

HNC Agriculture (General)

HNC Agriculture (Crop Production)

HNC Agriculture (Livestock Production)

Applicant Programme Guide

Contents

Award Details	1
Entry Requirements	1
How to Apply	1
1. Introduction	2
2. Programme Outcomes	2
3. Programme Structure	3
3.1 <i>Programme of Study</i>	3
3.2 <i>Modules</i>	4
4. Delivery	6
4.1 <i>Teaching and Learning Approach</i>	6
4.2 <i>Learning Resource Centre</i>	6
4.3 <i>Assessment and Feedback</i>	7
4.4 <i>Timetables</i>	7
4.5 <i>Extra-Curricular Work Experience</i>	7
5. Facilities	7
6. Student Skills and Support	8
7. Equipment and Additional Costs	9
8. Graduate Opportunities and Progression	10
8.1 <i>Graduate Opportunities</i>	10
8.2 <i>Progression</i>	10
9. Contact Us	10

Award Details

Programmes	HNC Agriculture (General) HNC Agriculture (Crop Production) HNC Agriculture (Livestock Production)
Duration	Full time (1 year) or Part time (2 years)
Awarding Body	Pearson
Location of Study	Bishop Burton

Entry Requirements

Applicants are required to have:

- A minimum of 48 UCAS points
- GCSE English Language at grade C/4 or above, or an equivalent qualification
- An appropriate academic reference

UCAS points may be from qualifications such as A-Levels, BTEC Level 3 Extended Diplomas, Access to HE Diplomas, and City and Guilds Advanced Technical Diplomas amongst others. Please use the UCAS Tariff points calculator to determine the UCAS points value of your qualifications: <https://ucascomsb1.ucasenvironments.com/ucas/tariff-calculator>

- Life and/or experience of non-traditional students will be taken into account when considering applications. The successful completion of an entry task may be required when considering applications without the required formal entry qualifications.
- If first language is not English, or a Tier 4 student visa to study is required and GCSE grade C/4 English or equivalent is not held, English language proficiency level such as International English Language Testing System (IELTS) 6.0 overall (with a minimum 5.5 in each skill) will need evidencing.
- Advanced entry may be possible due to prior experience or certificated learning; applicants will be invited to complete the accreditation of prior learning approval process.

How to Apply

Full Time Application Route	Online via UCAS: www.ucas.com
UCAS Code	
HNC Agriculture (General)	HCAG
HNC Agriculture (Crop Production)	HCCP
HNC Agriculture (Livestock Production)	HCLP
Institution Code	B37
Campus Name	Bishop Burton
Part Time Application Route	Online via the College Website: https://www.bishopburton.ac.uk/college/apply

1. Introduction

The aim of the Higher National Certificate in Agriculture, Livestock Production or Crop Production is to provide you with the knowledge and skills needed for a successful career in agriculture through a combination of academic study, practical classes, work experience and study visits.

You will develop a broad knowledge and awareness of key aspects of Agriculture through core, specialist and optional units which focus on business management, livestock or crop production.

The selected specialist units provide a specific production or management focus to each qualification which are aligned to professional body standards, with optional units being used to tailor delivery of the course to specific sector/industry requirements to improve your employability.

Blended Learning will be used to take advantage of learning technologies to provide support and allow you to participate and engage in learning wherever you are located or working. You will gain a wide range of sector knowledge through self and directed study, individual research projects which are tied to the development of practical skills gained in the workplace.

The inclusion of both management, livestock, crop and machinery modules in each pathway allows you to develop a sound understanding of business management, production systems, machinery and technology used across the broader industry.

This provides the breadth of knowledge and skills that are required to take responsibility for the management of production areas within the industry or to move on to study specialist areas of interest at Level 5, as you have the necessary broad underpinnings and knowledge to progress to alternate pathways as your areas of interest change and evolve through participation in the HNC.

2. Programme Outcomes

Upon completion of the BTEC Higher Nationals in Agriculture, Livestock Production or Crop Production you will have a knowledge and understanding of the following areas:

- *Key concepts used in the Agricultural, Livestock and Crops sectors.*
- *The business context in which agriculture operates and markets it produces.*
- *Current issues, both commercial and political, facing the agriculture industry.*

You will be able to

- Apply agricultural theories to a range of technical, management and financial problems.
- Communicate accurately and appropriately in a variety of formats.
- Work effectively with others individually or as a team member.
- Have developed problem solving strategies to deal with a wide range of industry issues.
- Demonstrate the ability to manage a project and work independently.
- Question standard practice, and apply professional judgment in making recommendations for attainment of future best practice
- Reflect on their own personal strengths and weaknesses and formulate strategies for improvement.
- Demonstrate the skills required for employment or further study.

