

Induction 2025 Arrival Guide

BSc in Veterinary Nursing

Department of Life & Physical Sciences

Programmes:

- BSc/BSc in Hons Agriculture with Award Options
- BSc Science Common Entry with Award Options
- BSc/BSc Hons in Bioanalytical Science
- BSc/BSc Hons in Food Science & Nutrition
- BSc/BSc Hons in Pharmaceutical & Medicinal Science
- BSc Hons in Physiotherapy
- BSc/BSc Hons in Veterinary Nursing
- Higher Certificate in Science in Dental Nursing
- Higher Certificate in Science in Pharmacy Technician
- Higher Certificate in Science in Health Science with Physiotherapy Studies
- Higher Certificate in Science in Health Science with Dietetics Studies
- Higher Certificate in Science in Health Science with Occupational Therapy Studies

Department of Life & Physical Sciences:

- Head of Department: Dr Kim McFadden
Email: Kim.McFadden@atu.ie Tel: 0479186302 Room: 2459
- Dept of Life & Physical Sciences Administration Ms Josephine Bradley
Email: Science.donegal@atu.ie Tel: 0749186306 Room: 2469
- Dept of Life & Physical Sciences Staff Officer (Placement): Ms Maria McConalogue Harkin
Email: Maria.McConalogue@atu.ie Room: 2458

Welcome!

Welcome to ATU Donegal! We are delighted you have chosen to study in the Department of Life & Physical Sciences. Induction allows you to get to know your classmates, find your way around, meet the lecturers and support staff and learn about the facilities and services you can avail of during your time here.

It is essential you attend all the induction activities to ensure you don't miss out on any important information that will make life and learning easier at ATU Donegal.

Introduction to the Department of Life & Physical Sciences

The Department of Life and Physical Sciences is a vibrant and dynamic Department within the Faculty of Science and Health at ATU Donegal. The Department currently has an excess of 600 undergraduate students studying at Level 6, Level 7 and Level 8 in addition to postgraduate students undertaking MSc Research and PHD Research at Level 9 and Level 10. We have established a number of progression partnerships with other universities to enable our students to progress to further studies. We also actively engage with professional bodies to enable our students to achieve professional accreditation in their respective disciplines.

Induction Thursday 11th September 2025

Induction for all courses in the Department of Life & Physical Sciences will take place on **Thursday 11th September 2025**. You can begin the registration process with Online Registration before you visit the campus.

It is very important that you attend your course induction. Please see the following pages for dates/times of your induction. This is your opportunity to meet your lecturers and support staff. Our academic staff will provide all information you need about course materials, placements, laboratory requirements, field trips and your timetable to help you prepare for the first day of class. You will also receive information about The Curve Learning Support Centre and Computer Services. Please read this document carefully for induction information session times.

You will receive information about your class group and timetable at Induction.

Once again congratulations on securing your place in the Department of Life and Physical Sciences. We wish you every success with your studies and I look forward to meeting at Induction. Welcome to Atlantic Technological University Donegal – the future is here!

Kim McFadden

Dr Kim McFadden
Head of Department of Life and Physical Sciences



Online Pre-Induction

Information regarding your on-campus induction can be found here:

[Donegal Induction - Atlantic Technological University](#)

You are advised to take our online Pre-Induction now via the following link:

<https://www.atu.ie/student-life/induction/online-and-flexible-induction/atu-donegal-flexible-induction/atu-donegal-flexible-pre-induction>

You will find information on programme registration, fees and payments, student supports and learn more about the technologies used in online learning and the virtual learning environment (VLE). You will also learn about the supports and resources available to online learners at ATU and how to prepare for taking up or returning to study.

Information on how to register for your programme can be found here:

[Registration - Atlantic Technological University](#)

Once you have registered for your programme of study you will be able to access the ATU Student Hub, where you will find information that you need for student supports and services available at ATU: [ATU Student Hub](#)

All communication with students from the Department will be via your **ATU Student Email only**, please set up your student email account as soon as possible.

Department Administration Support

Room 2469. Monday-Friday 10.30am-12.00pm and 2pm-3.30pm.

The Department of Life & Physical Sciences office is located at room 2469, on the first floor. To access the office from the main reception desk; proceed up the main staircase and turn right, follow the corridor passing the stairs and take the next right, room 2469 is on the right-hand side. Support services available to students include:

- Communicating to students regularly via ATU Student email regarding timetables, class groups, class activities, attendance requirements etc.
- Scheduling appointments for students to meet with the Head of Department if required.
- Provision of guidance with regards to timetables/student groups etc.
- Providing the College stamp/logo on required documents such as medical card applications, social welfare applications etc.

