunity to progress on to Level 3 programmes in Agriculture.

Career opportunities

Graduates have the option to gain employment in their trade area or in agriculture.



Equine courses

Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma
in Equine Management

Level 2 Technical Certificate in Equine Care

Farrier Upskilling Programme



Industry insights

The equine industry is an international business with many job opportunities, enabling students to experience life and work around the world.

Enniskillen Campus provides the widest range of equine programmes in Ireland. Courses have been developed which meet the needs of the industry and students, producing graduates with the capability to succeed in a wide range of careers.

Through the courses, the College aims to help develop a competitive equine industry and aspires to give students an insight into many different equine related careers.



Enniskillen Campus currently provides the widest range of equine programmes in Ireland.

Career profile

"I have always had an interest and a passion for horses. When leaving school, I had my mind made up that I wanted to study at CAFRE Enniskillen Campus as it would help me gain the knowledge I needed to work in the equine industry.



Kathryn Spiers

I applied for the Level 2 Technical Certificate in Equine Care. This is a one-year course and I enjoyed the balance of classroom based and practical yard learning. The course has two different routes which students can select. I chose transportation / competition grooming which involves loading horses onto horse boxes and preparing horses for competition. Competition grooming entails learning how to clip, plait manes and tails and wash the horses. I really enjoyed this part of the course.

During the Level 2 course I completed a five-week work placement with L&M Carriage Driving in Ballyward, Co Down. This was something I had never thought of doing and was different. They provide equestrian services to weddings, funerals, events, films, and lessons. My course really helped me in my work placement. In my first week I had the opportunity to take part as a groom along with the rest of the team for an event, this was a fantastic experience. Since completing the Level 2 course I have continued working

for the business. I'm really enjoying looking after the horses on the yard and ensuring that their day-to-day needs are met.

My work placement has taught me that there are more ways to enjoy horses and there is always something new to learn and try.

I have really enjoyed my past year at CAFRE. The staff and tutors have been incredibly supportive throughout. I hope to continue my studies on the Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Equine Management course. For anyone who is enthusiastic about horses and is thinking of a career in the equine industry I highly recommend Enniskillen Campus."

Equine career prospects

Students enter the equine industry at different levels depending on their qualifications and experience.

Racing careers

The racing industry requires highly skilled people to work with Thoroughbreds. Successful staff require well developed people skills and knowledge of the industry, as well as excellent horsemanship.

Competition and stud careers

Grooms should be in excellent health, physically fit, hardworking, skilled and motivated. Some grooms also ride and compete in their chosen discipline. Progression to head groom or travelling groom usually comes with experience.

Riding careers

There are a number of jobs worldwide for experienced work riders. Talented, dedicated riders can progress in their area of expertise to become competition riders or jockeys.

Retail careers

Equine retail is an expanding part of the industry. Staff in this area of work need an extensive knowledge of horse tack and riding equipment, along with excellent communication skills.

Horse production

The production of sport horses is a large part of the industry. The production of horses requires excellent horsemanship, good people skills and knowledge of business management and marketing.

The equine industry offers a wide range of job roles.



Our equine facilities

Equine courses offered at Enniskillen Campus incorporate a strong practical dimension and the philosophy of 'learning by doing' is applied throughout all programmes.

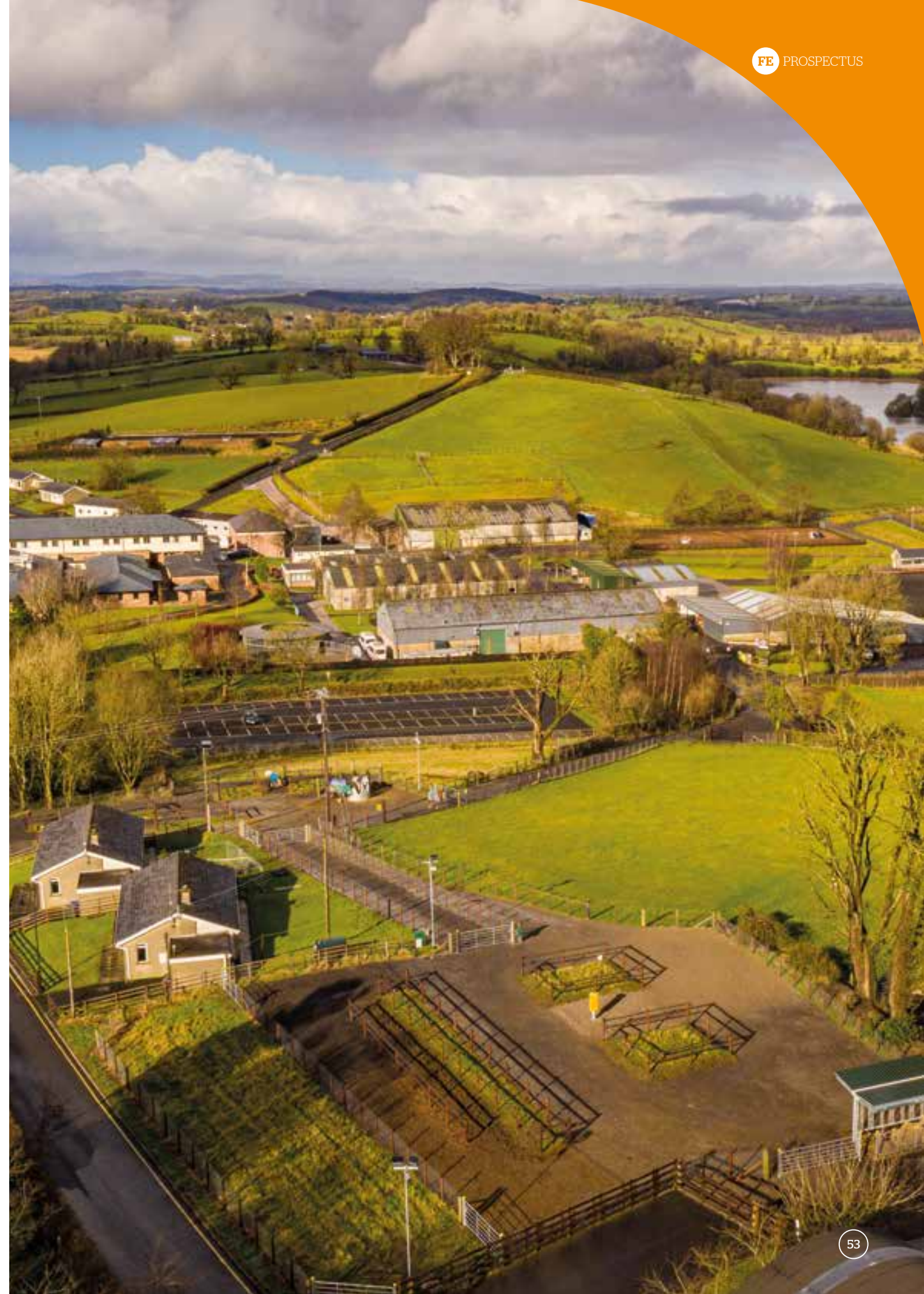
Specialist amenities

High quality equine education and training has been delivered at Enniskillen Campus since the early 1990s. The combination of excellent equestrian, teaching and residential facilities at the campus enables students to develop their practical and academic competencies in a pleasant environment.