3. Programme Structure

3.1 Programme of Study

The academic year is split into two semesters, each of 15 weeks duration. An indicative structure of the programmes of study is shown in the table below. Each module holds a credit weighting of 15 credits.

Unit	Semester	General	Crop Production	Livestock Production
Unit 1 Business and the Business Environment	1	x	x	x
Unit 13 Plant and Crop Nutrition	1		x	
Unit 4 Principles of Livestock Production	1	x		x
Unit 6 Animal Nutrition	1			x
Unit 8 Plant and Soil Science	1	x	x	
Unit 3 Managing a Successful Project (Pearson-set)	1 and 2	x	x	x
Unit 12 Marketing Essentials	2	x	x	x
Unit 2 Management Accounting	2	x	x	x
Unit 5 Animal Health and Welfare	2			x
Unit 7 Principles of Crop Production	2	x	x	
Unit 9 Land Based Machinery and Technology	2	x	x	x

3.2 Modules

You will study the following core modules during your programme. The different pathways undertaking each of the following modules are identified as General (G); Crop Production (C); and Livestock Production (L).

Semester 1

Unit 1 Business and the Business Environment (G, C, L)

The aim of this unit is to provide you with background knowledge and understanding of Agricultural business, the functions of an organisation and the wider business environments in which organisations operate. You will examine the different types of Agricultural organisations (including for profit and not for profit), their size and scope (for instance, micro, SME, transnational and global) and how they operate. You will explore the relationships that Agricultural organisations have with their various stakeholders and how the wider external environments influence and shape business decision-making.

Unit 13 Plant and Crop Nutrition (C)

This unit will enable the you to understand the importance and function of key plant nutrients, how they are formulated and the most effective ways of applying them to crops. These theoretical concepts will then be used to recommend a suitable fertiliser regime for specific crop situations.

Unit 4 Principles of Livestock Production (G, L)

This unit is aimed at potential farm owners, farm managers, herds people, shepherds and other people who look after livestock who wish to manage efficient and effective livestock production units. The learning outcomes will be achieved by encouraging you to gain knowledge, develop understanding and critically evaluate the principles of livestock production in an ever-changing industry.

Unit 6 Animal Nutrition (L)

Understanding the nutritional requirements of animals is essential to be able to devise and plan diets to maintain animal health and production. This unit introduces you to the scientific basis of animal nutrition, which supports a range of careers within the agricultural industries.

Unit 8 Plant and Soil Science (G, C)

Soils can be described as the factory floor for agriculture and horticultural production, whilst plants can be described as the product requiring nurturing and development. To be successful in the industry it is essential to be able to appreciate the underlying scientific principles that allow efficient manipulation of the properties and characteristics to optimise production. For soils, you need to be able to assess type and characteristics to allow optimal structural and nutritional adjustment to be made. For plants, you need to appreciate the structure and processes that facilitate healthy growth and reproduction.

Unit 3 Managing a Successful Project (Pearson-set) (G, C, L)

This unit is assessed by a Pearson-set assignment. The project brief will be set by the Centre, based on a theme provided by Pearson (this will change annually). The theme and chosen project within the theme will enable you to explore and examine a relevant and current topical aspect of business in the context of the Land-based business environment. The aim of this unit is to offer you an opportunity to demonstrate the skills required for managing and implementing a project. You will undertake independent research and investigation for carrying out and executing a business project which meets appropriate business aims and objectives.

Semester 2

Unit 12 Marketing Essentials (G, C, L)

This unit is designed to introduce you to the principles of marketing, enabling you to develop a basic marketing plan and to employ elements of the marketing mix to achieve results. While you will learn the underpinning theories and frameworks, you will also be able to relate these to real-world examples, including products/services that they encounter in your own daily life.

Unit 2 Management Accounting (G, C, L)

The overall aim of this unit is to introduce the fundamentals of management accounting which apply to the wider Agricultural business environment and the organisations which operate within that environment. You will explore how management accounting uses financial data to aid planning decisions, and the monitoring and control of finance within organisations.

Unit 5 Animal Health and Welfare (L)

Animal Health and Welfare is important to the wellbeing of the animal and is at the forefront of efficient production cycles and systems. A healthy animal who is also free to display natural behaviours will enhance development and improve production and farm profitability. Knowledge of how to maintain animal health and how to maximise the welfare of animals across a range of different enterprises, are fundamental skills, which underpin a successful career.

