

Irish Agricultural Internships

PROGRAMME DETAILS & INFORMATION

Irish Agricultural Internships | Est 2019

Who We Are

Irish Agricultural Internships (IAI) was set up in the summer of 2019 by Conor Tyrrell and Andrew O'Regan.

- Conor studied International Relations at undergraduate and postgraduate level at the University of Limerick from 2013-2019, while Andrew studied Agricultural Science at Waterford Institute of Technology at undergraduate level and has recently gone on to undertake a PhD in Agricultural Science at the same college.
- During their years studying both Conor and Andrew had the opportunities to work, study and live abroad as part of their courses. Conor spent time working in Argentina in 2015 and studying in Spain in 2016 while Andrew travelled to North Dakota in 2017 and Algeria in 2018 working on large scale tillage and dairy farms.
- With the shortage of farm labour in Ireland in recent years and the experience both Conor and Andrew had working/living abroad they decided to set up IAI in the summer of 2019 with the aim of providing Irish farms with a source of labor and international students of agriculture the opportunity to spend time working on an Irish farm.
- Based in Tramore, Co. Waterford, IAI offers paid farm placements throughout the sunny South-East coast of Ireland.

What We Do

Transferring knowledge and culture in the Irish agricultural landscape

- The aim of IAI is twofold. One goal of IAI is to help small to medium sized farms in Ireland find labour and the second goal is to provide international students of agricultural, or agriculture related disciplines, the opportunity to intern on one of these farms for the length of time of their choosing, and get paid to do so.
- Essentially, IAI exist to link Irish farms seeking labour with international students looking for the opportunity to live and work in Ireland.



The Farm Placement

- All farms seeking to take interns are inspected by IAI before being considered eligible to participate in IAI programmes. Any farms found not complying with the health and safety regulations outlined by the Department of Agriculture will be deemed unfit to take any interns from IAI.
- Farmers provide interns with a weekly wage, accommodation and basic meals (increased wage where meals not provided).
- During the placement, IAI representatives will conduct at least one visit to the farm to ensure everything is running smoothly for both the intern and the farmer.
- The hours worked are dependent on the needs of the farmer, i.e. a small dairy farm might only require someone to help milk the cows once in the morning and once in the evening while a large scale beef and tillage farm might require the intern to work a less structured week as the work might be more sporadic.
- Placements can be arranged of a variety of farm types including dairy, beef, tillage, equine and sheep.



What's Included

- A farm placement for the length of time of you choosing (6,12,18 or 36 weeks).
- Accommodation either with the host or on site.
- A weekly stipend of around €200 (amount dependent on ability of farm to provide food).
- Airport pickup from IAI, transport to Waterford city and first night's stay in a local hotel.
- Full training and induction day at Dunhill Multi-Education Centre (full details page 4).
- Transport to host farm.
- Optional letter of recommendation/ reference letter for future use upon successful completion of the programme.
- Minimum of 1 onsite inspection during placement.
- Support from IAI throughout placement on farm.

IAI does not cover the cost of flights or Visa/Work Permits or return transport

Induction Day & Training

WHERE: DUNHILL MULTI-EDUCATION CENTRE

WHEN: SATURDAY BEFORE PLACEMENT STARTS

IAI representatives will pick you up from the hotel early Saturday morning and bring you to Dunhill Multi-Education Centre for your induction day.

The induction day consists of 4 specific courses that aim to better equip interns with key knowledge and skills necessary to get the most benefit from the placement.

1. Manual Handling Training: A certified manual handling instructor will lead the training and will issue interns a certificate of completion once the programme is finished. With the nature of the work that interns will be doing on farms, it is important that they are equipped with the necessary knowledge to prevent any injury or harm.

2. Farm Safety Class: This class highlights the potential dangers that interns should be aware of while working during their placement. It teaches safe farming practices and also demonstrates the importance of following these procedures while on placement.

3. ATV Quad-bike Training: **(Optional Extra)** As an added feature of the programme, IAI have teamed up with Quadventure to deliver quad bike training to interns during their placement. This will not take place on the induction day due to time constraints. AI will organise a day where interns will be transported to the training facility in Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford to learn the basics of quad bike safety. Upon successful completion of the programme, interns will be accredited with a certificate of completion of a basic introduction to quad operation.

IAI covers the costs of all the courses and classes mentioned above as well as a meal in a traditional Irish pub during the induction day



Irish Farming

The Irish agricultural landscape has seen massive growth and development in the last number of years and is a rapidly changing industry. Across Ireland, a younger generation of farmers are taking over from the previous generation and bringing with them new ideas, new ways to develop their farms, explore areas of expansions and new ways to drive the business on and become more efficient.

With farms aiming to become more profitable by becoming more efficiently run businesses, the Irish agricultural landscape has seen huge investment in new technologies, machines and research into more profitable land management. This has led to Irish agriculture to become a very advanced sector in Ireland and is a very exciting place for young graduates or students to gain valuable experience.





At IAI we aim to offer applicants the chance to work on the farm type of their choosing for the length of time of their choosing. As of now we offer placements on beef, dairy, tillage and equine farms and are hoping to add

other farm types to our list in the coming months.

The majority of our internships are under the category of General Farm Worker but the experience an intern receives and the work they would do would vary from farm to farm.

