

Your Degree in Agriculture...What Next?

Agriculture degrees cover a wide range of disciplines including biology, chemistry and environmental studies but also touch on management, economics and food science – enabling you to cultivate an interesting and rewarding career.

The latest Census (2011) results show a 10% rise in the number of people working in farming bringing the total to 80,084. Only 6% of those with a qualification in agriculture are out of work, compared to an overall unemployment rate of 19% nationally. The economy of Ireland may be in a fragile state, but the agri-food sector has been one of the few bright spots. There continues to be 230,000 jobs linked to the sector, and new innovations through the national Agri-Food strategy aim to create 30,000 new jobs going forward.

Ireland is the largest supplier of food and drink to the UK and is the biggest net exporter of dairy ingredients, beef and lamb in the EU. Ireland also produces 15% of the world's infant formula.

Degrees in CIT include:

- CR 010: **Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (Level 7)**
- Suitably qualified graduates are eligible to apply for entry to the one year add-on **Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Agriculture**
- Graduates of the programme can also pursue specialisations in Agriculture with other Higher Education Institutions in Ireland and abroad.

What 'SKILLS' have you gained:

During your Agriculture Degree you will have learned:

- How to develop a wide mix of technical skills and knowledge, including land use, farming practice and food production, as well as an understanding of the scientific, ethical and business principles that underpin the agricultural industry.
- How changes in government and European Union policies can affect the management and production of food.

Employers will be interested in your '*Transferable Skills*' such as:

- Numeracy and IT
- Initiative and Teamwork
- Organisational skills and ability to Manage Projects
- Ability to plan and conduct research
- Communication, including Influencing and Leadership

CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE:

A career in Agriculture is far greater and broader than “farming” alone. Graduates in Ireland can find a host of other careers in agricultural-related services and businesses. These include:

AGRI-BUSINESS & FOOD

Almost 50,000 people are directly employed in the Food and Drink sector with a further 60,000 employed indirectly in all regions of the country. The manufacture of Food and Drink products is Ireland's most important indigenous industry with Ireland competing successfully in over 170 markets. The manufacture of Food and Drinks for example is Ireland's most important indigenous industry with turnover of €24 billion.

- The Food industry is a major employer from:

Glanbia Plc: Ag. Graduates are employed in animal nutrition, technical sales, IT, quality assurance schemes, in forestry, environmental areas, in laboratories etc.

Kerry Group: have many opportunities at home and abroad in the food ingredients/ processing and agribusiness. Graduate positions in Sales, Marketing and Production Management. Graduates are also recruited to work in IT, Finance, Quality Assurance & Technical Services.

Dairygold: is Ireland's largest farmer owned food company and multi-purpose agribusiness. Its activities include dairy processing, animal feed manufacture, grain trading, supply of DIY & farm inputs and farm services, including animal breeding and livestock marketing.

Lakeland Dairies is the second biggest dairy Coop in the Republic. It produces quality dairy food service products and functional food ingredients for international markets and its Agri-business division services farmers in the Northeast including N. Ireland.

- For a comprehensive list of Co-operative Societies please refer to the [ICOS](http://www.icos.ie) website - www.icos.ie

Greencore Plc is a leading international producer of Convenience Foods and Ingredients. Most recent recruits in the Agri Sector have a masters qualification in a tillage or livestock related area. M.B.A. is the favoured post grad qualification for the more experienced personnel. Agri subsidiaries include Premier Molasses & Trilby Trading.

Bord Bia develops export markets for Irish food and drink companies. The focus is now on market research, consumer foods, food ingredients, marketing and promotion rather than on meat production & processing. For more information on opportunities there and with their clients check out their website – www.bordbia.ie

South Western offers a comprehensive range of services, principally in the agricultural, forestry, environmental, financial, property and IT sectors.

ARYZTA (formerly IAWS Plc) is a major Food and Agri-business group with worldwide operations. Its three main business activities are food, agribusiness, plus oils & proteins. Well known Agri subsidiaries under their subsidiary originenterprises include **R & H Hall, Gouldings** etc.

