

Taste 4  
Success

Skillnet,



# Sustainable Food Systems

Postgraduate Certificate - Level 9

Date 7 Sep 2026

Location Blended

Duration 1 Year



Register  
[t4s.ie/PGCSFS-Reg](https://t4s.ie/PGCSFS-Reg)



Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh  
University College Cork, Ireland

This Taste 4 Success Skillnet course is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union

# Introduction

The Postgraduate Certificate in Sustainable Food Systems is a part-time, blended-learning programme designed and delivered by the UCC Food Industry Training Unit to support working professionals in pursuing further education.

## Programme Aims

To equip employees and graduates in the food sector, especially those in roles in food processing, packaging, quality assurance, or product innovation, with a comprehensive understanding of the food value chain while analysing the roles of key stakeholders in driving the transition toward more sustainable food systems.

To adopt a "farm-to-fork" approach in analysing sustainability challenges across the food supply chain, integrating technical aspects of processing efficiency, waste reduction, and resource optimisation with the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainability.

To introduce the principles of sustainable and healthy diets, focusing on the interplay between food processing, nutritional quality, and the environmental impacts of dietary patterns within the global food system context.



# Course Practicalities

The programme will run part-time over one academic year (September to May), and it combines online teaching and resources with block-release sessions, offering the flexibility needed to support those balancing professional and academic commitments.

The face-to-face element consists of two block weeks of teaching (one in November and a second one in February).



## Why Choose this course

This programme is designed to provide specialised knowledge in sustainability within the food sector. The programme is tailored for professionals in food, agrifood, and related industries, whether in food processing, packaging, quality assurance, product innovation, or other technical roles.

Understanding the challenges of balancing work and study, the programme offers a flexible blended learning approach. This enables participants to engage with practical, industry-focused content while continuing to meet their professional commitments.



## Academic Eligibility Criteria

- A Second-Class Honours Grade 2 in a primary honours degree (NFQ Level 8) in one of the following: food science, nutritional sciences, agricultural sciences, microbiology, biochemistry, food safety, food quality, new product development, engineering or a related biological sciences.
- Experience of working in the food or beverage sector in a technical capacity. Graduates of UCC's Diploma in Food Science and Technology (NFQ Level 7) with a minimum Second-Class Honours Grade 1 and a minimum of two years' experience working in a technical capacity within the food and beverage sector are also eligible for admission.
- Full and further criteria available at [t4s.ie/PGCSFS-Reg](https://t4s.ie/PGCSFS-Reg)

## Fees and Funding

**Fees and Funding** The regular cost for this course is €5,410 per person. Taste 4 Success Skillnet are funding €1893 (35%), meaning the cost to Taste 4 Success Skillnet member companies is €3,517 per person. This fee, payable in advance, represents a very substantial discount on the cost of delivering this course. This discounted price for the programme is supported by Taste 4 Success Skillnet and is available to all eligible applicants.

## Funding Eligibility Criteria

- Business must be registered and based in the Republic of Ireland
- Start-up/artisan/sole traders/social enterprise and representatives from community groups are eligible if based and operating in the Republic of Ireland
- Participants must be resident and living in the Republic of Ireland
- As a Government of Ireland and Member Company funded training network, we can only support those enterprises and candidates meeting the above criteria

For further information visit [t4s.ie/PGCSFS-Reg](https://t4s.ie/PGCSFS-Reg) or email Breda Barber at [info@taste4success.ie](mailto:info@taste4success.ie)

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