Unit 7 Principles of Crop Production (G, C)

All aspects of agriculture are underpinned, directly or indirectly, by crop production; this includes animal feedstuffs and bedding, human food, pharmaceutical and industrial products, and fuel and fibre. Therefore, understanding the principles of crop production is fundamental to a successful agriculture industry.

Unit 9 Land Based Machinery and Technology (G, C, L)

This unit will develop your knowledge and skills in selecting and understanding the operation of tractors and equipment: both individually and in combinations. This

will include understanding how machines work, engine, fuel types and overall maintenance. You will undertake some practical review and operation of tractors and machinery to facilitate an understanding of these from an operator perspective.

4. Delivery

4.1 Teaching and Learning Approach

	Contact Time	Independent Study Time
Approximate hours per week:	16	25-30
Delivery includes:	Lectures, seminars, farm practicals and tutorials. Sessions may be delivered in person or using remote platforms.	Reading around the subject, preparing for taught sessions and preparing for and completing module assessments and revision.

You can expect:

- Experienced, supportive and motivated staff with both academic and industrial experience.
- Access to an Online Virtual Learning Environment called ilearn, which is used to enhance and facilitate teaching and independent learning on all programmes.
- Guest lectures, demonstrations from a range of visiting speakers and offsite trips.

4.2 Learning Resource Centre

Students will be required to undertake reading, research and investigations outside formal sessions, in order to gain a deeper understanding of the subjects. You will have access to the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) where you will find our friendly LRC staff who can help you access over 32,000 items which are available to loan. The LRC provides access to over a thousand journal titles from a range of databases, specialist collection journals and hundreds of eBooks. Our ICT suite has over 40 computers and is the ideal place to spend your self-directed study time. We have free WiFi across the campus, so you can also use your own devices or borrow one of the College's laptops. Our LRC team can help you to pre-book these too.

The LRC opening hours are:

Monday – Thursday 8.30AM – 7.00PM

Friday – 8.30 – 5.00PM

Saturday – 8.00AM – 12.30PM

Opening times may vary at the beginning/end of terms and during holidays. Opening hours will be updated on the LRC iLearn page. Electronic resources are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. You can also access the HE LRC Study Room in the University Centre 24 hours a day using your ID card for access.

4.3 Assessment and Feedback

The programme will incorporate a variety of assessment methods across each academic year. The mix of assessments will seek to challenge and evaluate your knowledge, understanding and skills. Assessments for this programme may include written assignments, case studies, practical assessments, presentations and project-based assessments.

Tutors provide support for assessments in class. There will also be opportunity for formative assessment and feedback during the delivery of each module to monitor learning, and to support and prepare you for the summative assessments which make up the module. Feedback on your summative assessments will be given which will allow you to guide efforts and activities in subsequent modules.

4.4 Timetables

You can expect to receive your timetables during induction week.

4.5 Extra-Curricular Work Experience

Relevant extra-curricular activity and/or work experience is encouraged of all students in order to enhance learning.

5. Facilities

University Centre Bishop Burton (UCBB) is a truly unique and impressive campus. Based on 890 acres of stunning countryside and commercial mixed-use farming land, you will have the opportunity to study in a specialist learning environment, different to any other in the country.

UCBB has extensive practical facilities offered at both the farms, including; beef and sheep herds and pigs, combined cropping covering wheat, barley, oilseed rape, maize, miscanthus, grassland and conservation areas this totals in excess of 350 hectares. Extensive investment through the Institute of Technology has seen the purchasing of variable rate drills, a calibrated weigh bridge cells and variable rate fertilizer spreaders. Collectively, these facilities support a breadth of field-based research activities, develop practical skills and support live group projects, as well as providing extensive enrichment and potentially extra-curricular activity.

The Science Centre facilitates a variety of laboratory practical sessions within this programme to prepare students for in depth analysis and use of equipment, providing student with skills applicable for working in a range of spheres within the agricultural industry. Students partake in dissection of cadaver material to support the understanding and application of theoretical concepts. Equipment applicable to the practical setting includes; FLIR thermal imaging camera, drones, field soil pH meters, Sugar Brix Refractometer, Electronic Grass Plate Meter and Professional Soil Testing Kit and Photometer.

As a UCBB student you will be able to take advantage of the impressive campus facilities including our Learning Resource Centre, Centre for Sport and Fitness, on-site cafes and bars dedicated to UCBB students, the Science Centre, the University Centre, as well as plenty of study spaces and social areas.

