



Part-time & Full-time

Diploma/BSc in Rural Development by Distance Learning



The course is available to mature learners seeking a third level qualification with an interest in rural affairs and community development.

The course also offers professional development opportunities for rural enterprise managers and entrepreneurs, enterprise support and local authority staff, and rural and community development activists.

Further Information

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- **Are you involved in, or do you have an interest in rural development?**
- **Do you wish you had a university degree but never had the opportunity?**
- **Would you like to study in your own time, without giving up your work?**
- **Would you be prepared to attend a weekend workshop 4-5 times during the academic year with other mature students from all over the country?**

Programme Structure

The programme was developed jointly by University College Dublin (UCD), University College Cork (UCC), National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG) and National University of Ireland Maynooth (NUIM).

The Diploma can be achieved in one or more years and the BSc can be achieved in a further 2 or more years.

The programme is delivered over 4-5 weekend workshops at the participating universities.

Learning material provided through a combination of online (Blackboard) and text-based modules, tutorials and lecture presentations.

Diploma/BSc in Rural Development

Entry Requirements

Applicants will meet university requirements for mature students, that is, over 23 years of age. Applicants must have 2 years of rural development experience, in either a voluntary or a professional capacity. Basic computer skill required. Leaving Certificate not required. In addition to the online application an informal interview will be part of the selection process.

Application Process

UCD operates via an Online Applications system at: www.ucd.ie/apply. The closing date for applications is 14th September 2012.

Please contact us at agribus.ruraldev@ucd.ie before applying.



Diploma in Rural Development 2010 graduation

Programme Objectives

- ◇ To deepen your understanding of the issues that shape modern Irish rural life in the areas of economy, society and environment.
- ◇ To introduce participants to a broad ranging knowledge of theory and practice in the field of rural development.
- ◇ To train participants in the planning and management of rural development activities e.g project management.
- ◇ To assist participants in critically appraising the multiplicity of local, national, and EU policy strategies and approaches to rural development issues.
- ◇ To provide participants with the knowledge and skills required to successfully establish and manage rural farm/non-farm based private, community, co-operative and social enterprises.
- ◇ To give participants the competence to communicate on a range of rural development issues and engage local stakeholders.

Programme Fees

Fees for the academic year 2010-2011 were €1,950/year for the part-time diploma and €3,400/year for the full-time BSc. It is anticipated that the fees for 2012-13 will be similar.

Applicants may be eligible for funding under the LEADER programme. If you are interested in applying please contact the Development Company that is administering the LEADER programme in your county.



UCC

Coláiste na hOlliscoil Corcaigh, Éire
University College Cork, Ireland



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh



NUI MAYNOOTH
Ollscoil na hÉireann Mhá Nuad