DT 407. Culinary Arts (BA Level 8) *(Progression possible from Higher Certificate in Culinary Arts (Professional Culinary Practice) (Level 6))*

**Your Careers Advisers**

Susan Russell and Edel Kearney

- +353 1 402 3859
- tafcareers@dit.ie
- www.dit.ie/careers
- www.linkedin.com/in/edelkearney/

**Skills Developed In College**

You have developed a range of skills through your education, work experience and personal interests and achievements. Understanding what skills you have to offer and like to use can help you understand what you want in a career, as well as providing key information for job or further study applications.

In terms of securing a job, academic qualifications alone will not guarantee success. Evidence – based skills sections on your CV can demonstrate the broad range of qualities you have to offer employers. Here are some of the main skills you may have developed while in college:

- **Communication skills, both verbal and written**
  Expressing ideas effectively and conveying information appropriately and accurately. Influencing others by expressing self effectively in a group and in one to one situations. Showing a range of verbal and nonverbal signals that the information being received is understood.

- **Teamwork/Working with others**
  Working effectively and confidently within a group to achieve a common goal or task. Including understanding your role within the team, and listening and supporting other team members.

- **Problem-solving ability**
  Identifying, prioritising and solving problems, individually or in groups; possessing the ability to ask the right questions, sort out the many facets of a problem, and contribute ideas as well as answers regarding the problem.

- **Time-management skills/Ability to meet deadlines**
  Managing several tasks at once; being able to set priorities and to allocate time efficiently in order to meet deadlines

- **Planning and Organising**
  Establishing a course of action for self and/or others to accomplish a specific goal. Planning proper assignments of personnel and appropriate allocation of resources.

- **Leadership skills**
  Motivating and taking responsibility to lead other people, in order to achieve set goals and objectives.

- **Initiative & self-management**
  Identifying opportunities and being proactive in putting forward ideas and potential solutions. Self-disciplined and self-motivated, in the pursuit of studies and professional practice.
- **Ability to make quick decisions/Work under pressure**
  Making decisions and taking action. Maintaining performance under pressure and/or opposition.

  You may also have developed a wide range of technical/specific course related skills

### Types of Employers / Industry Sectors

Some of the main types of employers / industry sectors in which Culinary Arts graduates work include:

- Hotels
- Restaurants
- Food Producers/Distributors
- Catering Companies
- Wine Suppliers
- Food Product Development Centre (FPDC)
- Private and public sector employers - schools, colleges, prisons, hospitals, nursing homes and transport providers
- Catering companies on location
- Catering for events such as conferences, sports events, concerts and movie filming
- In-house catering operations - large corporate settings
- Self employed
- Media (online, magazines, newspapers)
- Food promotion
- Food boards
- Cruise Liners


### Career Options With Your Course (including job profiles)

Some of main occupations secured by Culinary Arts graduates include:

- Executive Chef
- New Product Development Technologist
- Graduate Trainee Manager
- Senior Pastry Chef
- Sommelier
- Food stylist
- Food writer
- Wine Adviser
- Bakery Manager
- Artisan Baker
- Recruitment Consultant
- Entrepreneur (restaurant/café/bakery owner/consultants)
- Catering Manager
- Lecturer in Further or Higher Education
- Culinary Skills Instructor
- Researcher
- Food Photographer
• Health and Safety Executive
• Packaging Technologist
• Conference Manager

For more occupational information see Grad Ireland, Careers Portal, Prospects (UK) & Target Jobs (UK).

Employers Who Have Recruited in Your Area

Some of the companies who have recruited Culinary Arts graduates:

• Diageo
• Musgraves
• Marks & Spencer
• Avoca
• Compass Group
• Ely Bar and Brasserie
• Bison Bar
• Fallon and Byrne
• Fire Restaurant
• Patrick Guilbauld
• The Green Hen
• The Porterhouse
• Pichet
• Kerry Group
• Dawn Farm Foods
• Kellogs
• Pepsico
• O’Brien’s Wines
• The Marker Hotel
• Carton House
• Ocean Edge Resort and Golf Club
• Hilton
• The Shelbourne
• Lough Erne Resort
• Radisson Blu
• Guinness Storehouse
• Lidl
• Seabourne
• The Dublin Cookery School

Job Hunting

It is important that you access both the advertised and hidden jobs market and use any and every means available to you to job hunt effectively

