Part-time Agriculture Courses including full HNC Agriculture

Autumn 2019
Livestock Growth Health and Welfare
IT: Applications Software

Spring 2020
Grass and Fodder Crop Production
Soils and Crop Establishment

Autumn 2020
Livestock Breeding
Environmental Awareness

Spring 2021
Crop Protection and Harvesting Mechanisation
Farm Vehicles and Power

Autumn 2021
Livestock Production Systems
Agriculture: Graded Unit 1

Spring 2022
Livestock Husbandry and Recording
Arable Crop Production

University of the Highlands and Islands
Argyll College
www.argyll.uhi.ac.uk
About the course

This part-time HNC course will introduce you to the care, cultivation and breeding of crops and animals.

You will develop a broad theoretical knowledge, which, in combination with practical experience and guidance from a working farm manager, will enable you to undertake the running of a farm.

You’ll learn about crop production, animal production and mechanisation, and develop an ability to complete and maintain appropriate records and documents. You will study relevant health and safety, animal welfare and environmental issues during the course.

The course has been broken up into single units allowing you to either complete all units and achieve a full HNC qualification, or you can pick and choose which subjects you would like to study.

Each unit lasts 10 weeks and consists of one 3 hour evening class in your local learning centre each week. You will be taught via video conferencing. If you choose to study the full HNC then this would mean doing two 3 hour classes per week (2 units). Some units also require two full practical days which will take place at our training farm near Campbeltown. Dates of these practical days will be provided well in advance.
Funding

Each unit costs £86 and you may be eligible to cover some of your costs using your Individual Training Account (ITA). You can learn more about ITAs at www.myworldofwork.co.uk or speak to your local learning centre for more information.

Course delivery

All teaching will be by Video Conference (VC) but the unit ‘Livestock Husbandry and Recording’ involves some practical assessment. The ‘Farm Vehicle and Power’ unit involves farm visits where possible as does the Livestock Production Systems unit.

The course is available through all UHI colleges. Depending on which college and centre you choose to study, and what units you opt for, you may receive tuition in different ways. We are a network of colleges and learning centres so our tutors and students are often located in different places. Many classes are delivered using video conference technology. You’ll hear us call this ‘VC’ and we might talk about classes being ‘networked’ which means that the tutor is in one location and broadcasts the class to students in one or several other places. VC classes are really interactive and are similar to having a group Skype call.
Livestock Growth Health and Welfare

This Unit will allow candidates to develop a fundamental knowledge and understanding of the growth, health and welfare of livestock.

You will:
• Learn about a range of feedstuffs used in livestock production including the origin and characteristics of the feedstuff.
• Classifications of feeds and constraints of their use.
• Learn about physiology of growth and lactation and examines the ability to manipulate these processes and thereby influence meat quality and milk composition.
• Learn about diseases, underlying causal organisms of diseases, recognition of common diseases in livestock.
• Gain an understanding of the modes of transmission of disease and methods for control and prevention will also be gained.
• Learn the role and use of welfare codes by stockpersons within their routine husbandry of farm livestock.
• Look at the current legalisation pertaining to farm livestock.

IT: Applications Software

This unit is designed to enable students to use IT systems and applications independently to support a range of information processing activities. The unit is designed to develop a knowledge of the theoretical concepts, principles, boundaries and scope of IT applications.

You will:
• Learn about the different components of a computer system, the function of tools such as file manager, print manager and control panel, the ways in which data can be kept secure and the causes of common software and hardware problems and how to resolve them.
• Use a range of software application packages, (at least four) to meet complex information requirements. The learners will be given a comprehensive checklist of all evidence required to successfully complete this unit.
Grass and Fodder Crop Production

The aim of this unit is to allow you to acquire skills and knowledge in relation to grass and non grass fodder crops. It will allow you to be competent in identifying species and their characteristics. You will build technical knowledge and understanding of the production of grass and fodder crops. This unit is aimed at operators within the livestock sector of farming.