The campus has been developed to provide an impressive range of indoor and outdoor facilities. There are stabling facilities for student livery horses, a horse walker, an indoor arena and a number of outdoor arenas.



The students receive excellent support from members of the local equine industry.





Fact file

How to apply

Course duration:

Two years full-time including a five-week work placement

Course location:

Enniskillen Campus

Course Manager:

Shelley Stuart

Telephone:

028 6634 4633

Email:

Shelley.Stuart@daera-ni.gov.uk

Level 3 in Equine Management

This Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Equine Management course provides excellent preparation for those wishing to pursue a career in the equine industry or progress on to higher education. The course is taught using the practical facilities at Enniskillen Campus.

Course content

The main areas of study are:

- Biological systems of horses
- Business management
- Competition grooming
- Equitation - flat and jumping (optional)
- Equine health
- Horse behaviour and welfare
- Prepare horses for presentation
- Stable and yard management
- Stud practices
- Tack and equipment
- Working with horses from the ground

Work placement

Students complete five weeks of approved work placement within the two years of the course. Typically students work in a range of yards depending on their area of interest, for example breeding, racing, eventing, show jumping and dressage.

Entry requirements

Normally four GCSE passes at Grade C, or equivalent, including English Language and Mathematics.

Riding is an optional module, those wishing to take part must be competent in horse riding to select this option. Please note there is a weight limit of 89kg (14st) for riding, including tack and equipment.

Applicants must also demonstrate that they have a minimum of 40 hours of experience in the equine industry, which can be acquired prior to leaving school.

Course progression

This course may provide an opportunity for students to progress on to the Equine Foundation Degree or Honours Degree programmes.

Career opportunities

Students are ideally suited to find employment of a practical nature in a wide range of equine businesses. Examples of careers include: managing own business, breaking and schooling horses and/or livery; work riders in racing yards; stud grooms; competition grooms and sales representatives.



Fact file

How to apply

Course duration:

One year full-time including a five-week work placement

Course location:

Enniskillen Campus

Course Manager:

Shelley Stuart

Telephone:

028 6634 4633

Email:

Shelley.Stuart@daera-ni.gov.uk

Level 2 in Equine Care

This Level 2 Technical Certificate in Equine Care offers young people the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills required for jobs within the equine sector. The course is taught using the practical facilities at Enniskillen Campus.

Course content

The main areas of study are:

- Equine health and welfare
- Feeding and watering
- Health and safety
- Horse handling and grooming
- Horse tack and equipment
- Introduction to lungeing
- Riding and exercising horses (optional)
- Working in the equine industry

Students who have not attained a Grade C in English Language and Mathematics at GCSE or equivalent have to complete Essential Skills in Communication and Application of Number.

Work placement

A minimum of five-weeks approved work placement is an integral part of this course. Students are encouraged to find work in their area of interest such as breeding, racing, competition yards or riding schools.

Entry requirements

Applicants must normally have obtained at least two GCSE Grade Cs or three Grade Ds, including English Language and Mathematics (or equivalent Essential Skills qualifications in Communication and Application of Number).

Applicants should also normally have completed 40 hours of relevant work experience before starting the course.

Where courses are oversubscribed, entry criteria may be enhanced in line with the College's Admissions Policy.

Basic skills in horse riding are essential for those wishing to undertake the riding module. Please note, there is a weight limit of 89 kg (14 stone), including tack and equipment.

Course progression

This course may provide an opportunity for students to progress on to the Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Horse Management.

Career opportunities

Students are well positioned to find employment in a diverse range of sectors within the equine industry including: racing, show jumping, eventing, dressage and showing, riding schools, livery yards and studs.



Fact file

How to apply

Course duration:

Two days per month for approximately two years

Course location:

Enniskillen Campus

Course Manager:

Catherine Crowley

Telephone:

028 6634 4601

Email:

Catherine.Crowley@daera-ni.gov.uk

Farrier Upskilling Programme

The Farrier Upskilling programme at Enniskillen Campus is designed for those already working in the industry and seeking to achieve the Worshipful Company of Farriers Diploma Award (DipWCF).

Course content

The course covers the principles of equine anatomy, physiology, conformation, dynamics and movement, injuries and ailments/diseases affecting the foot and limb, the fundamentals of farriery and the aspects of running a farriery business.

Practical skills include making different types of shoes from steel stock, using coke and gas forges.

As part of the final assessment, students are required to produce a portfolio of handmade horseshoes for the Worshipful Company of Farriers (DipWCF) examination.

Work placement

Suitable for farriers already practicing in the industry, with two years of verifiable experience.

Entry requirements

Applicants must have written confirmation, from at least two independent sources, one of which must be a farrier, confirming that they have been employed regularly and gainfully as a registered or unregistered farrier for a period of at least two years. Further guidance can be obtained from the Course Manager.

Career progression

Through the course farriers have the opportunity to gain a recognised qualification and from there they can apply to the Farriers Registration Council to become registered.



Floristry courses

Level 3 Advanced Technical Diploma
in Floristry

Level 2 Technical Certificate
in Floristry



Industry insights

Floristry offers a career in a fascinating and dynamic profession which combines creativity and technical ability with business skills.

CAFRE offers the only nationally recognised full-time floristry course in Northern Ireland and has a well established reputation for training those wishing to enter or who are already employed in the floristry industry.

Greenmount florists have an amazing track record of examination and competition success. Many now manage successful flower shops and several have established new floristry businesses.

Eleven Greenmount floristry students have reached the UK finals of the Worldskills Floristry Competitions in recent years, including Intermediate Gold Medallist, Romaine Hodgen and Advanced Gold Medallists, Nigel Close and Heather Hume. Since 2009, twelve current students or graduates have also reached the finals of the prestigious British Florist Association Chelsea Young Florist and the Florist of the Year Competitions, held annually at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.



Greenmount florists have an amazing track record of competition success.

Career profile

“My mum is a Florist and has had her own shop, Central Florist in Newry, for over 30 years. I spent most of my childhood, playing in the shop while she worked and as I grew older I helped out.



Nicola Heaney

I completed my A-Levels at Sacred Heart Grammar School in Newry, before studying Health and Social Care at university and later a beauty course. Unsure of a career path to follow and with a desire to travel I saved up enough money to go to Australia. It was an amazing experience. I worked a range of jobs. After more than a year away, I was missing family and planned a surprise visit home for Mother's Day in 2020. Then Covid hit, restricting travel, leaving me to stay in Northern Ireland.

With restrictions in place people couldn't see their families and friends, but Florists had the opportunity to provide a special link through delivering floral bouquets. The shop became extra busy so I went back to work with my mum. I slotted right in and fell in love with floristry all over again.

Seeing my passion and flair with flowers my Mum encouraged me to apply for a professional floristry course. Mum had studied at Greenmount and recommended that if I was really serious about floristry as a career, CAFRE would be the place to go.

I applied and was accepted on to the full-time Level 3 Advanced Technical Diploma in

Floristry programme. I really loved the course, my classmates and all the new designs I was being introduced to. It helped further develop my skills and brought about a deeper knowledge, understanding and appreciation of floristry as a business and career.

I get to work every day in a job that I love. I design bouquets and arrangements for customers at the highs and lows in their life, as well as everything in between. No day is the same. I meet lots of new people, see new flowers, follow trends and develop new skills. I am working hard and enjoying being back home with my family. I hope to develop the shop with my ideas and expand our customer base.