Irish Dairy Board has a trainee programme to give graduates real business experience. Successful applicants from Agribusiness, Food Science and Food Business are placed in the US or Europe.

- Hundreds of small to Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) are also specialising in various food products.

Food Science:

- It is considered one of the agricultural sciences, and is usually considered distinct from the field of nutrition.
- Examples of the activities of Food Scientists include the animal/plant or Agri-Science research, development of new food products, design of processes to produce these foods, choice of packaging materials, shelf-life studies, sensory evaluation of the product with trained expert panels or potential consumers, as well as microbiological and chemical testing.
- New innovations such as the partnership between Kerry Group and [UCD Research Department](#) represent a major investment in food science for third level graduates.
- **Soil Scientist** – gathers, interprets and evaluates information about the chemistry, biology and physics of soils to inform and influence issues as diverse as agricultural production, environmental quality, human health, climate change, land remediation and biodiversity

Teagasc:

- In their training and advisory services they recruit permanent and contract staff. They also recruit disciplines such as IT, nutrition, etc. in to their specialist advisory service.
- In their research services, they recruit permanent research staff and a significant number of contract research scientists each year. The types of degrees many of the research recruits would have include science, economics, agriculture and food science.
- For more information on careers within Teagasc, check out www.teagasc.ie/careers/sectors

Agri, Environmental & Forestry Consultancy

- Agricultural & forestry consultants employ a significant number of Graduates. Services provided include advice on EU schemes & Environmental Plans, Technical and Financial advice for Commercial Farmers. Consultants also process farm accounts, assist with credit applications and give advice on various EU schemes and markets.
- Land valuations, grant applications and new business plans are among the services provided. Long term prospects are reasonable due to the enlarged EU, improved Agri prospects, increased environmental regulations and compliance requirements.
- For further info please contact the [Agricultural Consultants Association](#), [Forestry Consultants Association](#) & [British Institute of Agricultural Consultants](#) and the [Association of International Consultants](#).

Meat Industry:

There are around numerous abattoirs & factories in the state licensed to kill cattle, poultry, pigs and sheep for export. All these employ graduates on farm inspections for quality assurance (QA) schemes. Graduates with the relevant qualifications and experience can also expect to be employed in Sales, Marketing, implementing Food Safety Policy and preparing HACCP plans. The major firms include ABP Group - www.abpfoodgroup.com Dawn Meats- www.dawnmeats.com , Dunbia – www.dunbia.com , Kepak- www.kepak.com , Rosderra- www.rosderra.ie, Slaney Foods - www.slaney.com

Feed Industry: Graduates are employed widely in this modern Hi Tech industry as Nutritionists, Technical Advisers, Sales Representatives and in various Management positions. Farmer customers now expect to deal with qualified personnel which augurs well for future graduate recruitment.

Agrochemicals & Animal Health:

The Animal & Plant Health Association represents the interests of bigger manufacturers in Ireland. This is a major agribusiness sector and prospects have improved due to increased livestock numbers and a bigger acreage of tillage. The age profile of current employees, a shortage of veterinary graduates and the trend to employ personnel with third level qualifications are all positive factors from a graduate perspective. For further information check out their website - www.apha.ie

AGRI- SERVICE SECTOR:

- **Farm Machinery:**

The manufacture of farm machinery and agricultural equipment in Ireland is a growth sector. Many of these firms e.g. **Dairymaster, Keenan, McHales**, employ graduates in Management, Marketing and Sales positions. The service sector, such as Machinery Suppliers, Farm Relief Services, Milking Machine Companies, Agricultural Contractors etc. are another major employer in the Agri Business area.

For further information on the industry refer to Farm Machinery Yearbooks and checkout the (Farm, Tractor & Machinery Trade Association) (www.ftmta.ie)

- **Fertiliser Industry:**

After years of declining this sector has stabilised and is growing again. The tillage acreage is growing as are livestock numbers so farmers need more grass and forage. For more information on the fertiliser industry check out the Fertilizer Association of Ireland- www.fertilizer-assoc.ie

- **Retail Management:**

Dunnes Stores, Tesco Ireland, Super Valu etc all operate Quality Assurance (QA) schemes in conjunction with their Food Suppliers. Food Safety, Traceability, Animal Welfare, Environmentally Friendly Production Systems, Organic Farming are all areas of interest to Food Buyers. This is a growth sector so graduates should target in Britain & Ireland.