On completion of the Unit the candidate will be able to:
• Identify and describe the characteristics of a range of grass species and fodder crops grown in the UK.
• Describe the establishment, production and utilisation of grass.
• Describe the establishment, production and utilisation of a fodder crop.

Soils and Crop Establishment

This Unit is designed to enable candidates to develop the Knowledge and Skills required to understand the nature and properties of soils, their management in respect of crop production, to plan the use of field machinery to manipulate soil environments and establish crops and to provide appropriate crop nutrition

On completion of the Unit the candidate will be able to:
• Explain the significant characteristics of agricultural soils for crop production.
• Explain the application of soil tillage and crop establishment equipment.
• Explain the methods of assessing and modifying soil fertility.
• Explain the operation, performance and management of equipment for distributing inorganic fertilisers.
Livestock Breeding

This Unit will equip candidates with a fundamental knowledge and understanding of the principles of livestock breeding. The Unit may be suitable for candidates who are studying for a Group Award in an area related to agriculture, food or the rural economy.

On completion of the Unit the candidate will be able to:
• Describe the structure and functioning of the reproductive systems of livestock.
• Explain the management of fertility and breeding.
• Explain the principles and practice of livestock improvement.

Environmental Awareness

This Unit introduces candidates to the main environmental effects of the use of the earth’s resources by an increasing human population. Emphasis will be placed on identifying ways in which the sustainable use of resources can be achieved through action plans ranging from the international to individual scale.

On completion of the Unit the candidate will be able to:
• Explain how the use of the earth’s finite resources affects the environment.
• Describe how human activity impacts on the environment.
• Explain sustainable development at the global, national and individual level.
Crop Protection and Harvesting Mechanisation

This Unit is designed to enable candidates to develop the Knowledge and Skills required to select and manage the machinery for field scale crop protection and the machinery for harvesting of cereal and forage crops. Candidates are required to identify the factors that influence the selection and operational performance of the machines and take an holistic view to plan the mechanisation of crop protection and harvesting systems with due regard to the significant environmental issues.

On completion of the Unit the candidate will be able to:
• Explain the application of techniques and mechanisms for crop protection.
• Explain the operation, use and management of cereal harvesting equipment.
• Explain the use of equipment for the production of forage crops.

Farm Vehicles and Power

This unit is designed to allow learners to develop the knowledge and skills to enable effective management of farm power associated with both field and fixed equipment. Learners will study the factors influencing the selection and operational performance of farm power units including tractors, All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and material handlers. The characteristics of vehicle engines, transmission and hydraulic vehicle systems will be explored to facilitate their effective use. Learners will also study farm electrical systems to enable their safe and economical use.

On completion of the Unit the candidate will be able to:
• Explain the operation and characteristics of engine powered farm vehicles.
• Explain the factors influencing the performance, efficiency and selection of powered farm vehicles.
• Explain the legal, safety and environmental considerations of operating farm vehicles.
• Explain farm electrical power systems.
Livestock Production Systems

This Unit will equip candidates with a fundamental knowledge and understanding of the factors affecting demand and consumption of livestock products, different livestock production systems found in the UK and the components of these systems. The Unit may be suitable for candidates who are studying for a Group Award in an area related to agriculture, food or the rural economy.

On completion of the Unit the candidate will be able to:
• Describe the demand for livestock products in the UK.
• Describe selected systems of livestock production.
• Describe the main components of livestock production systems.

Autumn 2021 units

NO. OF CREDITS: 1
SCQF LEVEL: 7
LOCATIONS: Available in all UHI colleges via VC
PRIOR KNOWLEDGE: Learners would benefit from having relevant vocational work experience but it is not required.
COST: £86 - may be eligible for ITA

Agriculture: Graded Unit 1

This Graded Unit is designed to provide evidence that the candidate has achieved the following principal aims of the HNC in Agriculture:

• to provide a husbandry-based programme in production agriculture, which, in combination with practical experience and guidance from their manager, would enable candidates to undertake the running of a farm enterprise
• to develop in candidates the required skills and knowledge in crop production, animal production and mechanisation in an integrative manner and to develop the ability to complete and maintain appropriate records and documents
• to ensure that candidates are aware of relevant health and safety, animal welfare and environmental issues
• to provide an appropriate foundation to enable progression to the Higher National Diploma and BSc programmes

This unit is only available to those studying towards the HNC in Agriculture qualification
Spring 2022 units

Livestock Husbandry and Recording

This Unit will develop candidates’ key skills and competence in livestock husbandry, equipment use and record keeping whilst also helping to develop safe working practices in handling livestock and using equipment.

