Forestry
Teagasc, Ballyhaise College

QQI Level 5 Forestry Major Award

QQI Level 6 Advanced Forestry Major Award
Introduction

Teagasc College Ballyhaise, Co. Cavan has provided forestry training since 1988. The study of forestry involves managing trees and woodlands in rural areas for economic, environmental and social purposes. Forestry courses available at Ballyhaise College are QQI certified Level 5 & 6 courses on the National Framework of Qualifications. A forestry qualification from Ballyhaise College has provided the opportunity for many students to develop wide ranging and interesting careers including:

• Work as self-employed forestry contractors
• Develop careers in arboriculture and tree care services
• Further their education to higher levels
• Work for established forestry management companies and organisations

Aims and Objectives

The main objective is to provide a sound understanding of the fundamental knowledge and the essential skills required for those involved in forestry operations.

The course is aimed at those who are:

• Looking to expand or update their skills and training
• Looking to improve career prospects
• Looking to obtain a recognised qualification
• Looking to advance to third level education

On completion of a course the participants will be competent in a range of relevant areas including carrying out safe work practices, communicating effectively and developing career skills.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ballyhaise College by trained staff and instructors from Teagasc and outside agencies. Tuition and practical work takes place at Ballyhaise with fieldwork at suitable sites. The teaching and learning methods include:

• Class room lectures
• Field trips
• Practical demonstrations

The structure and content is regularly reviewed to keep in line with changing needs and requirements in the relevant subject area. All applicants are interviewed and previous experience and knowledge is taken into consideration. Prior skills may be taken into account for exemption from equivalent components on the course.

Entry procedure

Application is online through the teagasc.ie website https://www.teagasc.ie/education/going-to-college/apply-online/forestry-courses/.

Telephone: 049 433 8108 | Email: ballyhaise.college@teagasc.ie
Location

Ballyhaise College is signposted from the N3 between the Cavan Town Bypass and Belturbet. The college is situated 8km north of Cavan town on the R212.
QQI Level 5 Certificate in Forestry

Introduction to the course

The full time Level 5 forestry course available at Ballyhaise is awarded by QQI (Quality and Qualifications Ireland). The course is designed for people who intend to take up employment in the forestry industry as trained operatives. It also provides a foundation for those who wish to carry on to higher education.

The Level 5 Award in Forestry course provides a viable option for those who want to obtain a recognised qualification and relevant skills awards. Course participants will be provided with practical knowledge and training that will readily transfer to a working environment.

This course provides a broad introduction to all aspects of forestry and minor awards include topics such as tree identification, forest soils, timber measurement, manual handling, tree planting, aftercare and protection.

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<th>Duration</th>
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<td>Contact details</td>
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Course content

**Minor awards**
- Silviculture
- Forest safety
- Sustainable forestry
- Leadership
- Forest development
- Forest calculations

**Forestry skills**
- Chainsaw maintenance
- Chainsaw felling
- ATV operation
- Pesticide application
- Fencing

**Entry Requirements**
There is no minimum educational requirement for the course but applicants who have achieved a leaving certificate standard of education are likely to benefit most.

All applicants will be interviewed and will need to demonstrate an interest in the subject.

Applicants must be over 17 years on 1 January following entry to the course. Mature students are welcome.

**Progression**
QQI Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Forestry, Ballyhaise College. Level 7 Bachelor Degree in Forestry - Waterford Institute of Technology – Advanced entry YEAR 2

**Application**
Applications can be made online via the www.teagasc.ie website by 1st June.

**Course structure**
The course is full time from September to May and includes an 8 week practical learning period in March and April.

The course combines practical skills in the forest and classroom theory.
What the students say:

“I chose Ballyhaise because it was a great way to get into WIT without having to go from working straight into college which would have been a much harder transition without Ballyhaise. The course content was very good; timber measurement, forest protection and soils were well covered. The work placement also gave me a chance to get to know some people in forestry which should increase my chances of getting a job in the future I hope.”

James, Galway

Great course as it prepares you for all aspects of forestry work and any situations you might face along the way. And for my work placement I was planting, pruning fertilising and filling in on sites.”

