



Diploma/BSc/Certificate/Professional Awards 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 have interest in rural/community development?
- Do you wish you had a university qualification, but have not had the chance?
- Would you like to develop your knowledge and understanding of the issues that affect rural society and its development?
- Would you like to study from home, at your own pace, in a flexible format?
- Would you be prepared to attend occasional weekend workshops during the academic year with other mature students?

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). *Depending on your county you apply to the relevant University, please contact Aideen for further details.*

The programme is delivered over occasional weekend workshops at the participating universities.

Learning material provided through a combination of online (Blackboard) and written materials and lecture presentations.

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Entry Requirements

Students must be over 23 years of age on the 1st of Jan of year of application.

Applicants must have 2 years 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.

Please contact
Dr Pádraig Wims
p.wims@ucd.ie
before applying.



Some of the graduating class of the Diploma in Rural Development

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 2013-2014 are €1,950/year for the part-time Diploma/Certificate; €3,500/year for the full-time Diploma/BSc. Professional Development Awards start from €650/10 credit module. Contact Aideen to discuss options.

Applicants may be eligible for funding under LEADER (Rural Development Programme). IContact the Development Company that is administering LEADER (Rural Development Programme) in your county.



UCC

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, Éire
University College Cork, Ireland



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh



NUI MAYNOOTH
Ollscoil na hÉireann M^a Nuad