I am forever glad and grateful that I put in the application to CAFRE. With the help and support of the tutors and the friendship of my classmates I was able to realise my goal and achieve my floristry qualification in June 2021. I would encourage anyone who is artistic, has good interpersonal skills, and an interest in business to consider floristry as a career, I have never looked back!

Floristry career prospects

Junior Florist

As a Junior Florist you will be responsible for conditioning flowers and foliages used in the shop and displaying them for sale. You will also assist in making up designs for a range of customers and occasions, help customers choose suitable designs and gifts, care for plants and help with shop displays and price marking. You will need good people skills and must be able to work as part of a team, especially when the pressure is on at peak sales periods. Creativity and a willingness to learn will help you move up the career ladder to a Florist post.

Florist

As a qualified Florist you will need extensive product knowledge and design skills to create designs suitable for gifts, weddings, corporate events and funerals. Every week you will need to guide customers who are experiencing the highs and lows of life and to do this effectively good communication and customer care skills are essential. With increasing competition from supermarkets, florists need to offer personalised designs at a range of price points and must ensure designs are profitable.

Senior Florist/ Shop Manager

A Senior Florist will have several years' experience of retail floristry and will have built up a high level of design skill. For many Senior Florists the best part of their job is in planning and creating designs for weddings and corporate events. Many people are first attracted to floristry as a career when they have seen the floral displays at a wedding or a stunning bridal bouquet. However, as a Senior Florist, you will probably also be responsible for the day-to-day running of the shop. This will include general administration, ensuring health and safety, contact with suppliers, stock control and ordering, staff training and management and dealing with customer enquiries.

For many florists the ultimate goal is to establish their own successful business and there are also opportunities as design demonstrators, floristry tutors, sales representatives and floristry judges.



Our Floristry facilities

The facilities at Greenmount Campus are unique in Northern Ireland for floristry education and training. The College has excellent purpose built teaching facilities including two Floristry Studios and a new Plant Studio located within the Richardsons Walled Garden.

The studios have dedicated areas for cut flower identification and conditioning, refrigerated display storage, design demonstration and practice, retail display windows and a gift wrapping/customer service area. The new plant studio provides a great environment to develop indoor plant identification and care skills.

A range of summer cut flower and foliage crops are grown for development and demonstration to growers and florists at the College's Horticulture Centre. Floristry students are therefore in the unique position to see at first hand how cut flower, foliage and pot plant crops are produced using modern production methods. In addition, eighteen hectares of amenity grounds at the College provide excellent opportunities to gain plant knowledge.



The college has excellent purpose built Floristry facilities.





Fact file

How to apply

Course duration:

One year full-time

Course location:

Greenmount Campus

Course Manager:

Lori Hartman

Telephone:

028 9442 6992

Email:

Lori.Hartman@daera-ni.gov.uk

Level 3 in Floristry

This is a practical work-related City & Guilds Level 3 Advanced Technical Diploma in Floristry course. It is designed to develop the skills of those working in the floristry industry. Applicants should have achieved a Level 2 Technical Certificate in Floristry or equivalent.

Course content

The main areas of study are:

- Business management for floristry
- Creative design process for florists
- Design and evaluation: arrangements, tied, sympathy and wedding
- Flower and plant care
- Trends and event floristry
- Working in the floristry industry

Entry requirements

All applicants must be currently employed in a florist shop two days a week.

Normally four GCSE Grade Cs or equivalent including English Language and Mathematics with at least one year's full-time employment with a florist shop.

or

Level 2 Technical Certificate in Floristry, at Merit level or above and GCSE Grade C in English Language and Mathematics or equivalent.

Applicants who can demonstrate significant relevant industry experience will also be considered. These applicants may be required to submit work-based evidence and undertake written assessments and/or practical competence tests as part of the assessment. These applicants must also produce evidence of meeting the academic entry requirements.

Career progression

The course aims to develop the skills of those working in the floristry industry. On completion of the programme students may continue in employment and progress to posts as senior florists, managers or freelance designers. There are excellent career prospects for trained florists both locally and abroad.





Fact file

How to apply

Course duration:

One year full-time

Course location:

Greenmount Campus

Course Manager:

Lori Hartman

Telephone:

028 9442 6992

Email:

Lori.Hartman@daera-ni.gov.uk

Level 2 in Floristry

This City & Guilds Level 2 Technical Certificate in Floristry programme is a practical, work-related course designed to give students a broad understanding and appreciation of the floristry industry. This programme aims to develop and support the floristry industry and is not a leisure course.

Course content

The main areas of study are:

- Caring for floristry products
- Creating floristry design
- Customer service
- Design principles
- Health and safety
- Working in floristry

Students who have not attained a Grade C in English Language and Mathematics at GCSE or equivalent have to complete Essential Skills in Communication and Application of Number.

Entry requirements

Applicants must normally have obtained at least two GCSE Grade Cs or three Grade Ds, including English Language and Mathematics (or equivalent Essential Skills qualifications in Communication and Application of Number).

Where courses are oversubscribed, entry criteria may be enhanced in line with the College's Admissions Policy.

Students must also complete a minimum of 40 hours work experience with a retail florist before starting the course and have arranged a work placement for one day per week during term-time.

Course progression

This course may provide students with an opportunity to progress on to the City & Guilds Level 3 Advanced Technical Diploma in Floristry.

Career opportunities

The course aims to prepare students for employment as skilled florists within the floristry industry. There are excellent career prospects for trained florists both in the UK and abroad.



Food courses

Level 3 Extended Diploma
in Food Technology and Science

Level 3 Extended Diploma
in Food Technology and Nutrition



Industry insights

The food and drink industry is one of the largest employers in the UK. It is a buoyant and progressive sector and requires a pool of skilled personnel to ensure a consistent supply of safe, high quality products.

The food and drink industry is a highly competitive and dynamic sector that is constantly changing to meet consumer demands and adopt new and innovative technologies.

As the world population increases, the industry is being challenged with new ways to produce and package foods. As a result there is a great demand for qualified people to work in a wide range of positions in food businesses.



It is a dynamic industry which is constantly changing to meet consumer demands by adopting technological innovations.

Career profile

“Through school I developed an interest in food, in particular the connections between health and science. Instead of choosing A-Levels I opted to apply for the BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Food and Nutrition course at Loughry Campus.



Grace Moore

The Level 3 programme is two years in duration and is equivalent to three A-Levels. It allowed me to really focus and develop my knowledge of food technology.

Studying at CAFRE is so different from the school environment. Everyone at the college shares a similar interest to you, whether it's packaging, science, innovation or nutrition; they are all passionate about food.

Loughry Campus offers superb facilities. The Food Technology Centre and Food Innovation Centre give students the opportunity to trial new recipes, scale up formulations and produce foods in a small scale factory environment before they are packaged and labelled. I gained a knowledge and understanding of food and the operational processes involved in producing safe, quality, nutritious foods. This hands-on experience is vital when looking for employment opportunities and really sets CAFRE students apart from other applicants.

When I completed my National Diploma course I decided to remain at CAFRE and study for a BSc (Hons) Degree in Food Technology. The degree programme equipped me with further knowledge and skills to allow me to move into a product development career in the food industry.