You must present your ATU student ID card if you require any of our services. Please note that there is a 5-day timeframe for documents to be issued and this may increase at peak times. You are advised to request any necessary documentation in a timely manner to allow us to support your request.

Administrative support can only be provided directly to registered students and cannot be provided to third parties (parents/guardians). Should you require support or guidance with any issue or query, you are welcome to contact the office in person at Room 2469 or by email to Science.Donegal@atu.ie and we will direct you to the relevant supports.

Garda Vetting

Depending on the programme you are studying, **you may be required** to complete **Garda Vetting** and **Mandatory Training and/or Health Screening** as part of your programme. It is very important that you engage with the Garda Vetting Liaison Officer and your Department Administrator regarding these additional requirements as your **registration may not be complete until you have submitted all relevant documentation.**

Information on Garda Vetting and Health Screening and forms will be sent via email from the Admissions team. These must be completed before you start attending lectures.

Information on Garda Vetting application process can be found by clicking on the links below, please ensure you read the information below and bring all relevant documents with you to induction on 11th September:

- ATU Student Hub, Student Vetting Information: [ATU Student Hub](#)
- Garda Vetting Process information and Forms: [Garda Vetting Info Forms 25-26 \(Donegal\).pdf](#)

Mandatory training for some programmes will be scheduled during Induction week, prior to lectures starting. More information on this will be available on the day of Induction.



Department of Life & Physical Sciences

Garda Vetting Schedule Thursday 11th September 2025

PROGRAMME	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Higher Certificate in Science in Pharmacy Technician	Thursday 11th September 2025	9.30am	Room 1453
Higher Certificate in Science in Dental Nursing	Thursday 11th September 2025	9.30am	Room 1453
BSc Hons in Physiotherapy	Thursday 11th September 2025	11.30am	Room 1453
Higher Certificate in Science in Health Science with Dietetics Studies	Thursday 11th September 2025	2.00pm	Room 1453
Higher Certificate in Science in Health Science with Occupational Therapy Studies	Thursday 11th September 2025	2.00pm	Room 1453
Higher Certificate in Science in Health Science with Physiotherapy Studies	Thursday 11th September 2025	2.00pm	Room 1453

Programme Induction Sessions

Thursday 11th September 2025

PROGRAMME	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Higher Certificate in Science in Pharmacy Technician	Thursday 11th September 2025	11.30-13.00	1406
Higher Certificate in Science in Dental Nursing	Thursday 11th September 2025	11.30-13.00	2232
Higher Certificate in Science in Health Science with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occupational Therapy Studies Dietetics Studies Physiotherapy Studies 	Thursday 11th September 2025	11.30-13.00	1401
Bachelor of Science common entry with named degree award options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bioanalytical Science Food Science and Nutrition Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Science AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor of Science Honours in Pharmaceutical & Medicinal Science. Bachelor of Science Honours in Bioscience. Bachelor of Science Honours in Food Science and Nutrition. 	Thursday 11th September 2025	13.00-14.30	1404
Bachelor of Science Agriculture/ Bachelor of Science (Hons) Agriculture	Thursday 11th September 2025	13.00-14.30	1401
Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Nursing	Thursday 11th September 2025	13.00-14.30	2232
BSc (Hons) in Physiotherapy	Thursday 11th September 2025	14.00-15.30	2269B

Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Nursing (AU271)

Congratulations on being offered a place on the three-year BSc in Veterinary Nursing (Level 7) at ATU Donegal. This programme provides the opportunity to learn and develop new skills to seek employment in the area of animal health.

This is a full-time programme with classes taking place Monday-Friday from 09.30 to 17.30. Attendance at all lectures, practicals, site visits and placements (if applicable) is recorded and monitored. If a student has attendance less than 75%, they will be invited to attend a meeting with the Head of Department.

As part of your programme of study you will take both theory and practical classes. Practical classes are an essential part of your programme as they put into practice much of the theory you have been taught in class. As a department, we place considerable emphasis on this aspect of our programmes of study as employers require graduates to have up-to-date practical skills.

Students are required to wear protective clothing when working in the Science labs. Lab coats are available from the Campus SU shop. In addition to scheduled classes students are also required to undertake independent learning. Suitable clothing must also be worn when on farm visits and academic staff will advise you of these requirements during Induction.

The programme involves placements of 6 weeks duration in each semester. These work placements are critical as they put into practice all that the student has learned in the classroom. The Veterinary Council of Ireland (VCI) are responsible for regulating the Veterinary Profession in Ireland. You can register with the VCI as a Veterinary Nurse on successful completion of the programme. The VCI have oversight of placements and students will be expected to take a variety of placements to ensure that they get sufficient exposure to the working of a veterinary practice. Students are also expected to engage in placements outside the Donegal/Northwest region which will be sourced in conjunction with our Veterinary Nursing team. Students are responsible for sourcing and paying for both accommodation and travel to these placements.