Jake, Louth

“The course in Ballyhaise gives anyone with any doubts they have about themselves the confidence and the chance to go to the next level. I’m going to go as far as I can with the education because it keeps widening the options and increases the opportunities for work later. The course is really interesting and useful for anyone looking for work or as a stepping stone to WIT. The practical skills gained and the access Ballyhaise has to real forests and plantations can’t be beaten.”

Stephen, Meath
QQI Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Forestry

Introduction to the course

The full time Level 6 forestry course available at Ballyhaise is awarded by the QQI (Quality and Qualifications Ireland). The course offers training for people who intend to take up employment in the forestry industry as forest supervisors or self employed contractors. Students with a Level 6 forestry qualification can also progress to higher education at degree level.

The Level 6 Certificate in Forestry course provides a viable option for those who want to obtain a recognised qualification and specialised skills awards. Course participants will be able to study a wide range of topics related to the forestry industry to include establishment, forest management and essential business skills.

Duration
12 weeks full-time course work including skills
12 weeks work practice

Location
Teagasc, Ballyhaise College, Co. Cavan

Contact details
Tel: 049-4338108

Fees
Tuition fees are currently grant aided for all EU citizens

Email
ballyhaise.college@teagasc.ie

Web
www.teagasc.ie

Online application
https://www.teagasc.ie/education/going-to-college/apply-online/forestry-courses/

QQI Award components:
www.qqi.ie
Course code 6M4337

Course content

Minor awards
Forest Management
Forest Establishment
Leadership
Business Management
Skills Training
Work Practice

Forestry skills
Chainsaw operation
Chainsaw felling
Processing Wind Blown Trees
ATV operation
Pesticide application
Fencing

Entry Requirements
Students are eligible to apply directly to the QQI Level 6 Advanced certificate in forestry course on successfully completing the Forestry Level 5 major Award.

Progression
Students with the Level 6 major award may apply for advanced entry into the second year of the Bachelor Degree in Forestry at Waterford Institute of Technology.

Award
The successful completion of the QQI Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Forestry meets the training requirements for stamp duty exemption and agricultural schemes.

Application
Applications can be made online via the Teagasc website

Course structure
The course runs over 24 weeks from September to June and includes a 12 week practical learning period.

The course combines practical skills in the forest and classroom theory spread out in three week blocks over the academic year.
What the students say:

“For my work experience I spent time with forest workers, foresters and managers from different parts of Coillte that will help me to understand and learn different aspects of forestry which will prove invaluable to me in my future career in forestry”
Eddie, Kildare

“I chose to apply to Ballyhaise because it was a more practical and hands on course and I am interested in forestry and management and I needed to up skill for better job prospects in the future. I found the all the chainsaw and fencing courses very useful and learned a lot about forestry.”
Colm, Meath

“The course really jumped out at me when I saw all the practical experience I would gain and this would benefit in any/every area of forestry.”
Colm, Galway

“Excellent course with broad content covering many aspects of the forestry industry, including environmental issues and biodiversity as well as great practical experience. The comradeship in the classroom and support from staff has been very rewarding.”
Rob, Louth

“If you apply yourself to the course, you will get a lot out of it”
Fergus Kildare
Frequently asked questions about the forestry course

Why consider Forestry as an option?
Choosing forestry gives you the potential to work outdoors, work for yourself and do a rewarding and satisfying job in a healthy environment. The advantages of doing a course in forestry also include getting a recognised qualification and having an opportunity to carry on in higher education.

Who can apply to do the Level 5 course?
Anyone over the age of 17 is eligible to apply. Applications from mature students are welcomed.

What previous qualifications are required?
No previous qualifications are required but education to leaving certificate standard would be beneficial.