I am currently working in New Product Development for the Henderson Group. My job involves project work developing new food concepts for our retail outlets. This includes developing and reviewing food offerings in conjunction with a seasonal calendar for promotions. My job also involves training staff on new products as well as developing recipe cards and offering in-store staff support especially at Spar / EuroSpar stores where there is a focus on the food-to-go ranges.

The food industry offers a wide range of career opportunities. I would recommend that if like me, you are interested in food, take a look at the courses on offer to you at Loughry Campus, they certainly will provide food for thought!”

Food career prospects

The career opportunities described are designed to give you an overview of some of the key roles within the food and drink industry. Loughry graduates are employed across a wide range of roles and many hold positions of responsibility in food businesses. The level at which graduates enter the food industry will depend on their qualifications and experience.

For more information on food careers visit the Alumni section of the website:
www.cafre.ac.uk

Technologists

Product development technologists design and develop new and innovative food and drink products and work to improve and extend existing ranges of food.

Production supervisors

Production supervisors are responsible for the day-to-day activities of manufacturing departments. They lead teams of production staff and schedule manufacturing activities to ensure orders are met at the required time.

Quality assurance technicians

Quality assurance technicians are responsible for ensuring the safety and quality of food by monitoring and controlling the manufacturing process.

Laboratory analysts

Laboratory analysts contribute to the safety and quality assurance of the food leaving the manufacturer by conducting quality tests and checks such as microbiological and chemical analysis.



Our food facilities

Loughry Campus has excellent teaching facilities to support its food education programmes. These include a specialist Food Technology Centre, Food Innovation Centre, Food Packaging Centre and science teaching laboratories.

Food Technology Centre

The centre incorporates four food processing areas; meat, bakery, fruit and vegetables and dairy and is designed to demonstrate best practice in food manufacture. This unique facility is equipped with an extensive range of modern pilot and industrial scale food processing and product development facilities to ensure that Loughry students acquire the competencies and skills needed by the food industry. Small-scale processing equipment allows the demonstration of computerised control systems used in food manufacturing.

Science laboratories

Loughry's laboratories are equipped with advanced scientific equipment which enables students to carry out microbiological, chemical and physical analysis of food ingredients and products. The latest technologies in food analysis are continuously being reviewed, allowing students to gain valuable knowledge and experience relevant to careers in the industry.

Food Packaging Centre

The Food Packaging Centre is a unique and well equipped facility used to evaluate packaging materials and complete packs. As food companies strive to meet consumer expectations through innovative packaging, Loughry Campus graduates are in a prime position to make a significant impact on the industry having worked in the centre.

Food Innovation Centre

The Food Innovation Centre provides students space to create and develop new food and drink products through enhanced kitchen, sensory, laboratory and packaging design facilities.

Create and develop new food products through enhanced sensory and laboratory facilities.



Fact file

How to apply

Course duration:

Two years full-time including work placement

Course location:

Loughry Campus

Course Manager:

Nicola Kerr

Telephone:

028 8676 8286

Email:

Nicola.Kerr@daera-ni.gov.uk

Level 3 Extended Diploma in Food Technology and Science

This OCN NI validated Level 3 Extended Diploma in Food Technology and Science course is designed to develop an understanding of food science and technology. The course prepares students for employment or progression on to higher-level courses.

Course content

- Dairy science and technology
- Food chemistry
- Food factory design and environmental factors
- Food legislation and labelling
- Food microbiology
- Food packaging
- Food product development
- Food science
- Fresh produce technology
- Managing manufacturing information and data
- Manufacturing bakery products
- Meat science and technology
- Nutritional health
- Operational management in the food industry
- Quality systems and auditing within food manufacturing
- Role of a Food Technologist
- Sensory analysis in food production
- Understanding food manufacturing
- Understanding food safety and HACCP
- Academic and professional skills *(subject to final approval by Ulster University)*

Work placement

Students will complete a twelve week work placement in a food business between year one and year two of the course.

Entry requirements

Normally four GCSE passes at Grade C, or equivalent, including English Language, Mathematics and Science.

Course progression

This course may provide students with the opportunity to progress on to appropriate Foundation or Honours Degree programmes.

Career opportunities

This course has been designed to meet the growing need of the food and drink industry for qualified people to fill key supervisory roles including production, quality assurance and product development.



Fact file

How to apply

Course duration:
Two years full-time including work placement

Course location:
Loughry Campus

Course Manager:
Nicola Kerr

Telephone:
028 8676 8286

Email:
Nicola.Kerr@daera-ni.gov.uk

Level 3 Extended Diploma in Food Technology and Nutrition

This OCN NI Level 3 Extended Diploma in Food Technology and Nutrition is designed to develop an understanding of the links between food science, technology, nutrition and health. The course prepares students for employment or progression on to higher-level courses.

Course content

- Consumer behaviour
- Food and nutrition
- Food chemistry
- Food legislation and labelling
- Food microbiology
- Food packaging
- Food product development
- Food science
- Health promotion
- Human bio-physiology
- Managing manufacturing information and data
- Nutrition for sports performance
- Nutritional health
- Operational management in the food industry
- Quality systems and auditing within food manufacturing
- Role of a Food Technologist
- Sensory analysis in food production
- Understanding food manufacturing
- Understanding food safety and HACCP
- Academic and professional skills *(subject to final approval by Ulster University)*

Work placement

Students will complete a twelve week work placement in a food business between year one and year two of the course.

Entry requirements

Normally four GCSE passes at Grade C, or equivalent, including English Language, Mathematics and Science.

Course progression

This course may provide students with the opportunity to progress on to appropriate Foundation or Honours Degree programmes.

Career opportunities

This course has been designed to meet the needs of industry and prepare students for careers at supervisory level in the food related industries. A range of jobs is available including; quality controllers, laboratory technicians and product development technologists.



Horticulture courses

Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma
in Horticulture

Level 2 Diploma in Practical Horticulture Skills

Level 2 Diploma in Work-based Horticulture
(Parks, Gardens and Green Spaces)

Level 2 Diploma in Work-based Horticulture
(Sports Turf-Greenkeeper) including
Greenkeeping Cadetship



Industry insights

Horticulture impacts on many aspects of our lives and provides fascinating job opportunities in a wide variety of work activities. There is scientific evidence that we work and feel better in pleasant planted surroundings with trees and other plants having a positive effect on health, both indoors and outdoors.

Horticulturalists play a major role in all areas concerned with designing, creating, managing and maintaining our environment.

As designers and managers of urban and rural landscapes, horticulturalists are at the forefront of the world in which we live, work and play.

Horticulturists are at the forefront of the world in which we live, work and play.



Career profile

"I studied at Greenmount Campus and attained a Level 3 in Horticulture, finishing the course in June 2021.



**Niall
Greene**

My study was impacted by Covid-19 seeing our classes initially move online. During the pandemic I had the opportunity to be around home more and assist my father in the running of our family business, Plantation Road Nursery, located outside Craigavon.

You could say I followed in my father's footsteps as he too studied at Greenmount Campus before he opened the business. I enjoyed helping my dad and following a course in Horticulture seemed the right option for me. We operate a busy nursery supplying trees, plants and shrubs to councils and large landscaping contractors.

Work within the business is seasonal and varied. Tasks include propagation, potting, grading plants and organising despatch to our customers. Our nursery includes glasshouses, polytunnels and open areas for tree and shrub development. I work to ensure the best quality plants are grown, and supplied throughout the year.