On completion of the Unit the candidate will be able to:

- Perform a range of livestock husbandry skills.
- Describe the function and use of livestock production equipment.
- Explain the uses of livestock records and complete and organise records pertaining to livestock.

Arable Crop Production

This Unit is designed to provide candidates with knowledge and understanding of the production of cereal, oilseed and pulse crops and to develop candidate skills in the identification of crop growth stages. It is intended for candidates wishing to work in practical farming, farm management or the agricultural support industries.

On completion of the Unit the candidate will be able to:

- Identify and explain the growth stages of arable crops.
- Select and plan the production of an arable crop.
Your local Argyll centres

**Arran**
The Arran Learning Centre is located in the High School Campus in Lamlash. The centre houses three large teaching rooms, each with Video Conference / Presentation equipment, and Wi-Fi access.

**Campbeltown**
The centre has 9 teaching rooms, 7 of which have Video Conference / Presentation equipment facilities, a student room, a Construction Skills unit on the ground floor and Wi-Fi access.

**CERC (Lochgilphead)**
This purpose-built centre boasts large, state-of-the-art woodworking and engineering workshops as well as two other general practical project areas. It also has two ‘classroom’-type teaching rooms, one of which contains drafting desks while the other has computers and video conference facilities.

**Dunoon**
The Dunoon Learning Centre is located at West Bay adjacent to the Argyll Ferries terminal. The centre houses 6 teaching rooms, with Video Conference / Presentation equipment, and Wi-Fi access.

**Helensburgh**
Argyll College UHI is taking over Argyll & Bute Council’s Kirmichael Centre, with a range of full time courses expected to begin in September 2017.
Islay
The centre has 2 teaching rooms each with Video Conference / Presentation equipment, and Wi-Fi access and we also have access to a fully equipped hospitality kitchen in the high school.

Lochgilphead
The building has eight teaching rooms, six of which have video conferencing and computing facilities. One of the rooms has recently been refitted and is now used as the base for our expanding portfolio of art-based courses.

Oban
The Learning Centre houses eight large teaching rooms, each with Video Conference / Presentation equipment, and Wi-Fi access. The other ten rooms offer various teaching and video conferencing facilities.

Rothesay
The Rothesay Learning Centre is located at Rothesay Joint Campus just off High Street. The centre houses 3 teaching rooms, with Video Conference / Presentation equipment, and Wi-Fi access.

Tobermory
The Tobermory Learning Centre is located within the High School Campus in Tobermory. The centre comprises a small but well equipped teaching room and shared access with the school to a large hospitality room; each room has Video Conference / Presentation equipment, and Wi-Fi access.
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KA CAMPUS LAMLASH /
ISLE OF ARRAN / KA27 8NG
T: +44 (0)1770 600 152

2. CAMPBELTOWN
HAZELBURN BUSINESS PARK /
MILLKNOWE PARK /
CAMPBELTOWN / PA28 6HA
T: +44 (0)1586 559 310

3. CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING AND RENEWABLES CENTRE (CERC)
KILMORY INDUSTRIAL ESTATE /
LOCHGILPHEAD / PA31 8SH
T: +44 (0)1631 559 830

4. DUNOON
WEST BAY / DUNOON / ARGYLL / PA23 7HP
T: +44 (0)1369 707 182

5. HELENSBURGH
KIRKMICHAEL CENTRE / BUCHANAN RD
HELENSBURGH / G84 7LZ
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6. ISLAY
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7. LOCHGILPHEAD
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8. OBAN
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9. ROTHESAY
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