Advertised Jobs

WEBSITES
• Most University and IT Careers Services have jobs listings on their websites
  • dit.ie/jobscene (grad programmes and immediate vacancies)
  • dit.ie/careers/careersdiary/ (List of Career Events throughout year)
• Graduate jobs in UK:  www.prospects.ac.uk  &  www.targetjobs.co.uk
•  www.gradireland.com  – Immediate jobs/Summer/Grad programmes: e.g. EOP (IBEC Global Graduates), Enterprise Ireland, Irish Distillers, Jet Programme, Graduates 4 International Growth
• Internships/Work placement/Work Experience. E.g. IBEC graduate scheme - http://ibecglobalgraduates.ie, iagora.com, eurobrussels.com, eu-careers.eu, digitalmarketingjobs.ie, internships.com
• Company websites – look at advertised vacancies under jobs /careers section
• Local and national press – www.mondotimes.com
• Public Service -  www.publicjobs.ie,  www.localgovernmentjobs.ie
• Recruitment Agencies/On-line recruitment sites, e.g. www.irishjobs.ie/agencies – complete list of agencies

FOOD & DRINK OPPORTUNITIES:
• Tasty Careers in Food and Drink -  http://tastycareers.org.uk/
• Food Jobs -  www.foodjobs.ie
• Food Industry Careers -  www.foodindustrycareers.com
• Careers in Food & Drink -  www.careersinfoodanddrink.co.uk
• Your Food Job -  www.yourfoodjob.com
• Food Man Jobs -  http://jobs.foodmanufacture.co.uk/
• Grocer Jobs -  http://jobs.thegrocer.co.uk/
• Bar Jobs -  www.barzone.co.uk
• The Brewery Manual -  www.brewerymanual.com/jobs.html
• Carling Partnership -  www.carlingpartnership.com

HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITIES:
• Hospitality Jobs Ireland -  www.hoteljobs.ie
• Hotel and Catering Jobs -  http://www.hotelandcateringjobs.ie/
• Action Hospitality Recruitment -  www.actionrecruitment.ie
• Ambassador Hospitality Recruitment -  www.ambassador-recruit.com
• The Firm Hospitality Recruitment -  http://thefirm.ie
• Hospitality Recruitment -  www.hospitality.ie
• UK Hospitality Recruitment Website -  www.berkeley-scott.co.uk
• H Careers -  www.hcareers.co.uk/
• Big Hospitality -  http://jobs.bighospitality.co.uk/
• Caterer & Hotelkeeper Industry, Careers & Jobs Resource -  www.caterersearch.com
• The Caterer Jobs -  www.caterer-online.com
• Hospitality, Catering and International Management Association (UK) -  www.hcima.org.uk
TEACHING

- Teaching jobs: educationcareers.ie, educationposts.ie, euraxess.ie, heanet.ie, jobs.ac.uk, www.education.ie – English Language Assistant Scheme

VOLUNTARY / CHARITY / NGO SECTOR


OTHER

- Careers fairs – Gradireland Fair – Autumn and Summer Fair, plus many others
- Specialist Magazines & Publications,
- Notice boards/Student email account/Lecturers

INTERNATIONAL RELATED


Unadvertised Jobs

NETWORKING

- Job Shadow/Informational Interviewing/work experience
- Use help from anyone in your Network – friends, family, neighbours, colleagues, friends from clubs & societies...
- Attend events, conferences, short courses, trade shows
- Thesis/College work /guest speakers
- First Destination Reports
- Professional Bodies
- Business and Other Associations
- Join Alumni Association/LinkedIn DIT Alumni group
- Find a mentor/keep a job hunting record

CONTACT COMPANIES DIRECTLY

- Speculative applications + cold calling. Think about your offering
- Contact organisation with ideas (ways to reduce costs, make them more money, speed up R+D, Your Unique Selling Point)
- Utilise directories – Kompass.com, IDA, Marketing Services Directory, professional bodies, golden pages

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- DIT Hothouse - www.dit.ie/hothouse/
- Local Enterprise Office - www.localenterprise.ie
- The Digital Hub - www.thedigitalhub.com
## TRACK COMPANIES
- Scholarships/Competitions/Blogs / Guest lecturer
- Check out Labour Market trends, www.careersportal.ie, IDA, IBEC (Retail/Financial Services), www.dit.ie/careers (labour market news)
- Search newspaper business pages on-line to get success stories on businesses as they are growing – DIT Careers website (labour market news) www.dit.ie/careers
- Check out industry award recipients,
- Best Workplaces in Ireland (download on gradireland.com)

