



GMIT

INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA NA GAILLIMHE-MAIGH EÓ
GALWAY-MAYO INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Letterfrack



SOLIDWORKS



The National Centre for Excellence in Furniture Design and Technology
An Educational Partnership between GMIT and Connemara West



GMIT Letterfrack (Official)



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New Course Structure

Apply for GA974 or GA984 Furniture Design, Making and Technology.
After Year 1, choose your preferred degree.

YEAR
1

In a common first year, students are introduced to Furniture Design, Making and Digital Manufacturing skills and techniques. Students then choose from the three options below.

See page 3

YEARS
2
3
4

Year 3 =
Level 7

Year 4 =
Level 8



Furniture Design
and Manufacture

See page 4



Furniture Making
and Architectural
Woodworking

See page 5



Furniture and
Digital
Manufacturing

See page 6

NEW! Year-long Placement for all Students

A lot of emphasis is placed on the importance of links with industry at GMIT Letterfrack, and all students are given the opportunity of undertaking a year-long work placement in a furniture company as part of their programmes. The Work Placement module involves students spending their third year in a company within the furniture and wood manufacturing industry in Ireland or overseas. Placement companies can vary from large manufacturers to small workshops allowing students to choose their preferred sector.

Value of Placements

Placements offer an excellent opportunity for students to gain invaluable first-hand experience of working in the furniture industry. Through Placements, students broaden their understanding of enterprise operations and widen their professional network. Often Placements lead to job opportunities for students once their studies are completed.

Where can I do my Placement?

GMIT Letterfrack support students arranging their Placements within Ireland and overseas. GMIT Letterfrack continues to create industry links around the world with companies that offer students exciting real-life opportunities in a supportive and learning environment. Placements can be undertaken in companies throughout Europe, the USA and elsewhere.



Code:
GA984

Level:
8

Code:
GA974

Level:
7

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in

Furniture Design, Making and Technology (Level 8)

Bachelor of Science in

Furniture Design, Making and Technology (Level 7)

Year 1 (Common Entry)

Why study Furniture Design, Making and Technology?

This programme is designed for those who are interested in pursuing a rewarding and exciting career in the furniture and wood manufacturing industry. Students first develop skills in a wide range of furniture manufacturing principles and learn the latest computer aided design software used in industry. In second year, students choose one of the degree options at the end of year one – Design, Making or Digital. In third year, a year-long work placement is undertaken where students can choose from a wide variety of companies in Ireland or overseas. In fourth year, students have the opportunity to further develop their technical expertise and learn about research and management skills to allow them pursue roles in management within furniture and wood manufacturing enterprises.

New Common First Year offers choice to students

All students undertake a common first year before deciding which degree option to take. Subjects are designed to provide students with an introduction to furniture making techniques, materials and equipment.

Subject	What the student learns
First Year Subjects	Furniture making techniques and how to use wood and other materials in making furniture projects of very high quality.
Manufacturing Skills 1	The tools, equipment and machinery used for wood manufacturing
Design Elements	Introduction to principles of design, sketching, furniture history, presentations techniques
Computer Aided Design	Introduction to CAD and technical drawing for furniture
Materials and Techniques	The different techniques used to manipulate wood and related materials
Learning and Innovation Skills	The skills you need to develop reports, presentations and portfolios



Talk to us: Sean Garvey, Lecturer
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How do I decide which degree option to take?

- **Projects**
During the year students get a taste of each degree option through a subject called Projects. In this subject, students create different furniture pieces using a wide range of furniture making techniques. Specially designed projects introduce students to the type of skills they will develop in each degree option.
- **Guest lecturers**
The college invites guests and recent graduates from industry to give an overview of the career opportunities in each degree option.
- **Consultation with lecturer**
Towards the end of first year, students will have a discussion with their lecturers, review their academic results and assess their suitability for each degree option.
- **Make the choice!**
Students decide and select the preferred degree option, choosing a route in Furniture Design and Manufacture, Furniture Making and Architectural Woodworking or Furniture and Digital Manufacturing.





Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Furniture Design and Manufacture (Level 8)

Bachelor of Science in Furniture Design and Manufacture (Level 7) Years 2, 3 & 4



Why study Furniture Design and Manufacture?

