



# Diploma/BSc/Certificate/Professional Awards in Rural Development by Distance Learning



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

*The shorter courses also offer professional development opportunities for rural 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 an interest in rural/ community development?**
- **Do you wish you had a university qualification, but never 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).

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

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

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## 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](http://www.ucd.ie/apply).

Please contact us at [Karen.Keaveney@ucd.ie](mailto:Karen.Keaveney@ucd.ie) before applying.



*Diploma in Rural Development 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 2013-2014 are €1,950/year for the part-time Diploma/Certificate and €3,500/year for the full-time Diploma/BSc. Professional Development Awards start at €650/10 credit module.

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 hOllscoile Corcaigh, Éire  
University College Cork, Ireland



**NUI Galway**  
OÉ Gaillimh



**NUI MAYNOOTH**  
Ollscoil na hÉireann M<sup>a</sup> Nuad