AGRI-TOURISM

There is a growth in outdoor recreation and it is creating career opportunities for people supplying professional tourist services in rural settings in activities such as horse-riding, fishing, golfing, sailing and hill-walking and accommodation. Many farmers are now opening their farms up to tourists. This form of expanded Agri-tourism has potential to offer full and part-time careers.

Careers where your Agriculture Degree would be useful:

- **Environment & Renewable Energy**

Significant new employment could be created in this sector in local authorities, consultancy and in the private sector. Websites worth visiting are the Environmental Protection Agency (www.epa.ie) Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (www.seai.ie), Irish Wind Energy Association.

- **Auctioneers & Valuers**

Graduates are involved in valuations of forestry, farm buildings, land sales and rental, livestock and in the operation of livestock marts. However the slowdown in the economy has impacted on employment levels. Check out the website for the **Society of Chartered Surveyors** - www.scsi.ie

- **Audit & Accountancy Firms**

An Agricultural Graduate can join the practice and train as a Chartered Accountant. One can specialise in Agribusiness, take a Management role in the firm or provide business advice to clients in Agribusiness and related sectors. For further information on this sector check out websites such as www.pwc.ie and www.kpmg.ie

- **Financial Institutions**

ACC Bank, AIB Bank, Bank of Ireland, Ulster Bank etc employ significant numbers of Agriculture Graduates in areas such as: Agricultural Advisory, Business Lending, Corporate Banking, IT, Retail/Branch Banking, Sales/Marketing etc. More information on their websites, however, employment prospects at present are slim due to the crisis in the financial sector.

FBD Insurance, Irish Farm Accounts Coop (IFAC) and the **Aviva Group** also employ many Agriculture Graduates. These companies recruit on a regular basis.

Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Marine (Includes the Forest Service)

- The basic requirement for entry is an honours degree in Agriculture, Food Science or similar. Graduates in other disciplines are also recruited to meet specialist needs. The work includes formulating policy for the development of the Agriculture and Food sectors. This includes attendance at Technical Meetings of the EU and other Technical/Regulatory Organisations.
- Implementation of EU legislation and schemes such as Integrated Controls, REPS and other Farm Improvement Schemes, as well as Quality Control measures across a range of Agri-Food products.
- Liaison with outside organisations such as Teagasc, Bord Bia, Co-ops and International Organisations, in both policy and operational aspects of their work. Further information on their website however all public sector recruitment is now minimal.

- **EU & International Consultancy**

Graduates & other qualified personnel may also have the opportunity to work abroad with multinationals, Irish based or international consultants and charities working in central Europe, the former Soviet Union, Middle East, Asia or third world. Due to EU expansion there should be greater opportunities in central Europe. For further information check out the relevant charity, commercial and EU websites for more details.

- **Rural & Community Development**

With Leader Groups/Partnership companies and Enterprise Boards in almost every county there are many opportunities for graduates to become involved. Graduates who become involved in this sector will open up new opportunities for themselves in successful new enterprises.

- **Agricultural Journalist** Writing about developments and trends, government and EU policies, scientific and technical innovations
- **Animal Nutritionist:** Aim to increase and promote the understanding of the effect of diet on the health, wellbeing and productivity of animals.
- **Field Trials Officer:** Develop and manage research trials on plants in the field or laboratory.
- **Lecturer**

** Remember that many employers accept applications from Graduates with any degree subject, so don't restrict your thinking to the jobs listed above.

POSTGRADUATE STUDY

Gaining a postgraduate qualification brings with it many benefits. It enables you to gain further more specialised knowledge of your field of study; it can give you a specific technical, vocational or professional qualification and facilitate you in developing a range of key skills including: research, analysis, evaluation and written communication. For further information, go to the 'Further/Postgraduate Study' link on the Students page of our website;

<http://www.mycit.ie/careers>.

