Rural Enterprise and Agri-Business

A three/four year degree which gives students a business education that emphasises the importance of rural enterprise and agribusiness. Students are prepared for a wide variety of careers in the agriculture, food production and environmental management sectors.

<table>
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<th>Programme Title</th>
<th>CAO Code</th>
<th>NQA Level</th>
<th>Campus</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Business in Rural Enterprise and Agri-Business</td>
<td>GA 172</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>GMIT Mountbellew / Galway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Business (Honours) in Rural Enterprise and Agri-Business</td>
<td>GA 187</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>GMIT Mountbellew / Galway</td>
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What to expect

- You will study modules including Agriculture, Agribusiness, Management, Marketing and Rural Development.
- After Year 1, you may choose to switch into Year 2 of the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and Environmental Management.
- The course includes a three-month Agriculture and Agribusiness work placement in Year 2.
- Subjects include:
  - Financial, Farm and Management Accounting
  - Economics
  - Animal and Crop Production Science
  - Soil Science, Chemistry, Plant and Animal Science
  - Information Technology
  - Farm Management, Safety, Law and Farm Buildings
  - Dairy and Dry Stock Production
  - Entrepreneurship and Business Development
  - Management and Marketing
  - Food Science, Technology and Quality, Food Company Management
  - Soil Science, Animal Nutrition and Breeding
  - Strategic Management
  - Rural and Agribusiness Dissertation

Did you know?
On successful completion of Years 1 and 2, students may apply to Teagasc for a letter of equivalence to a QQI Green Cert (Specific Purpose Certificate in Farm Business Administration).

Location
Students typically live in Mountbellew for the first two years. In Year 1, they are based at GMIT Mountbellew campus four days per week, and are taught one day per week at GMIT Galway campus in Galway city. In Year 2, they are based at GMIT Mountbellew campus for three days per week, and at GMIT Galway campus two days per week. Years 3 and 4 are spent at GMIT Galway campus.

Farm Facilities at GMIT Mountbellew
- 145 Ha working farm plus forestry and bog
- 80+ cow dairy herd - pedigree holstein
- Dry stock: 60 cow suckler herd, 60 unit calf to beef enterprise, sheep flock of 250 ewes
- 20 ha Forestry
- 2 ha Bog
- Milking parlour
- State of the art grain store
- Sheep and cattle housing facilities
- Handling facilities
- Practical teaching facilities

Career Opportunities
Agriculture, food production and environmental management are just a few of Ireland’s key industries, and gaining a degree in this area opens up a host of career options. Graduates will be well prepared to operate in a variety of managerial and administrative positions in rural and agri-enterprises, or to become self-employed.

Employment opportunities include:
- Education and training services
- Financial institutions
- Sales, marketing and PR agencies
- Entrepreneurship
- Development agencies
- Farm management and cooperative consultancy groups
- Public sector organisations
- Charities
- Farming organisations
- Conservation bodies
- Home and foreign governments
- Rural development organisations

Graduate Story
Ronan Byrne, “The Friendly Farmer”

Ronan went to Mountbellew Agriculture College to study Agribusiness & Rural Development and finished with a degree in Marketing/Agribusiness in GMIT. Following this he completed a Masters degree in EU Integration.

After a number of years working in marketing for blue chip companies, followed by a period in Poland managing a large arable and dairy farm, he returned home to the family farm just outside Athenry, Co. Galway.

Ronan converted the small (35 acres) conventional unprofitable part-time suckler farm, to a direct-to-market food business called “The Friendly Farmer”, which earns him a living and provides employment for five people.

Talk to us
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