If you like to solve problems using creative techniques, and if you are interested in learning a range of skills to design and make contemporary and innovative furniture products, then this programme is for you. Students get an opportunity to develop skills in both traditional and advanced manufacturing techniques and learn how to apply the design process from concept through to fully finished furniture projects. Initially focusing on hand and power tools, students acquire skills to utilise a range of woodworking machinery, CNC technology, laser equipment and digital manufacturing. Keen attention is paid to intelligent design that addresses issues such as markets, competitiveness, cost and environment and these criteria are closely linked with the ability of graduates to produce high-quality furniture product prototypes.

Year-long Work Placement in Year 3, in Ireland or overseas, ensures graduates gain invaluable experience and have a good understanding of their roles in industry.

What will I study?

Year 1:
Common First Year – see page 3

Year 2:
Through projects, students respond to design briefs and apply the design process through to finished prototypes. There is a focus on more industrial and automated machinery in Manufacturing Skills 2. Other subjects include Visual Communications and Contextual Studies, CAD /CAM, Advanced Materials and Sustainability and Applied Science and Testing. Students also research and prepare for Work Placement through the subject Business Environment.

Year 3:
For Year 3, students are placed in a company or organisation linked to the Irish Furniture industry. During their placement, students also undertake some online learning including subjects Product Development and Marketing and Computer Aided Design and Manufacture. See the section on Placement to find out more.

Year 4:
In Year 4, students undertake the design and creation of furniture items suitable for commercial and domestic interiors through a subject called Professional Design Practice. Students also develop their ability to research and learn professional and management skills, undertaking subjects in Commercial Design, Project Management, Entrepreneurship and Advanced CAD and BIM.

What are my career opportunities?

Currently there is 100% graduate-employment for those wishing to enter the wood and furniture manufacturing industry following study in GMIT Letterfrack. There is a very strong demand for graduates who have a balanced mix of design and manufacturing skills. These transferrable skills allow graduates to enter the segment of the industry that most appeals to them, ranging from craft-based workshops to modern furniture manufacturers, both in Ireland and internationally.

Some graduates also go on to establish their own businesses after gaining industrial experience.

Design – Career opportunities

- Designer Maker
- Product Designer
- Kitchen Designer
- Space Planner
- CAD Design
- Procurement
- Prototyper
- 3D Modelling
- Project Management
- Costing and Estimating
- Entrepreneurship

Other Essential Information

- First year students must purchase tool, safety and design kits upon registering for this programme, which are sourced and specified by GMIT.
- It is desirable, though not essential, that applicants have studied Construction Studies, Art or Design and Communication Graphics.
- A Level 6 Higher Certificate is embedded in this programme and students may wish to exit with this award after completing years one and two.



Talk to us: Jeremy Madden, Lecturer
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Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Furniture Making and Architectural Woodworking (Level 8)

Bachelor of Science in Furniture Making and Architectural Woodworking (Level 7) Years 2, 3 & 4



Why study Furniture Making and Architectural Woodworking?

If you enjoy woodworking and see a future, professional career in the furniture making, architectural joinery or wood manufacturing industries this programme is for you. Through structured projects students develop skills and knowledge to enable them make furniture, architectural joinery and wood products to the highest standards using a range of traditional and advanced manufacturing technologies. The course integrates the use of a wide range of CAD/CAM systems and equipment and introduces common metal working and upholstery techniques. A complementary set of professional skills are key elements of student learning. Operations management, lean manufacturing, estimating and CAD engineering are studied with a focus on their application in the furniture, architectural joinery and wood manufacturing industries.

A year-long Work Placement in Year 3, in Ireland or overseas, ensures graduates gain invaluable experience along with gaining a first-hand understanding of current industry practices and procedures.

What will I study?

Year 1:
Common First Year – see page 3

Year 2:
Through projects, students further develop skills in furniture making and architectural joinery/woodworking practice. There is a focus on more industrial and automated machinery in Manufacturing Skills 2. Other subjects studied include Metal Skills and Upholstery, Joinery and Panel Processing, CAD/CAM, and Applied Science and Testing. Students also research and prepare for Work Placement through the subject Business Environment.

Year 3:
In Year 3, students are placed in a company or organisation linked to the furniture or architectural joinery industries. During their placement, students also undertake some online learning that includes the subjects Enterprise Operations and Computer Aided Design and Manufacture. See the section on Placement to find out more.