See also www.postgradireland.com; www.prospects.ac.uk

Ideally you will spend a lot of your final year carefully researching your options which includes **graduate employment or further study**.

Register with gradireland to get email alerts on employment opportunities as well as job search advice

www.gradireland.com

Get a copy of the **Gradireland Careers Directory** for Ireland (north and south) which is available at CIT's Careers and Counselling Service, 2nd Floor, Student Centre.

Europe Erasmus Mundus

- Wide range of low cost and funded postgrad courses in Europe which cover every discipline. Netherlands, Germany, Sweden and Switzerland have particularly low fees. A long list of courses are delivered in English
- Netherlands: www.nuffic.nl Germany: www.daad.ie Sweden: www.studyinsweden.se Switzerland: www.swissuniversity.ch

Teagasc – are a major employer of postgraduate Walsh Fellowship students with some 140 pursuing PhD programmes at any one time. There are up to 30 new places each year with a grant of €22,000 per student.

www.teagasc.ie/research/postgrad/

FURTHER RESOURCES

The following websites have some very useful information about the Agriculture sector in Ireland

- www.bordbia.ie/industryinfo/pages/default.aspx
- www.teagasc.ie provides advisory, education, research and training services for the Agri-Food industry in the Republic of Ireland.
- <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/customerservice/careersinagriculturefoodmarinesectors/>
- www.dardni.gov.uk
- www.depaor.ie Look under Recruitment Section - click on employment section– has some excellent information on different sectors and companies that maybe recruiting Have a look at the information on other pages as well as you could pick up some useful info.

Disclaimer: Information is provided in good faith by CIT's Careers and Counselling Service. CIT, the Careers and Counselling Service, and any contributing third party shall have no legal liability or responsibility for any individual's decision made on the basis of this information.

- www.coillte.ie
- www.greenbelt.ie Irelands leading private forestry company
- www.forestryyearbook.ie
- www.bim.ie
- www.careersportal.ie – under Work and Employment – Occupation types – if you type in Agriculture – information on the career will come up.
- www.farmersjournal.ie – useful in terms of keeping up with information in the agri sector.
- www.icos.ie (Irish Cooperative Organisation Society) – for a comprehensive list of Co-op Societies
- www.reading.ac.uk/seec/develoment Career Development - Agriculture – Options with your degree etc - will give you a good insight of what you can do with an Agricultural degree.
- www.fertilizer-assoc.ie Information on the fertiliser industry

Websites with job advertisements:

- www.teagasc.ie/opportunities/ Contracts are advertised regularly on their website
- www.growingcareers.com
- www.gradireland.com/career-sectors/agriculture-animal-and-plant-resources
- www.prospect.ac.uk/environment_agriculture_sector.htm
- www.careerjet.ie/search/jobs?s=agriculture&l=Ireland
- www.irishjobs.ie/Agriculture-Horticulture-Jobs
- www.simplyhired.ie/a/jobs/list/q-agriculture
- www.indeed.ie/Agriculture-jobs
- www.irishjobs.ie/Agricultural-Jobs
- www.needafarmer.com
- www.gumtree.ie/fp-jobs/agriculture
- Irish Farmers Association, ICMSA, ICSA, Macra na Feirme. A significant number of graduates are employed by these associations. These positions include development officers, administration personnel, training etc.

Associations:

- Irish Farmers Association - www.ifa.ie
- ICMSA - www.icmsa.ie
- ICSA – www.icsaireland.ie
- Macra - www.macra.ie
- Forestry Consultants Association - www.aifc.ie
- British Institute of Agricultural Consultants - www.biac.co.uk
- Association of International Consultants - www.aic2000.org
- Farm, Tractor & Machinery Trade Association - www.ftmta.ie
- The Irish Grain & Feed Association represents feed mills, grain merchants, feed importers, ancillary suppliers and compounders.
- Animal & Plant Health Association- www.apha.ie

Professional Bodies:

- www.aca.ie - Agricultural Consultants Association
- www.iagrm.org.uk – The institute of Agricultural Management
- www.iagre.org – The professional body for the landbased sector