Is the forestry level 6 Award equivalent to a ‘Green Cert’ qualification?
yes, the forestry Level 6 Award qualifies as QQI level 6 for the purpose of National Reserve Allocations and Young Farmer Scheme

How much does the course cost?
The course tuition fees are currently grant aided for all EU citizens but the following costs will apply in the coming year:
- The student must cover the cost of personal protective equipment, course material, field trips, registration etc.
- A maintenance grant will be available to students and eligibility will be based on individual means testing.
- If any student has previously completed a level 5 or level 6 QQI course they will incur an additional cost on entry to the course

Is accommodation provided?
Students can choose to live in the college or rent private accommodation nearby. There is student accommodation available at the college and each student is given a single room. Private accommodation is readily available for renting in the local village and in Cavan town.

How long is the course?
The level 5 course usually starts in September each year and runs until May. Students go out on work placement for 8 weeks around March.
The level 6 course starts in September and runs until the end of June in a block release format

What does the work experience involve?
Students are required to do work practice as part of all QQI courses. Registered Forestry hosts take on students to work and gain experience in a range of forestry operations.

Is there an option to continue in education?
Students with the Level 5 or 6 awards may apply via the advanced entry system for places on the Bachelor Degree in Forestry, Waterford Institute of Technology. Ballyhaise graduates are eligible to transfer to Year 2 of the degree course.

Where is Ballyhaise College located?
The college is located on the edge of Ballyhaise village, 8km from Cavan town (on the R212)
Eircode: H12 E392

What are the prospects after completing the course?
The course is ideal for those who wish to take up employment in the forestry industry as trained operatives or forestry contractors and provides a foundation for those who wish to carry on to higher education.

How to apply?
Application is online through the teagasc.ie website https://www.teagasc.ie/education/going-to-college/apply-online/forestry-courses/
Telephone: 049 433 8108 | Email: ballyhaise.college@teagasc.ie
**QQI Forestry Forwarder and Harvester Machinery Operation Courses**

**Introduction**

The Forest Machine Operator Training Programme will prepare trainees for a career in the timber harvesting sector in Ireland. There is an increasing demand for highly skilled operators who can work with minimal levels of supervision, particularly within forest thinning operations. Trainees who complete this programme can find employment working for timber harvesting contractors or might consider developing their own timber harvesting contracting businesses.

The forestry machinery operation courses available through Ballyhaise are awarded by QQI. On completion of a Forest Machine Operator Training Programme, trainees will be prepared for an industry standard on-site machine skills assessment. The programme complements the existing NPTC City & Guilds skills assessment industry standard.

**Course Content**

- Safety
- Machine theory
- Machine maintenance
- Environment
- Forest harvest planning
- Timber supply chain
- Machine operation training (Simulator and on-site)
- Thinning operations
- Forest management

**Entry Requirements**

Anyone over the age of 17 is eligible to apply. It is recommended applicants with no experience of the forest harvesting industry hold a minimum of a Level 5 Forestry qualification or equivalent. Successful applicants will complete an induction period to demonstrate an aptitude and interest in forest machine operation.

**Progression**

Certification of both Forest Machine Operator Training Programmes is accredited by QQI (Quality and Qualifications Ireland) as a minor award and is a component of the QQI Level 5 and Level 6 Certificate in Forestry, allowing progression through the National Framework of Qualifications.

**Application**

Applications can be made directly to Ballyhaise College by 1st June.

**Duration**

The minimum length of time for each course is approximately 12 weeks. This includes completing simulator tasks, mentor days, an induction period (4 weeks) and on site work experience (6 weeks). This time may be extended depending on a candidate's experience and initiative. You must complete the forwarder operator course before progressing to the harvester operator course.

**Contact details**

Teagasc, Ballyhaise College, Co. Cavan
Tel: 049-4338108
Agriculture Courses on Offer at Ballyhaise College

◆ QQI Level 5 and 6 Certificate in Agriculture
◆ Advanced Certificate in Dairy Herd Management

◆ HETAC Higher Certificate in Agriculture in conjunction with DKIT
◆ B.Sc in Sustainable Agriculture (Level 8) (Hons) in conjunction with DKIT

For further information please contact:
College Principal
Tel No: 049-4338108
Email: ballyhaise.college@teagasc.ie
Contact Details:

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Head Office,
Oak Park,
Carlow.
Tel: +353 (0) 59 9170200
Email: info@teagasc.ie

www.teagasc.ie