Year 4:
In Year 4, students undertake an in-depth, high-quality applied research practice project suitable for commercial or domestic interiors. Students also develop their ability to research and learn professional and management skills, undertaking subjects in Lean Operations, Project Management, Entrepreneurship and Advanced CAD and BIM.

What are my career opportunities?

Currently there is 100% graduate-employment for those wishing to enter the wood and furniture manufacturing industry following study in GMIT Letterfrack. There is very strong demand for graduates with a suite of furniture and joinery manufacturing skills. Through Work Placement students can explore the segment of the industry that most appeals to them, ranging from small workshops to larger manufacturing companies.

Some graduates also go on to establish their own businesses after gaining industrial experience.

Making – Career opportunities

- Bespoke maker
- Kitchen manufacturer
- Machine operator
- Technician
- Bespoke joinery
- Shop fitting
- Fitting
- Machine maintenance
- Project Management
- Costing and Estimating
- Entrepreneurship

Other Essential Information

- First year students must purchase tool, safety and design kits upon registering for this programme, which are sourced and specified by GMIT.
- It is desirable, though not essential, that applicants have studied Construction Studies
- A Level 6 Higher Certificate is embedded in this programme and students may wish to exit with this award after completing years one and two.



Talk to us: Anthony Clare, Lecturer
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DIGITAL

To apply for this programme, choose **GA974** or **GA984** and select this programme at the end of Year 1.

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Furniture and Digital Manufacturing (Level 8)

Bachelor of Science in Furniture and Digital Manufacturing (Level 7) Years 2, 3 & 4



Why study Furniture and Digital Manufacturing?

If you are interested in an exciting career combining wood, engineering principles and the most advanced manufacturing technology, then this course is for you. Students undertaking this programme will initially focus on the use of hand and power tools in producing a range of furniture products. Once students master these initial skills, they learn to use more advanced manufacturing equipment, operating CNC routers, large scale woodworking machinery, laser equipment and 3D printers in the fabrication of furniture and furniture components. Students will also learn a range of professional skills such as covering operations management, lean manufacturing, estimating and CAD engineering with a focus on their application in the furniture and wood manufacturing industry.

Year-long Work Placement in Year 3, in Ireland or overseas, ensures graduates gain invaluable experience and have a good understanding of their roles in industry.

What will I study?

Year 1:
Common First Year – see page 3

Year 2:
Through projects, students develop their skills in digital processing and automated manufacturing techniques relevant to the furniture industry. There is a focus on more industrial and automated machinery in Manufacturing Skills 2. Other subjects include CNC Technology, Automation, CAD/CAM, and Applied Science and Testing. Students also research and prepare for Work Placement through the subject Business Environment.

Year 3:
For Year 3, students are placed in a company or organisation linked to the Irish Wood and Furniture industry. During their placement, students also undertake some online learning including subjects Enterprise Operations and Computer Aided Design and Manufacture. See the section on Placement to find out more.

Year 4:
In Year 4, students undertake a major applied project related to domestic and commercial interiors through a subject called Professional Digital Manufacture Practice. Students also develop their ability to research and learn professional and management skills, undertaking subjects in Lean Operations, Project Management, Entrepreneurship and Advanced CAD and BIM.

What are my career opportunities?

Currently there is 100% graduate-employment for those wishing to enter the wood and furniture manufacturing industry following study in GMIT Letterfrack. There is a very strong demand for graduates who have skills in advanced manufacturing, aligned with the needs of Industry 4.0 and smart factories. Through Work Placement students can explore the segment of the industry that most appeals to them, ranging from small workshops to modern furniture manufacturing companies.

Some graduates also go on to establish their own businesses after gaining industrial experience.

Digital – Career opportunities

- CNC Programmer
- Operation manager
- Production line technician
- Quality control
- Automation
- Robotics technician
- Programmer
- BIM Technician
- Project Management
- Costing and Estimating
- Entrepreneurship

Other Essential Information

- First year students must purchase tool, safety and design kits upon registering for this programme, which are sourced and specified by GMIT.
- It is desirable, though not essential, that applicants have studied Construction Studies.
- A Level 6 Higher Certificate is embedded in this programme and students may wish to exit with this award after completing years one and two.



Code:
GA980

Level:
8

Bachelor of Science Honours in Education (Design Graphics and Construction) (Level 8)

Why study a BSc in Education?