## OTHER PROACTIVE IDEAS
- Social networking sites (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, Blog, Discussion Groups) LinkedIn (set up a profile, link to others, search for companies - employees who have LinkedIn profiles, advertised jobs)
- Follow target companies on Facebook, LinkedIn, twitter
- Think of small companies not just big brands
- Consider alternative roles (marketing, sales, PR)
- Undertake voluntary work

For more information on how to go about finding a job and job-hunting sites, click [here](#)

### Interviews

For more information on how to perform in interviews, click [here](#)

### CVs/Cover Letters & Applications

For information on how to put together a great CV/Cover Letter or Application, click [here](#)

### Useful Links (e.g. Company Databases, Professional Bodies, LinkedIn Groups)

This list contains links to some of the most useful websites for your course including professional bodies and associations, employer directories, information sources and LinkedIn groups.

### General Websites
- Irish Hotel and Catering Institute - [www.ihi.ie](http://www.ihi.ie)
- International Association of Culinary Professionals - [www.iacp.com](http://www.iacp.com)
- Food and Drinks Industry of Ireland website (IBEC web pages) - [www.fdii.ie](http://www.fdii.ie)
- Irish Food Board - [www.bordbia.ie](http://www.bordbia.ie)
- International Slow Food Movement - [www.slowfood.com](http://www.slowfood.com)
- Restaurants Association of Ireland - [www.rai.ie](http://www.rai.ie)
- Licensed Vintners Association - [www.lva.ie](http://www.lva.ie)
- Flour Confectioners & Bakers Association - [http://fcba.ie/](http://fcba.ie/)
- Irish Hospitality Institute- [www.ihi.ie](http://www.ihi.ie)
- Health & Safety Authority - [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie)
- Food Safety Authority of Ireland - [www.fsai.ie](http://www.fsai.ie)
- Irish Food Board - [www.bordbia.ie](http://www.bordbia.ie)
- The Institute of Food Science and Technology of Ireland - [www.ifsti.ie](http://www.ifsti.ie)
Many graduate vacancies don’t require specific degree subjects as possession of a degree is taken as evidence of intellectual ability. What is more important to the potential employer is the range of transferable skills and experience you can demonstrate.

Many graduate training programmes take final year students from a wide range of disciplines – register with the Career Development Centre’s Jobs Centre for a full list of programmes.

Here is a range of career areas that are potentially open to graduates of all disciplines. It’s important to note that some of these options may require further study either on the job or beforehand. If you are considering diversifying or changing career direction a postgraduate conversion course may be a viable option.

Some examples of career areas open to students of all disciplines:

- **Teaching & Education**
- **Financial Services & Accounting**
- **Marketing, Advertising and PR**
- **Retail, Sales and Customer Service**
- **Banking, insurance and financial services**
- **Charities and voluntary sector**
- **Fund management / administration and investment banking**
- **Human resources, recruitment and training**
- **Management consulting**
Further Study (including Postgraduate Conversion Courses)

Are you considering further study or training? Click here for comprehensive information

Conversion courses

Some graduates find that their primary degree did not meet their expectations, either vocationally, academically or personally, and seek to change career direction. Conversion courses offer the opportunity to diversify into another chosen career area while meeting the necessary entry requirements for that discipline. However, it should be noted that this is not the case for all disciplines e.g. disciplines such as science and engineering will require an undergraduate degree in that discipline.

As with all choices good research and planning are very important.

Here are some examples of postgraduate courses pursued by graduates of your discipline:

- MSc Culinary Innovation and Food Product Development – DIT
- MA Health Promotion - NUI Galway
- MSc Food Business – UCC
- Masters in Journalism - DIT
- Masters in Marketing - DIT
- PhD – DIT
- Diploma in Wine and Spirits - WSET
- General Postgraduate Teaching Courses - Various: Ireland and UK

Self-Employment

Ever thought of being your own boss? Think you have an innovative product or service idea that could have commercial value? Want to commercialise your research? Click here for more information.

Other Options (e.g. Time out, travel etc.)

Volunteering and working with communities with is a great way to gain valuable real world experience, to develop new skills, to meet new people, to do something worthwhile and to improve your employability. For more details, see here.

Labour Market Information

For information on the latest labour market trends see here.

Additional Information / Advice
For any query you might have, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Disclaimer: DIT Career Development Centre offers advice in good faith on the basis of the best information available. The Centre accepts no responsibility for decisions made by individuals based on such advice.