Our fitness facilities in the Centre for Sport and Fitness boast a 40-station high specification gym, weights area, two strength and conditioning suites and eight high grade changing rooms. Students can make the most of the discounted membership, giving you access to numerous one-to-one activity classes, such as boxing, as well as group classes like yoga. We also have an eight-court sports hall, including netball, basketball, badminton, football and soft tennis courts, and a professional aerobics and dance studio, complete with sprung floor, and on campus physiotherapy professionals.

Digby Watts Café Bar is our exclusive catering facility for UCBB students and college staff. This cosy café is the perfect place to catch up with friends, get stuck into an assignment or take a break with a good book. It offers a range of hot and cold drinks and food, with vegan and vegetarian options. The University Centre Lounge is a dedicated social and study space for higher education students. With cosy chairs and sofas, this light and airy space is the ideal place to catch up with friends over a hot drink, relax in between seminars or get your head down and study. You will find TVs, a drinks machine and work spaces with charging ports, along with free WiFi.

Whether you choose to live on campus in our on-site accommodation, or travel in from home using our extensive travel network across the region, you will find everything you need for an enjoyable and successful experience at UCBB.

6. Student Skills and Support

Studying at degree level requires key academic skills such as critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving. You will need to learn how to navigate the Learning Resource Centre, develop your IT skills and refine your study skills such as note-taking, revision, independent study and research, and personal skills such as time-management, motivation and self-reflection.

You will be embarking on a journey not only to a qualification, but to enhancing your future career prospects. Throughout your programme you will be supported in building these skills within your taught sessions and via online resources, induction sessions, academic development seminars, employability week, the Careers Service, the HE Study Skills Team and the Life Coaches Team.

The HE Study Skills Team provides:

- *Informal study skills support for all HE students.*
- *Specialist support for those with a diagnosed specific learning difficulty e.g. dyslexia. This support can be booked on a 1:1 basis, via drop-in or remotely (online).*
- *A range of resources such as PDF links to a variety of study skills topics, for example, referencing.*
- *Support around Successful Online Study, as well as a monthly newsletter, with hints and tips to help you achieve.*
- *A Study Skills course is available to all new HE students, easing the transition from level 3 to provide you with the skills required for HE study.*
- *Equipment such as overlays for visual stress (Meares-Irlen syndrome), Dictaphones and TextHelp 'Read and Write Gold', available to all students on campus.*
- *Information on the application process for Disabled Students Allowance (DSA).*

If you have any questions you would like to ask the team prior to application please contact them on HEStudyskills@bishopburton.ac.uk.

The Life Coaches Team can help you discover the best you. They can provide support across a wide range of life skills including:

- *Emotional and behavioural: helping you to understand and overcome personal barriers so you can achieve your full potential.*
- *Mentoring and coaching: individual support programmes, tailored to specific needs.*
- *Social engagement and interpersonal: career coaching to help develop confident, professional and industry ready individuals, who are armed with the interpersonal skills to engage in the professional world.*
- *Health, wellbeing and resilience: focus on all aspects of physical and mental health and wellbeing to develop resilience and life skills and life balance.*

7. Equipment and Additional Costs

- *For up to date information on tuition fees and financial support please visit: <https://www.bishopburton.ac.uk/university-centre/finance>*

- You will need to buy a white college laboratory coat for laboratory practicals available via the college online shop.
- For all farm related practicals you will need safety boots, wellingtons, overalls and wet weather gear.
- Trips and short courses may also be offered at extra cost.
- A suitable electronic device e.g. a laptop or tablet, with internet connectivity is required for accessing online learning.
- On successful completion of the programme, you have the opportunity to graduate at a ceremony wearing formal dress. The hire of the formal dress is an additional cost.

8. Graduate Opportunities and Progression

8.1 Graduate Opportunities

Students graduating from this programme could follow careers in farm management, genetic technologists, trainee agronomists, machinery dealerships, livestock nutrition as well as farm advisory roles.

8.2 Progression

The programme is also designed to enable you to progress to Level 5 study, such as the FdSc Agriculture at UCBB. You can find further details on all of our programmes on our website <https://www.bishopburton.ac.uk/university-centre/subjects>.

9. Contact Us

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact the Recruitment Team.

Telephone	01964 553000 Choose the Recruitment Team option
Email	enquiries@bishopburton.ac.uk
Address	University Centre Bishop Burton York Road, Bishop Burton, HU17 8QG

The information in this guide is correct at time of publication. Any amendments to the content of the programme and modules will be made formally through a modification process with the awarding body. Changes will usually only be made to improve the existing provision for example in response to changing industry requirements. Any changes will be communicated to applicants/students as soon as they have been formally approved.