



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

**SCHOOL OF
BIOLOGICAL
SCIENCES**



AGRI-FOOD CAREERS AND WORK PLACEMENT INFORMATION

Degree Programmes with integrated work placement

BSc Hons Food Quality, Safety and Nutrition
BSc Hons Food Science and Food Safety
(the above courses are also offered as MSci)
BSc Hons Agricultural Technology
(Provided in conjunction with CAFRE Greenmount campus)

Work Placement Options

Placement is carried out after completion of Stage 2 of the degree programme. For many students this is the most important aspect of the degree, enabling them to experience the types of jobs which are available on graduation.

- Option one - 16 week full time placement to be carried out between Easter and September.
- Option two - Your degree is undertaken 'with Professional studies' based on a full time 46 week placement to be carried out after Stage 2. After completing placement you return to your studies to complete your degree programme.
- Full time means working a 35 hour week.
- Assessed as an integral academic component of the degree programme.
- Students have responsibility for finding their work placement supported by the Placement team within the School.

Types of placement you can undertake

Agriculture – students have previously secured placements and graduate careers in a range of agricultural production related roles and supporting industries. Areas include – Industry based roles including Meat, Dairy and Poultry industries (farm quality assurance, primary production, traceability), trainee farm management, farm liaison and support, industry related farm trials, sales and business development activities, harvesting, agronomy, plant breeding and crop related roles, horticulture, animal feeds companies and nutrition, agricultural stakeholder organisations, agricultural research institutes working on a broad range of agri-research projects. Many students have gained experience internationally and links are currently established with employers in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the US.

Food - Students have previously secured placements and graduate careers in a range of food manufacturing industries, food research related roles as well as organisations working in health related sectors. Areas include industry based roles – product development (development assistant, development technology and nutritional input), technical and quality (quality assurance technician, food technology) HACCP





and food safety, audit preparation (BRC and SALSA) and additional regulatory related roles, supplier liaison and buying, marketing and business development, product promotion, social media presence, waste minimisation and environmental management projects, food research within industry and research institutes working on a broad range of food science laboratory based projects. Students will have completed the CIEH Level 3 Qualification in Food Safety Supervision for Manufacturing prior to commencing placement.

Benefits in undertaking work placement

- Improved chances of securing a graduate-level job
- A clearer understanding of what career you want to do, or not
- Opportunity to integrate academic theory and practice
- Makes you more employable – develop transferable and technical skills
- Experience of the job application process
- Increased confidence, motivation and professionalism
- Start to develop your own networks and contacts - Get acquainted with experts in your field
- Valuable insights into industry culture and commercial awareness
- Heightened self-awareness through reflection
- Experience of other countries, cultures and languages

Support in finding a placement

Students are supported in their search for placement by a dedicated School Placement and Careers Adviser. The School has developed relationships with employers who advertise and recruit our students on an annual basis. Our students undertake placement locally, nationally and internationally.

Support for students seeking work placement includes:

- Timetabled programme of workshops during Stage 2 supporting students through all stages of work placement and including module requirements and the academic requirements related to work placement
- One to one career guidance appointments - available weekly to help you make decisions about work placement and how this relates to life after graduation and options with your degree
- Preparation of CV and cover letters guidance on completing application forms
- Preparing students for placement interviews, including interview technique and mock interview support
- Dedicated points of contact for students before, during and post placement for administrative and academic issues
- Students have access to a school specific web based placement management system and associated resources have been developed specifically for our students
- Suitable placement vacancies are sourced and advertised. In addition students have access to previous placement information
- Sessions with students who have completed work placement

All work placements are assessed within a module which contributes a mark towards your degree classification.

All placements are quality assured by the academic Module Co-ordinator, Dr Karen King (k.king@qub.ac.uk). to ensure students will have appropriate responsibilities to allow graduate level skills development.

Examples of previous employers

- ABP
- Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute
- Camden Food Research
- Cancer Focus
- Dale Farm
- Deli Lites
- Devenish Nutrition
- Diageo
- Dunbia
- Fane Valley
- Finnebrogue
- Food NI
- Frontier Agriculture
- GSK
- Kerry Group
- Lakeland Dairies
- Linden Foods
- Marks and Spencer (Food Technology)
- Mondelez
- Moy Park
- Nestle
- Sainsbury's (Food Technology)
- Suki Tea
- Teagasc
- Thompson Feeding Innovation
- Trouw Nutrition
- United States Department of Agriculture
- Willowbrook Foods

1ST IN THE UK FOR FOOD SCIENCE BASED ON RESEARCH INTENSITY

(Times, REF 2014: Subject Ranking on Intensity)



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