

Frequently Asked Questions for Further Education Food courses at Loughry Campus - September 2026 intake

Q1. How do I apply for a Further Education course?

For all CAFRE **Further Education** courses i.e. Certificate and Diploma programmes after GCSEs, you must apply through the CAFRE website www.cafre.ac.uk.

Visit the page on the website you want to apply for and click on 'Apply for this course' button which will take you into an 'application basket' area.

The application process is in two stages:

Registration – where you record all your personal details and qualifications including predicted grades, then

Application – where you apply for up to five courses. You should rank them in order of choice - first choice, second choice etc.

Applications are open until the 30th of June each year however late applications may be accepted after this date.

Q2. Where do I get my Unique Learner Number (ULN)?

You will have received your Unique Learner Number through your school. The Unique Learner Number (ULN) is a **10-digit reference number** which is used to access the Personal Learning Record of anyone over the age of 13 involved in UK education or training. If you do not remember it or have mislaid it, please contact your school who will be able to give it to you.

Q3. Are there interviews to get onto a course?

We hold course and career advisory discussions for all Further Education courses. The aim of this discussion is to make sure you have applied for the right course, fully understand the entry requirements, including work experience, and answer any questions you may have. The discussion can take place on campus or via video call on WhatsApp, Teams or Zoom.

If you are under 18 years of age you should have a parent(s) or guardian with you. You will receive an email afterwards with an update on your offer – either conditional, unconditional or a decline. Firm offers will only be made when all exam results are available.

Q4. What if I don't come to the careers advisory discussion can I still get on a course?

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

Q5. Do I have to come to one of the campuses for the careers advisory discussion?

In the past we have always invited students to come to the relevant campus for the careers advisory discussion. However, careers advisory discussions can be held over the phone or through a video call.

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

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

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

Grade Cs in GCSE English Language and Maths or equivalent are required for entry on to all of CAFRE Level 3 courses.

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

CAFRE accepts a range of qualifications from other awarding bodies as equivalent to GCSEs. However, remember that Grade Cs in English Language and Maths or equivalent are essential for entry on to all of CAFRE courses. If you have a specific enquiry about equivalent qualifications, please contact the relevant Course Manager.

Q9. Can I apply to CAFRE after my Junior Certificate?

No Students must be studying for or have their Leaving Certificate before they can apply to CAFRE.

Q10. When do courses begin?

The first teaching week for most Further Education students is normally the second week of September each year. The first teaching week for all other courses is normally the third week in September. The academic calendar is available on the college website under the '[Student Life](#)' [tab](#).

Q11. How are courses delivered?

All CAFRE courses include both classroom and practical learning opportunities. Level 3 students will have a higher percentage of practical compared to degree students. As CAFRE's ethos is 'learning by doing' we want to make sure that you can enjoy the benefits of learning in our state-of-the-art, modern facilities and make the most of your time as a CAFRE student.

Q12. Do I need to purchase anything in advance if I get an offer on a course?

Yes, some courses will require that you purchase specific Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) before you come to CAFRE. However, do not purchase anything until you have a definite offer for a place on the course. Once you have accepted the offer you will be informed exactly what PPE you need to purchase.

Some elements of your course will involve online learning activities. Although desktop computers with internet access are available for use on campus, we recommend that you bring your own device (BYOD). Further device information is available on the '[Student Life – Learner Policies](#)' tab on the website.

You will receive further details when your place on a CAFRE course is confirmed. Again, we strongly advise you not to purchase any equipment until you get an official confirmation of a place on a CAFRE course.

Q13. When will accommodation bookings become available for 2026/27?

[Accommodation booking](#) will open in early summer 2026. Applications will be made online on the CAFRE website under the 'Student Life' tab.

Q14. How much does accommodation cost?

Accommodation cost varies depending on the type of accommodation and if you are on a catering package. Please visit [accommodation pages](#) for detailed information.

Q15. Can I apply for a grant to study at CAFRE?

Further Education Grants are available for students from Northern Ireland who have applied for full-time course.

See link below for information and the FE grant application form.

www.eani.org.uk/fegrants

Q16. Is transport assistance available?

yLink is a free smartcard for all 16-23 years olds using Translink services within Northern Ireland. You get third off Translink bus travel in Northern Ireland.

Apply for a free card using this link <https://www.translink.co.uk/ylink>.

Students travelling on bus Eireann can receive up to 15% off fares, and the yLink card is suitable to use for this.

Q17. How far away is the bus station from the college/how much does a taxi cost from the station?

The bus depot is approximately 2 miles away from the campus. Taxi transfers cost approximately £6. Ulsterbus operate a 'stop' at the Tullywiggan entrance which serves Cookstown and Dungannon.

Q19. Is there a 'uniform' for students? Are there any rules for what you can wear?

CAFRE branded clothing is available to order online. The items offer good value for money and can be [viewed using this link](#). There are rules regarding clothing when completing practical classes to reflect health and safety requirements.

Q20. Are you allowed piercings?

Jewellery, including those for piercings, is not allowed when you involved in practical food production activities.