

Fact Sheet - Diploma in Scientific Studies (Apiculture)

Thank you for your interest in the part-time [Diploma in Scientific Studies \(Apiculture\)](#) at NUI Galway. This is an [NFQ](#) Level 7, two-year part-time course. The next intake is **September 2021**. [Applications are now open](#).

What are the course entry requirements?

If you are 21 years or more by 1st January of the year you commence your part-time course, you are eligible to apply. If you are under 21, please refer to the entry requirements listed on our [website](#).

All applicants, whose first language is not English, or who have not been educated through the medium of the English language during their two most recent years of study, must present an English language qualification taken within two years of the start of the course. Suggested English language qualifications include IELTS, Cambridge C1 Advanced (CAE), Cambridge C2 Advanced (CPE), TOEFL iBT/TOEFL iBT Home Edition, Pearson PTE and Duolingo. Further information available [here](#).

How do I apply for the course?

Applications are made online and can be accessed [here](#). When completing an application, the documents listed below are required. Incomplete applications will not be processed.

- A Leaving Certificate or equivalent (If you are aged under 21 on January 1st of the year of Admission to a part-time course,
- An identity document (passport, birth certificate, driver licence)
- Proof of English language ability if relevant
- Personal statement

What should I include in the personal statement?

The personal statement should be circa 600 words and should outline why you are interested in this course, what experience have you in relation to bees and beekeeping and how it fits into your career or hobby objectives.

How will the course be delivered?

The course will be delivered in a blended learning format. The theoretical elements (i.e. lectures), will be taught online via the NUI Galway Virtual Learning Environment tool called Blackboard in a mixture of live and recorded lectures. Extra reading materials and resources will also be available here. Each lecture period will be 2-3 hours per week for 8-10 weeks per module.

The practical elements will take place primarily onsite at NUI Galway (on a Saturday), once or twice per module (or online depending on the covid situation). Apiary-related practical activities will take place at the NUI Galway research apiary, or at a student's local apiary if feasible (more detail will be provided on this in due course).

You can access the course materials online in your own time. Materials will include:

- Course notes
- Podcasts
- Screencasts (a digital recording of computer screen output)
- Live online lectures – scheduled at specific times, but also recorded so students can access them later. (Timetables and details provided at a later date)
- Reading material and assignments
- Online discussions

You will find useful information for new adult learning students on our website at the [Adult Learning New Students portal](#). For students considering online courses, we recommend they check the **Getting Started** and **What to Expect** sections.

What is the breakdown between the practical and theoretical elements of the course?

There are four modules that have a larger leaning towards theoretical elements with the contact hours broken down into 20-25 hrs of lectures and 8-16 hours of practical work. Two of the modules are practical modules and for these there will be a much higher amount of practical work expected. In addition to the lecture and practical components involved in each module, students will be required to study course materials in their own time and prepare for course assessments.

How is the Diploma assessed?

There will be no written examinations in the Diploma, it will be assessed by continuous assessment only.

What are the term dates?

The academic year runs from September to December and from January to May. In line with the Beekeeping season, the practical element (i.e. the Fundamentals of Beekeeping – year 1 and Advanced Beekeeping – Year 2), of the course will run from Spring and through the Summer.

How much study time is involved in the course?

Each module requires 100-125 hours of work in total. There are approximately 40 hours of contact time between the theoretical and practical components and the rest is directed and undirected self-learning. As a guideline, students of this course require 10 hours per week of study time. You will also need access to a computer and an internet connection. For some more information on studying online, take a look at our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) relating to Online Learning.

Will I need to buy books for the course?

The NUI Galway library provides a wide range of course books and materials in electronic format. Your module lead will give you information the required reading for the module, which can be accessed at the University Library.

Fee Information

The annual tuition fee is €1,185 (EU) / €1,685 (non-EU). A deposit of €500 is payable upon acceptance of an offer of admission. The balance of fees can be paid in two instalments. Payment dates are available on the [Fees Office website](#). Non-EU students are required to pay the annual tuition fee in advance of registration.