Beef Farms: **(Popular in Spring)** Beef farming is one of the dominant farming types and uses of agricultural land in Ireland. With almost 100,000 farms that stock beef animals in Ireland, but within that number, CSO data suggest that there are 78,300 specialist beef cattle farms. The Irish beef farming sector is characterized by smaller than average farm sizes, relatively poor-quality land, older farmers, and greater prevalence of part-time farming and low farm incomes. Beef farming in Ireland contributes almost 30% to agricultural goods output at basic prices, which is much higher than any other EU country.

Job Description

- Working on a beef farm would see an intern mostly practice livestock management. For example, at different times of the year the farm will need to call the assistance of a vet to administer necessary vaccinations to the cattle
- Grazing management in the summer months when the cattle are outside in the fields.
- During the winter months the cattle would be kept in sheds and will need to be fed everyday and cleaned out about once a week.
- Animal



Dairy Farms: (All Year) With over 18'000 dairy farms and more than 1.35 million cows in the country, Irish dairy exports accounts for a large portion of the Irish agricultural export market. Due to the temperate climate in Ireland, farmers have the ability to grow large quantities of grass throughout a long farming season. This is hugely beneficial to Irish farmers and helps make dairy farming the most profitable of Ireland's mainstream agricultural enterprises. The perfect climate, coupled with research and investment in new technologies has led Irish dairy farmers to be one of the most competitive and advanced farmers on the world stage.

Job Description

- Working on a dairy farm would involve a lot of the same jobs as on a beef farm (i.e. livestock management and grazing management) but would also involve other aspects.
- Cows need to be milked twice per day, so an intern working on a dairy farm would spend a lot of their day in the milking parlor.
- Along with milking the cows in the morning and evening, work on a dairy farm would also involve caring and looking after young calves.



Vege Farms: (All Year) Vegetable farms across Ireland focus on intensive, high-quality production of fresh produce such as lettuce, kale, spinach, carrots and potatoes. Work is seasonal, with peak activity from late spring through early autumn (approximately May–September). Interns should expect variable hours and periods of long days during planting, cultivation, and harvest, often adjusting work to weather windows.

Job Description

- Field production: Bed prep, direct seeding, transplanting, weeding, cultivation, mulching, and irrigation setup/monitoring.
- Crop care: Pest and disease monitoring, targeted spraying (organic or conventional per farm protocols), pruning, trellising, and fertigation.
- Harvest and post-harvest: Hand harvesting, washing, trimming, grading, packing, and cool-chain handling to maintain quality.
  Infrastructure and tools: Safe operation of small tractors, walk-behind tractors, seeders, flame weeders, hoes, and hand tools; greenhouse work (sowing, potting-on, watering).



Equine Farms: (Spring – Autumn) With Ireland holding a pre-eminent position in thoroughbred racing and breeding in the equestrian world, Irish horses (bloodstock) are in demand globally. With a population of around 90,000 horses, Ireland has become the third largest breeder of thoroughbreds in the world and the largest breeder of thoroughbreds in the EU.

Job Description

- Exercising the horses daily.
- Handling, caring and cleaning of the horses.
- Assistance with foaling.
- Stable maintenance.



Pricing

For those interested in applying for an internship with IAI the following table highlights the programme prices. These prices are applicable to candidates from EU countries/where a work visa is not required. Those interested in applying from a non-EU country will need to factor in the cost of the Visa (something that IAI does not arrange).

Candidates interested in applying for an internship with IAI coming from Turkey can apply through Worldwide Career Centre http://www.worldwide-career.com/index.aspx

Internship Duration	6 Weeks	8 Weeks	10 Weeks	12 Weeks	18 Weeks
Price of Programme	€988 - €1123	€1180 - €1361	€1422 - €1572	€1638 - €1820	€2072 - €2246

INCLUDED IN PRICE	NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE
- Placement on farm type of your choosing - Accommodation and basic meals. - Weekly stipend - Airport pickup and transfer to Waterford - First night's stay in a hotel in Waterford city. - All training conducted during induction as well as meals on the day. - Transport to placement - Minimum of 1 onsite inspection during placement. - Optional letter of recommendation upon completion.	- Flights to Ireland - Visa or work permit (for those outside the EU) - Return transport from farm



Eligibility & Requirements

As mentioned previously, the goal of IAI is twofold. On one hand we exist to provide international students of agriculture the opportunity to intern on an Irish farm, gain valuable practical experience in doing so, and also get paid. And on the other hand, we source labour for Irish farms, who in some cases badly need the help. For this reason we only accept interns who are either currently enrolled in an agriculture related degree or have recently graduated from one.

Accepted degrees include but are not limited to agricultural science, veterinary, animal osteopathy, agricultural management, animal & crop production.

We also have the following requirements and preferences:

- Minimum B2 level of English (required)
- Practical experience working on a farm (preferred)
- Academic reference letter (required)
- Employer reference letter (required)
- Legal right to work & live in Ireland (required)
- Good work ethic and a positive attitude (essential)
  ↳ Farming is not glamorous work and during your placement you have to be prepared to work hard, work late hours, and be willing to get your clothes and hands dirty if needs be. Soft hands are a sign of soft work.

There is no change of farm placement once it begins. Interns that decide to leave early due to issues like homesickness or not liking the work will not be refunded the programme fee.



If you would like to learn more about the programme or would like to begin the application process please reach out to use at irishagriculturalinternships@gmail.com and we will be happy to arrange a short introductory call.

Check us out on our website social media pages to keep up to date on all things IAI.

https://www.irishagriculturalinternships.com/

https://www.instagram.com/irishagriculturalinternships/?hl=en

https://www.facebook.com/irishagriculturalinternships/

https://www.linkedin.com/company/irish-agricultural-internships/?viewAsMember=true