From studying at Greenmount and knowledge gained I can offer customers advice on plant selection and suitability based on terrain and the soil, as well as how much sunlight each area receives. Planning is really critical in our business and even weather conditions have a major impact. We need to try to predict orders and plant growth to ensure we have product at the right specification when our customers require them, never mind being prepared for windy or frosty conditions!

I really enjoyed my time spent at Greenmount Campus. Not only did I learn so much that helps me in the day-to-day running of the nursery but I made lots of connections too. It's great to see familiar faces coming to us to purchase products for landscaping contracts they are working on. If an outdoor, active job interests you - a qualification in Horticulture certainly has lots to offer."

Horticulture career prospects

Many of our Level 2 students go straight into employment after one year's training in horticulture, while some progress to study for the Level 3 qualifications. Our courses include a period of work placement in a sector of your choice so you get a great opportunity to see if it's right for you. After completing your qualification you may develop your career in horticulture in some of the following ways.

Horticultural worker/Gardener/Garden Supervisor/Head Gardener

This type of work involves preparing and maintaining areas of planting, mowing and maintaining turf areas, pruning plants and trimming hedges. There are opportunities with local authorities, historic public gardens and private properties. Some gardeners specialise in nursery work and may also need to be skilled in estate maintenance.

You need to develop a good knowledge of botanical plant names and know what conditions will suit particular plants best. You will also need to enjoy working outdoors, in all types of weather, and like the challenge of hands on activity. In a more senior post you may also be responsible for conserving valuable plant collections, supervising staff, organising garden events, managing budgets, garden development and dealing with the public.

Greenkeeper/Grounds person

Northern Ireland is internationally recognised as a premier location for golf courses, and CAFRE has supported this achievement over the years by training staff responsible for looking after these golf courses.

Level 2 greenkeepers and grounds persons are trained to safely operate the range of machinery in common use on golf courses and sports grounds (including natural and synthetic sport surfaces). As a trained greenkeeper, you will be able to care for, and present turf surfaces for golf, ranging from tees and greens, to fairways and roughs. This involves managing the feeding and irrigation as well as pest and disease control, helping maintain the surface so that the sport can be played at the highest competitive level. A grounds person fulfils a similar role, working on a range of playing surfaces, whether for football, rugby, Gaelic games, tennis or bowling.

Level 3 sports turf students have taken this training one step further and are able to supervise the maintenance of sports turf, including making decisions on treatment regimes, machinery management and construction.

Garden Centre Assistant/Supervisor

If you have a good plant and product knowledge and enjoy working with the public this could be the career for you. As a garden centre assistant you will be responsible for the care and presentation of a wide range of plants and garden sundries. You will need to be able to provide good advice to customers and develop your sales technique. More senior posts will also involve ordering and stock control, planning promotions, recruiting and managing staff and possibly organising catering facilities.

Nursery worker/Nursery Supervisor/Grower

Production horticulture is the starting point for many food and ornamental crops. In some cases crops are started off for other growers to purchase and grow on; in other cases the crop will be grown to point of sale and then sold to a garden centre (ie bedding plants) or into the food system (ie strawberries).

At Level 2, students gain skills in propagation techniques, learn about protected crop maintenance and learn how to safely use a range of horticulture machinery. As a Nursery worker, you will undertake a range of tasks to care for a given crop such as propagation, watering, setting out, weeding, training/pruning and preparation for sale.

Progressing to Level 3 at CAFRE brings a better understanding of management of protected crops through skills including propagation scheduling, further propagation techniques, care and management of crops from seedling/cutting through to finished plant. Students also work in a range of facilities at the Horticulture Centre including single and multi-span poly tunnels, Cambridge glasshouses, Venlo Glasshouse and the wide range of growing systems within these facilities. On completion of the Level 3 Horticulture you will be suited to a supervisory role within a Nursery or even set out on your own as a Grower. Both roles require knowledge and understanding of crop timing and management as well as staff supervision/management.

Landscape worker/contractor

CAFRE trained landscapers and contractors are trained at Level 2 to safely use a range of machinery for the landscape sector. Skilled people working in these areas are able to read from landscape plans and set out and construct gardens and landscaped areas, as well as looking after the plants, shrubs and trees in the gardens afterwards.

At Level 3, CAFRE trained landscapers are able to plan and design gardens, as well as supervising the work of building and maintaining landscaped areas and gardens for customers.

Working with plants can
be incredibly rewarding.

Our horticulture facilities

Greenmount is a well established centre for horticulture education and has delivered full-time courses in horticulture since 1924.

The Campus is set in 18 hectares of landscaped grounds originally laid out in the 19th century. They are now planted with an extensive range of trees and shrubs with many interesting landscape features. The Richardsons Walled Garden was redeveloped to celebrate the millennium. It is of a formal design and includes pleached limes, a maze, water feature, knot gardens and a range of mixed and herbaceous planting.

The Campus also features sports turf areas for student learning, including the Greenkeeping and Golf Academy as well as high specification sports pitches. The Greenkeeping and Golf Academy, supported by Golf Ireland, has three full playing holes, a short game practice area, a putting green and a unique contoured driving range facility.

The Machinery and Building Centre offers an area for undertaking skills training in machinery maintenance. There is also an extensive hard landscaping skills area adjacent to the Walled Garden.

Students also use the well resourced Horticulture Centre to study an integrated crop management approach to the production of nursery stock and protected ornamental crops and cut flowers.

The Horticulture Training Centre provides excellent facilities for the demonstration and practice of innovative production methods.





Fact file

How to apply

Course duration:
Two years

Course location:
Greenmount Campus

Course Manager:
Lori Hartman

Telephone:
028 9442 6992

Email:
Lori.Hartman@daera-ni.gov.uk

Level 3 in Horticulture

This City & Guilds Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Horticulture is a two year full-time course. It incorporates an industry placement and offers students both the practical experience and the theory required for a wide variety of careers in horticulture.

Course content

Students complete 19 units over two years including a work placement in a sector of their choice between the first and second year of the course.

The main areas of study are:

- Business management
- Construction of hard landscape features
- Horticultural machinery operations
- Horticultural science
- Landscape maintenance
- Plant health and protection
- Plant identification and selection
- Protected cropping
- Turf management

Learners develop technical and general employment skills when on work placement. Typical placements include; working for council parks departments, golf clubs, nurseries, garden centres, private gardens/estates and landscaping companies.

Students are provided with career planning guidance in preparation for their industry experience. Students are responsible for finding their own placement, which must be approved by CAFRE.

Entry requirements

Normally four GCSE passes at Grade C, or equivalent, including English Language and Mathematics.

or

Level 2 Diploma in Practical Horticulture Skills or an equivalent qualification and normally GCSE Grade C in English Language and Mathematics or equivalent are required.

or

Applicants who can demonstrate significant relevant industry experience will also be considered. These applicants may be required to submit work-based evidence and undertake written assessments and/or practical competence tests as part of the assessment. These applicants must also produce evidence of meeting the academic entry requirements.

Course progression

This course may provide students with an opportunity to progress on to Foundation and Degree in Horticulture programmes.

Career opportunities

Students can follow careers with garden centres, nurseries, golf courses, landscape companies and local councils in a wide range of jobs. Other options include horticulture therapy, education and training or self employment.





