

AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY

The agricultural industry is undergoing an unprecedented period of change. Traditional reliance on production is being challenged through changes in government policy at local, national, European and global levels, as well as changes in consumer demand.

Agricultural production now requires an understanding of these demands and other concerns regarding food quality and safety and the environmental impact of production methods in the short, medium and long term.

COURSE CONTENT

The degree has been developed in consultation with employers, industry and academics, to offer students a combined curriculum of formal education and practical experience, which is designed to enhance employability and graduate skills.

The Agricultural Technology degree programmes are provided jointly by the School of Biological Sciences and the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (Greenmount Campus, Antrim).

Stages 1 and 2 are mainly delivered at Greenmount Campus, where students are involved in the work and management of specific agricultural enterprises. Professional Studies students spend their third year on placement, and Stage 3 is mainly delivered at Queen's University Belfast.

Stage 1

- Applied Animal Science
- Applied Crop Science
- Enterprise Technology
- Introduction to Business and Research Methods
- Mechanisation and Farm Buildings

Stage 2

- Agri-food Business Marketing and Management
- Crop Production Systems
- Livestock Production and Management
- Sustainable Agriculture

Stage 3

- Advances in Crop and Animal Science, and Technology
- Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Farm Animal Health and Welfare
- Global Issues in Agriculture
- Policies for Environmental Sustainability
- Project Work

Work Placement

- Agricultural Technology students will complete a 16-week, degree-related work placement
- Agricultural Technology with Professional Studies students will complete a one-year, degree-related work placement

WHY QUEEN'S?

Employability

The degree has been developed in consultation with employers, industry and academics, to offer students a combined curriculum of formal education and practical experience, which is designed to enhance employability and graduate skills.

World Class Facilities

A unique feature of this degree is the opportunity for students to take responsibility for the operation and management of a College farm enterprise, allowing immediate practical application of knowledge.

Work Placement

Embedded work placements on this degree programme provide students with the opportunity to utilise the practical skills gained during the teaching of their degree and apply these in a work environment.

BSc Honours

Agricultural Technology 3 yrs (D473)

Agricultural Technology with Professional Studies 4-yrs SW (D470)

Entrance requirements

A-level

BBB including at least two relevant subjects (see list below) + GCSE Mathematics grade C/4

OR

ABB including a relevant subject (see list below) + GCSE Mathematics grade C/4.

Note: applicants not offering either Biology or Chemistry at A-level should have GCSE Chemistry grade C/4 or GCSE Double Award Science grades CC/44.

Relevant Subjects:

Agricultural Science, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Digital Technology, Environmental Science/Technology, Geography, Geology, Home Economics, ICT, Life and Health Sciences, Mathematics, Physics, Physical Education, Psychology, Technology and Design. Other subjects considered on an individual basis.

BTEC Extended Diploma:

A relevant Agriculture/Science BTEC Extended Diploma with 100 credits at Distinction and 80 credits at Merit + GCSE Chemistry grade C/4 or GCSE Double Award Science grades CC/44 + GCSE Mathematics grade C/4.

For students whose first language is not English

An IELTS score of 6.5 with a minimum of 5.5 in each test component or an equivalent acceptable qualification, details of which are available at: go.qub.ac.uk/EnglishLanguageReqs

Past students have gained work placement with organisations such as the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, Countryside Services, Dale Farm, Fane Valley, John Thompson and Sons, Monaghan Mushrooms, Moy Park, and Millridge Ltd and Tamar Farming Co. (both in New Zealand).

CAREERS/FURTHER STUDY

Studying a degree in Agricultural Technology provides a wide range of graduate opportunities for students interested in the agricultural, agri-environmental and related industries.

The majority of our graduates will seek careers in the agricultural, agri-environment or agri-food sectors, in roles including; marketing/sales, production and management, technical advice, and research and development in commercial companies.

Employer Links

This programme was developed after extensive consultation with government bodies, major farming organisations, the food processing sector, farmers and conservation organisations, and the curriculum reflects these consultations. This close industry involvement has continued. The initial years of this programme were overviewed by an industry group representing LANTRA, AFBI, DARD (now DAERA) and the UFU. Industry representatives play a significant role in the operation of student learning projects where they use their expertise to guide students running major college enterprises.

Students organise an industry symposium as part of final year, providing opportunities to engage with key stakeholders within the local industry. In addition, major employers such as Dunbia, Moy Park and John Thompson and Sons have contributed competitive bursaries to support students on these degrees.

Placement Employers

The work placement is compulsory and is assessed as an integral component of the degree programme, contributing five per cent (three-year programme) and 10 per cent (four-year programme) to the final degree classification. Students are supported in obtaining work placement through a series of workshops and by a dedicated School Work Placement and Careers Adviser. We work repeatedly with a number of employers and students can also propose their own placement.

Further Study

Further study is also an option – development of research skills in final year through project work means that graduates are also well equipped for postgraduate study for PhDs, and can choose from a wide range of Master's programmes, including those in Animal Behaviour and Welfare and Leadership for Sustainable (Rural) Development offered through the School of Biological Sciences.



“Agriculture is a passion of mine and I felt that this degree offered excellent job prospects. I am really enjoying the course – it’s relevant, and interests me, which is a help when it comes to learning. For my work placement I hope to go into the genetics side of farming, as I have a keen interest in this from running a pedigree herd at home. For this I hope to either go to America or New Zealand.”

Robert Patterson,
BSc Agricultural Technology

Entrance requirements

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Course information

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