If you are interested in becoming a post-primary teacher, and are passionate about the subjects Construction Studies and Design and Communication Graphics, this highly specialised course provides you with a unique learning opportunity. In-class theory and carefully designed projects and assignments are used to ensure that learners can engage with the subject matter in a meaningful and comprehensive way. Small group sizes as well as the use of numerous and innovative teaching techniques will make for a varied and stimulating learning experience. Design-led projects and a strong focus on design, woodwork, CAD and graphics ensures graduates are competent and confident in their role as a professional teacher. School Placements each year provide students with experience of the classroom, the role of the teacher and the whole-school environment in a structured and supportive way.

What will I study?

Year 1:

Students are introduced to practical skills through a series of interesting projects using a range of hand tools, power tools and woodwork machinery. Teaching skills and pedagogy will be developed and honed first during simulated microteaching classroom environments and then during a number of carefully planned school placement blocks to introduce students in a supportive way to the school environment. Other subjects studied in the first year are Design Process, Furniture History, Technical Graphics, applied Mathematics and Materials and Construction. A common first year module called Learning and Innovation Skills helps students understand the nature of learning at third level and the importance of critical thinking.

Year 2:

Students further develop their teaching skills, undertake reflective practice, learn the principles of education theory and develop design-led lesson plans. Skills are developed in the safe and competent use of woodwork machinery and a range of interesting projects are designed and undertaken. Students learn to respond to a design brief and apply the design process to full working prototypes. Other subjects studied are Graphics and Computer Applications, Sustainable Materials, Design Process and Manufacturing Technology.

Year 3:

School placement in Year 3 involves an eight-week block in a school where the student teacher, supported by GMIT lecturers, staff in the school and peer-to-peer support networks, takes responsibility for teaching students in the Junior Cycle curriculum. Lesson plans, critical reflections and classroom management techniques are further developed. Students also develop their ePortfolio. Subjects undertaken include Curriculum and Assessment, Education Studies, Architectural Design and Applied Graphics.

Year 4:

School Placement in Year 4 is a 10-week block and the student teacher is expected to deliver curriculum in the senior cycle. Students participate in peer-to-peer reflections, apply theory to their critical reflections to further enhance their awareness and appreciation of teaching and learning in the post-primary environment. Students further develop research and academic writing skills and are prepared for their future roles as professional teachers. ePortfolios are finalised and mock interviews are undertaken in preparation for applying for teaching positions. Other subjects taught include Professional Studies, Advanced Graphics, Building Services Technology and Dissertation.

What are my career opportunities?

Graduates of this highly specialised post-primary teacher education programme are qualified to teach Construction Studies and Design & Communication Graphics to Leaving Certificate honours standard and to teach Materials Technology (Wood) and Technical Graphics to Junior Certificate honours standard in all Irish second-level schools. GMIT Letterfrack has adopted modern and innovative learning and teaching methods, to ensure that graduates are equipped to become excellent teachers.

Other Essential Information

- Years one and two of this course are delivered at **GMIT Letterfrack** while years three and four are run at **GMIT Galway**, with some classes also in NUIG.
- First year students must purchase tool, safety and design kits upon registering for this programme which are sourced and specified by GMIT (contact Administration for more details).
- Vetting Requirement: All places are offered on this programme subject to satisfactory Garda vetting clearance.
- One of the subjects undertaken for the Leaving Certificate must include Design & Communication Graphics or Construction Studies at Higher Level (H5).

Student experience



Anthony Timoney

During my time as a student of the programme I was equipped with the tools of the teaching profession and consider myself lucky to have had the opportunity to be educated there as a student teacher. The modern and well-equipped campus, the approachability of lecturers and support staff as well as the careful integration and practical application of all lecture content made for an extremely comfortable and supportive learning environment. Especially enjoyable were the carefully planned and supported school placements where we got the chance to practice our newly acquired skills in a real-world setting.



Places
16



Duration
4 years



National
Centre for
Excellence in
Furniture
Design &
Technology



Campus
Galway and
Letterfrack

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WHY STUDY FURNITURE AT GMIT LETTERFRACK?



100%
Employment

Award-winning
Students

State-of-the-art
Facilities



Small Class
Sizes

Year-long
Placement
Including International

Low-Cost
Accommodation



Stunning Location on the Wild Atlantic Way

GMIT Letterfrack

Contact: 091 742650 or Email: letterfrack@gmit.ie

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