Fact file

How to apply

Course duration:
One year (3 days/week)

Course location:
Greenmount Campus

Course Manager:
Lori Hartman

Telephone:
028 9442 6992

Email:
Lori.Hartman@daera-ni.gov.uk

Level 2 in Horticulture

This City & Guilds Level 2 Diploma in Practical Horticulture Skills is studied over one year. The course provides students with a wide range of basic skills in horticulture. Students are taught mainly through practical based tuition in the ornamental gardens, woodlands, glasshouses and sports turf areas on campus. Working on the campus grounds is an essential part of the programme.

Course content

The main skills areas are:

- Hard and soft landscaping skills
- Identification and selection of plants
- Plant production techniques
- Turf maintenance

Students who have not attained a Grade C in English Language and Mathematics at GCSE or equivalent have to complete Essential Skills in Communication and Application of Number.

Entry requirements

Applicants must normally have obtained at least two GCSE Grade Cs or three Grade Ds, including English Language and Mathematics (or equivalent Essential Skills qualifications in Communication and Application of Number).

Applicants should also normally have completed 40 hours of relevant work experience before starting the course.

Where courses are oversubscribed, entry criteria may be enhanced in line with the College's Admissions Policy.

Course progression

This course may provide students with an opportunity to progress on to the City & Guilds Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Horticulture.

Career opportunities

Students can follow career paths in landscape, sports turf, nursery and retail sectors.



Fact file

How to apply

Course duration:

Approximately two years

Course location:

Based in the workplace with 'off-the-job' directed training and assessment at Greenmount Campus

Course Manager:

Paul Campbell

Telephone:

028 9442 6870

Email:

Paul.Campbell@daera-ni.gov.uk

Level 2 Diploma in Work-based Horticulture

(Parks, Gardens and Green Spaces)

This City & Guilds Level 2 Diploma provides valuable work-based training for those working in the amenity horticulture sector. It is primarily designed for those who are already working in parks maintenance or delivering professional landscape maintenance services. This course can also be studied through the Apprenticeship work-based training programme, if you are between 16 and 24 years old. Please refer to our website for further information.

Course content

The main areas of study are:

- Clearing horticultural and landscaping sites
- Control of pests, diseases and disorders
- Effective working relationships
- Health and safety
- Maintenance of amenity turf
- Personal development
- Plant identification
- Pruning
- Site preparation, seeding and planting
- Use of tools and equipment

Students attend college one day per week from late September for 12-18 months to develop their knowledge, understanding and competence levels. Candidates must develop their skills in the workplace, gather supportive evidence for assessment of practical skills and complete a personal online portfolio.

Entry requirements

Applicants must be working in a relevant job within the amenity horticulture sector for at least 21 hours per week and should normally have two GCSE Grade Cs or three Grade Ds, or equivalent, including English Language and Mathematics.

Students enrolled on the Apprenticeship who have not attained a Grade C or above in English Language and Mathematics at GCSE or equivalent will complete Essential Skills qualifications in Numeracy and Literacy as part of their programme of study.

Those eligible for the Apprenticeship Scheme will be required to undertake the programme as an Apprentice.

Course progression

This course may provide students with an opportunity to progress on to Level 3 Horticulture programmes.

Career opportunities

The Level 2 qualification produces skilled operatives who can quickly become team leaders within the grounds care and amenity horticulture sectors. This qualification may allow students to obtain better rates of pay, permanent positions or alternative job roles within the industry.



Fact file

How to apply

Course duration:

Approximately two years

Course location:

Based in the workplace with 'off-the-job' directed training and assessment at Greenmount Campus

Course Manager:

Paul Campbell

Telephone:

028 9442 6870

Email:

Paul.Campbell@daera-ni.gov.uk

Level 2 Diploma in Work-based Horticulture

(Sports Turf-Greenkeeper)

This City & Guilds Level 2 Diploma provides valuable work-based training for those already working in the sports turf sector. It is primarily designed for those who are already working as trainee and assistant greenkeepers or grounds persons. This course can also be studied through the Apprenticeship work-based training programme, if you are between 16 and 24 years old. Please refer to our website for further information.

Course content

The main areas of study are:

- Effective working relationships
- Health and safety
- Maintain the health and condition of sports turf surfaces
- Personal development
- Repair of sports turf surfaces
- Site preparation, seeding and planting
- Tractor operation
- Use of machinery and equipment

Students attend college one day per week from late September for 12-18 months to develop their knowledge, understanding and competence levels.

Candidates must develop their skills in the workplace, gather supportive evidence for assessment of practical skills and complete a personal online portfolio.

Entry requirements

Applicants must be working in a relevant job within the sports turf sector for at least 21 hours per week and should normally have two GCSE Grade Cs or three Grade Ds, or equivalent, including English Language and Mathematics.

Students enrolled on the Apprenticeship who have not attained a Grade C or above in English Language and Mathematics at GCSE or equivalent, will complete Essential Skills qualifications in Numeracy and Literacy as part of their programme of study.

Those eligible for the Apprenticeship Scheme will be required to undertake the programme as an Apprentice.

Course progression

This course may provide students with an opportunity to progress on to Level 3 Horticulture programmes.

Career opportunities

The Level 2 qualification produces skilled operatives who can quickly become key workers within the grounds care and sportsturf sectors.

Greenkeeping Cadetship Programme

CAFRE, in association with Golf Ireland, offers a Greenkeeping Cadetship programme.

The programme is aimed at people aged 18-24 who have a keen interest in developing a career in greenkeeping. Golf Ireland supports two or three greenkeeping students per year with a generous financial bursary. Cadets are selected on the basis of competitive interview by a panel of Golf Ireland and CAFRE representatives. The Cadetship programme runs from early September to the following May each year.

Applicants must have relevant practical experience, a minimum of four GCSEs at Grade C or equivalent including Mathematics and English Language and a keen interest in the game of golf. Successful candidates complete the City & Guilds Level 2 Diploma in Work-based Horticulture (Sports Turf- Greenkeeper) programme and gain practical experience while working on the sports turf areas and campus grounds.

Land-based engineering course

Level 3 Advanced Technical Diploma
in Land-based Engineering



Industry insights

All those familiar with modern agriculture will appreciate the crucial role that machinery plays in this industry.

As machinery becomes more complex, more and more people with specialist technical training are needed to service, maintain and repair this equipment.

Given the complexity and high value of machinery, good career opportunities exist in this sector.

There are progression opportunities for those wishing to further their studies.



High value of machinery, good career opportunities exist in this sector

Career profile

“I completed the Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Land-based Engineering at CAFRE, Greenmount Campus in June 2021. While studying for my GCSEs, I felt that school was not the correct environment for me to further my education.

I attended an open evening at Greenmount Campus and was impressed by the facilities and the ‘learning by doing’ approach offered through the Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Land-based Engineering. I knew CAFRE would offer a more suitable educational route for me.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at CAFRE. I enjoyed the practical classes and being in the workshop with the skills group. Prior to COVID-19, we were able to meet people and companies from industry. We were lucky to visit Farmhand Ltd in Dublin. Farmhand is the main importer for a number of large agricultural manufacturers in Ireland. On the same day, we visited Dromone Hitches in Meath who make pickup hitches and quick hitches for diggers. We were also invited to an Evoquip, a Terex brand, working

demonstration day in Glenavy where we saw crushers and screeners suitable for agricultural contracting work.

During my final months of study at Greenmount Campus, an opportunity for an apprenticeship at Dennison JCB, Templepatrick was advertised and I applied for it. I was delighted to be successful in getting the job. From September 2021, I have been in employment as an Apprentice Mechanic at Dennison JCB. My main roles include servicing JCB telehandlers and diggers and completing pre-delivery inspection (PDIs) on all types of machinery. I would highly recommend the Land-based Engineering course at Greenmount Campus. It will equip you with employability skills for life and has fantastic facilities to develop your practical skills.”



Philip McCorry

Land-based Engineering career prospects

Working in this sector is not always easy; hours can be long and sometimes work needs to be done outdoors in difficult conditions. Work is challenging and varied and most of those in the industry derive a high level of satisfaction from their work.

Service technician or engineer

The work involves the service and repair of agricultural machinery, both in the workshop and in the field. More often than not, diagnosis of faults on modern equipment involves the use of diagnostic tools and IT equipment. There is strong demand for technicians and service engineers with skills in this area.

Product support personnel

Many students completing the course have an interest in tractor and agricultural machinery sales. A number of past students are currently employed in these roles. Similarly, there are openings for those who wish to work in product support and related technical roles. The course provides a useful foundation for someone embarking on a machinery sales or product support role.



There is strong demand for technicians and service engineers with skills in this area.



Land-based Engineering facilities

The Machinery and Buildings Centre (MBC) was specifically designed to accommodate all of the engineering training at Greenmount Campus. A range of workshops facilitates training in service engineering and related workshop skills.

Equipment

Greenmount Campus is well equipped in terms of hand tools, power tools and other workshop equipment. In addition, models, display rigs and testing equipment are available to demonstrate the underpinning principles of modern farm machinery.

The College enjoys excellent relationships with tractor and machinery manufacturers and suppliers.

The College enjoys excellent relationships with machinery and tractor manufacturers and suppliers.





Fact file

How to apply

Course duration:

Two years

Course location:

Greenmount Campus

Course Manager:

Bernard McCloskey

Telephone:

028 9442 6856

Email:

Bernard.McCloskey@daera-ni.gov.uk

Level 3 in Land-based Engineering

This City & Guilds Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Land-based Engineering course develops the underpinning knowledge and practical skills you will need to work as a service engineer in the land-based sector.

The content and activities within the course are mainly focused on the service, maintenance and repair of agricultural tractors and machinery. The course comprises classroom and workshop activities.

Course content

The main areas of study include:

Service engineering skills; servicing, fixing, repairing and overhauling engines, tractors and farm machinery.

Workshop skills; safe use of a wide range of workshop equipment.

Classroom activities; learning the theory that underpins engines, tractors and farm machinery.

Entry requirements

Applicants should have some prior knowledge and experience of a workshop (hand tools and power tools) and of tractors and farm machinery.

While there is no tractor driving on this course, prior experience of having operated tractors and machinery is needed (so that students understand the basic principles of machinery).

Normally four GCSE passes at Grade C, or equivalent, including English Language and Mathematics.

Applicants should attempt to complete 40 hours of experience in the service engineering industry, gained in a workshop environment, which can be acquired prior to leaving school.

or

A Level 2 Diploma in a relevant course achieved with Merit plus Grade Cs at GCSE (or above) in Mathematics and English Language (or equivalent qualifications).

or

Applicants who can demonstrate significant relevant industry experience. These applicants may be required to submit work-based evidence and undertake further assessments.

Entry requirements will be enhanced if the course is oversubscribed.

Course progression

This course may provide students with the opportunity to progress on to appropriate Foundation and Honours Degree courses.

Career opportunities

There is a range of employment opportunities for graduates in the land-based service engineering sector.

Veterinary Nursing courses

Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing

Level 2 Certificate in Veterinary Care Support



Industry insights

Greenmount offers animal care courses designed to prepare students for careers in the animal care professions.

Our Level 2 and Level 3 courses provide the appropriate knowledge to complement the practical skills acquired while working in a veterinary practice. Students develop their teamwork and interpersonal skills whilst studying at CAFRE.

Veterinary Nursing is a dynamic profession and there are many different careers students can explore after completing their Veterinary Nursing courses at both Level 2 and Level 3. Students can choose to continue work in clinical practice or seek other opportunities. Registered Veterinary Nurses

(RVNs) hold many transferable skills that can open the door to a variety of careers, for example within the pharmaceutical, research, insurance, nutrition and education fields and many more! Because of the RVN's unique role in veterinary practice, many nurses also choose to open and manage their own practice.



Students develop their teamwork and interpersonal skills whilst studying at CAFRE.

Career profile

"I completed the Level 2 Certificate for Animal Nursing Assistants in May 2019. I really enjoyed the one year course as it allowed me to work each week in a veterinary practice while attending college.

After completing the Level 2 Certificate for Animal Nursing Assistants programme I progressed on to the Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing.

I wanted to work with animals for a long time so I focused my efforts on securing work in a practice to allow me to follow my career path in Veterinary Nursing.

I have had experience working in a veterinary practice for a few years and now currently training in Ashwood Veterinary Clinic, Dundonald. Working long hours and studying requires a lot of motivation and determination however the handwork is paying off as I am on target to qualify in 2022."



**Kathryn
Kincaid**

Our Veterinary Nursing facilities

Greenmount Campus provides an attractive learning environment for all students. Taught sessions take place in our classroom facilities, whilst practical sessions take place in a specialist space, fitted with all the equipment necessary to learn the practical skills needed for qualification as a registered veterinary nurse.

The campus has a laboratory equipped with laboratory analysers, refractometers, microscopes, centrifuges and commercial test kits.

The course is taught by supportive and experienced industry professionals, all holding RCVS registered qualifications.

Students have access to the Greenmount Resource Centre with its extensive library, work rooms and study areas.

The campus also has excellent computer facilities for students with the most up to date online teaching materials available.





Fact file

How to apply

Course duration:

Up to three years

Course location:

Greenmount Campus

Course Manager:

Bethan Pinhey

Telephone:

028 9442 6666

Email:

Bethan.Pinhey@daera-ni.gov.uk

How to apply:

Download an application form: www.cafre.ac.uk Veterinary Nursing pages and once fully completed email to: greenmount.admissions@daera-ni.gov.uk

Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing

Registered Veterinary Nurses are vital members of the veterinary team.

The VetSkill Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (Companion Animal) course is designed for those working in practice to become a Registered Veterinary Nurse with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS). Upon successful completion of the qualification students can complete their enrolment with the RCVS and practice as a Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN). To apply to this course applicants must gain employment in a CAFRE approved training practice.

Course content

The course covers cats, dogs, rabbits and guinea pigs.

Year 1

- Diagnostic principles
- Pharmacology and dispensary management
- Principles of veterinary nursing care 1

Year 2

- Life stage nursing care and support
- Principles of veterinary nursing care 2
- Professional veterinary nursing responsibilities
- Surgical nursing and patient care

Year 3

- Anesthesia and theatre nursing skills

Practical Veterinary Nursing Skills and Professional Behaviours is a practical module integrated into the course to enhance clinical learning in practice and theoretical teaching at the college.

Students will attend College for a 2 ½ year period and aim to gain full RCVS registration within 30 months. During this time students will be required to attend Greenmount Campus one day per week.

Modules are assessed through online multiple choice examinations, written assignments and an online e-portfolio of Clinical Skills.

The final assessed element of the course is a clinical examination (OSCE), which is currently taken at an assessment centre in England.

Entry requirements

Applicants at the time of entry to the course must:

- Have at least five GCSE passes at Grade C or above including English Language, Mathematics and a Science subject.
- Be at least 16 years old on or before 1st July in the year in which they wish to enrol.
- Be employed in a CAFRE approved training practice. A list of current approved veterinary practices in Northern Ireland can be found on our website www.cafre.ac.uk
- Applicants should also demonstrate that they have gained a minimum of three months or 400 hours experience of working in a veterinary practice before commencing the course.

Students will incur fees to cover RCVS Student Nurse Registration which is approximately £210. Students will also incur travel costs to GB for their final Practical exam. Any assessment costs associated with resits of exams will also be charged to the student.

Applicants will be allocated a place based on the points achieved at GCSE/Level 2 equivalents, see page 24.

Career progression

Embedded within this qualification is the content required for a Student Veterinary Nurse to become a Suitably Qualified Person (SQP) for Companion Animals.

Students can progress on to a top up BSc Honours Degree, Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Nursing and other postgraduate qualifications.



Fact file

How to apply

Course duration:

One year

Course location:

Greenmount Campus

Course Manager:

Bethan Pinhey

Telephone:

028 9442 6666

Email:

Bethan.Pinhey@daera-ni.gov.uk

How to apply:

Download an application form: www.cafre.ac.uk
 Veterinary Nursing pages and once fully completed email to: greenmount.admissions@daera-ni.gov.uk

Level 2 Certificate in Veterinary Care Support

Students who attain a Level 2 Certificate in Veterinary Care Support play a vital role in veterinary practice by supporting their colleagues and other paraprofessionals.

Course content

The Veterinary Care Support course is delivered on a day-release basis over one academic year (September - June).

The course is delivered mainly at Greenmount Campus with some online elements.

Students must also complete a minimum of 600 hours experience in a veterinary practice (minimum of 18 hours per week) for the duration of the course.

Topics covered include:

- Animal environment and accommodation
- Animal health and welfare
- Introduction to animal anatomy and physiology
- Introduction to patient care
- Legislation and safe working practices
- Veterinary care support

Continuous assessment will be used through the submission of an online portfolio. The assessments will require students to demonstrate underpinning knowledge and practical application in the work placement.

Students who have not attained a Grade C or above in English Language and Mathematics at GCSE or equivalent qualifications, will be advised to complete Essential Skills in Numeracy and Literacy.

Entry requirements

Applicants at the time of entry to the course must:

- Aged over 16 years
- Normally have obtained at least two GCSE Grade Cs or three Grade Ds, including English Language and Mathematics (or equivalent Essential Skills qualifications in Communication and Application of Number).
- Applicants will be allocated a place based on the points achieved at GCSE/Level 2 equivalents, see page 24.
- Have secured a work placement for 600 hours for the duration of the course. These hours exclude breaks, holidays or sickness and must be undertaken to complete the course. The work experience provider must enable the student to experience the full range of activities in this qualification.

Students will not incur any tuition or registration fees, however assessment costs associated with resits of exams will be charged to the student.

Course progression

Those who successfully complete the Veterinary Care Support course may progress on to the Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (Companion Animals) qualification, subject to additional entry conditions being met.

Important and legal information

Terms and Conditions

As a condition of enrolment all students must abide by and submit to the rules and procedures specified in the College Regulations, Students' Charter and the Joining Instructions. A copy of the current rules, regulations and information for students will be issued to all prospective students at or before enrolment. The College will make all reasonable endeavours to deliver its courses in accordance with the descriptions set out in this prospectus. The courses offered are continually being improved through review and quality assurance processes by the College and Awarding Bodies. The College therefore reserves the right to make variations to the contents or methods of delivery of courses, if such actions are reasonably considered necessary by the College in the context of its wider provision.

Policy on Equal Opportunities

The College is fully committed to providing equality of opportunity. It is our policy to ensure that everyone associated with the College is treated equitably, regardless of religious belief, gender, whether or not they have a disability, race, political opinion, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or whether or not they have dependant(s). CAFRE welcomes applications from students aged over 21 years on 1st October of the year of entry. Each student is considered on his/her individual merit, taking into account academic qualifications and other relevant experience. Evidence of recent academic study is particularly relevant to applications

for degree courses. The College welcomes applications from students who have successfully completed relevant Access courses.

Special needs

CAFRE strives to provide an inclusive learning environment and welcomes and encourages applications from persons with a disability. Applicants are advised to disclose learning needs or disabilities on their application form to give CAFRE an understanding of their support needs and any reasonable adjustments that might be required. Disability will not be considered as part of the selection process. All courses offered at CAFRE have an element of application in a practical situation.

Complaints procedures

A booklet entitled 'Our Complaints Procedure' is available on the DAERA website: www.daera-ni.gov.uk and sets out the standards to which we operate with regard to all our customers. For example, course applications will be acknowledged within two working days and outcomes of College interviews will be issued within five working days of the interview.

Written complaints or comments should be sent to the Customer Services Department at any of the campuses. If you feel that we have not dealt with your comment, complaint or suggestion to your satisfaction you can write to the Complaints Officer at any of the campuses.



The Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman offer advice about making a complaint if you feel that you have been treated unfairly or have received a poor service or that your complaint has not been resolved to your satisfaction. The Ombudsman can be contacted on: freephone 0800 34 34 24.

Information correct at time of printing, September 2022. Please refer to our website for updated information: www.cafre.ac.uk

The courses offered are continually being improved through review and quality assurance processes by the College and Awarding Bodies.

Open Days

Discover the right course for you by attending an Open Day.

If you're the type of person who is interested in a hands-on course that will give you the best possible preparation for a job in the industry a course at CAFRE will suit you.

CAFRE Open Days

Good practical facilities are vital to allow you to apply your knowledge and develop the skills to give you an advantage over the competition. That's why we'd like to invite you to visit our campuses to see the facilities we use to train our students.

We have a series of Open Days for each of our subject areas available to book on our website. Please log onto: www.cafre.ac.uk/student-life/discoverand-apply/open-days/ for more information about facilities and courses.

If you miss attending an Open Day you can view recordings of previous Virtual Open Events on our website, visit the course pages and follow the link. Additionally, during the year, we will be hosting Campus Tours, information will be shared on social platforms and the website when bookings are open.

How to find us

Enniskillen Campus
BT74 4GF

Where you'll receive training in equine courses, is located two kilometres from Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh, on the A32 Irvinestown to Omagh Road.

Greenmount Campus
BT41 4PS

Focuses on agriculture and horticulture courses and is located three kilometres from Antrim town, just off the A26 Dublin Road.

Loughry Campus
BT80 9AA

Provides education for food technology related qualifications, is located three kilometres from Cookstown, Co Tyrone, just off the A29 Dungannon Road.



All course enquiries
Freephone: 0800 028 4291
Email: enquiries@cafre.ac.uk
Website: www.cafre.ac.uk

If you require this publication
in an alternative format please
contact College Administration on
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Enniskillen Campus

2 Mullaghmeen Road
Levaghy
Enniskillen
BT74 4GF

Greenmount Campus

45 Tirgracy Road
Muckamore
Antrim
BT41 4PS

Loughry Campus

76 Dungannon Road
Cookstown
BT80 9AA

www.cafre.ac.uk



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