Students are expected to wear official uniforms on placement. During Induction, our Veterinary Nursing team will provide information about uniforms. This uniform should last the duration of your course of study at ATU Donegal. Please see Additional Costs on the next page for further information.

You are also required to undertake **mandatory training** prior to engaging in skills sessions and work placement. Training will be arranged on your behalf by ATU Donegal, and attendance is mandatory. Mandatory training has been organised for the first two Fridays in September 2026, please keep your schedule free for this. Please see Additional Costs on the next page for further information.

Students also need to ensure that they are up to date with their Diphtheria/Tetanus vaccination prior to undertaking work experience. This vaccination is not currently available at the ATU Donegal Campus Health Centre and you should contact your own GP for further information about this vaccine.

Quick Guide Information for Veterinary Nursing Students

Professional Body Registration

On successful completion of this course graduates will have the option of applying to register with the following professional bodies:

- Veterinary Council of Ireland (VCI) (ROI)
- Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) (UK)
- Acovene (EU)

Placement Information

- 6 weeks per Semester of every year of the programme – further information will be provided at Year 1 Induction
- Mandatory Training – further information will be provided at Year 1 Induction
- Diphtheria/ Tetanus Vaccinations must be up to date
- Uniform/Tunics – to be worn on placement
- Year 1 Placement – Donegal/ North West
- Year 2 Placement – **outside** Donegal/North West region
- RCVS temporary enrolment documents must be submitted to the RCVS **6 weeks** in advance of student undertaking placement in Northern Ireland. Further information will be provided.

Online Registration

- Information on how to register for your programme can be found here: [Registration - Atlantic Technological University](#)

Once you have registered for your programme of study you will be able to access the ATU Student Hub, where you will find information that you need for student supports and services available at ATU: [ATU Student Hub](#)

Virtual Learning Environment/ Blackboard

- Student Guidance and support for using Blackboard, our VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) is available on the Student Guidance and Support module, in Blackboard. Once you have completed your student registration you will be able to access this module here:
https://lyitbb.blackboard.com/ultra/courses/_46489_1/cl/outline

Additional Costs*

Purpose	Cost	How to Pay
Course Costs	€120 (tbc)– student contribution towards the following course activities: Manual Handling Training/Uniforms/Educational Trips	Paid through ATU Student Account
Laboratory Coat	€40	Can be purchased from SU Campus Shop

*Please note additional costs are not covered by the SUSI grant and students are required to arrange payment through their ATU Student Account.

Department of Life & Physical Sciences Contacts

Life & Physical Sciences	Role	Email	Location
Dr Kim Mc Fadden	Head of Department	Kim.McFadden@atu.ie	Room 2459
Ms Josephine Bradley	Department Administrator	science.donegal@atu.ie	Room 2469
Ms Maria McConalogue	Staff Officer (Placement)	Maria.McConalogue@atu.ie	Room 2458

Programme Team

Lecturer	Email
Mr Aidan Finnan	Aidan.Finnan@atu.ie
Ms Tina Parnell	Tina.Parnell@atu.ie
Ms Susie Law	Susie.Law@atu.ie
Ms Máiréad Boyce	Mairead.Boyce@atu.ie
Ms Trish Warren	Patricia.warren@atu.ie

Department of Life & Physical Sciences

1st Year Student Registration Checklist

Registration Process	Students	Complete	Follow -Up Required
Online Registration	All Students		
Computer Services Induction	All Students		
ATU Donegal Student Card collect from Admissions Office Main Reception	All Students		
ATU Student Number	All Students		
ATU Student Email	All Students		
Access ATU Blackboard (Virtual Learning Environment)	All Students		
Admissions/Fees – Fee Payment plan	All Students		
Garda Vetting – Required to complete registration. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photographic ID Proof of address Contact Garda Vetting Liaison Officer 	Pharmacy Technician Dental Nursing Dietetics Studies Occupational Therapy Studies Physiotherapy Studies BSc Hons Physiotherapy		
Induction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet Programme Team Timetable/Class Group Day 1 (find out what you need for the first day of class) 	All Students		
Laboratory Coat SU shop	All Students		
Mandatory Training Further information at Induction	Agriculture Pharmacy Technician Dental Nursing Dietetics Studies Occupational Therapy Studies Physiotherapy Studies Veterinary Nursing BSc Hons Physiotherapy		
Material's Fees extra costs for your course check ATU Student Account	All Students		
Student Toolkit Available on Blackboard	All Students		
Work Placement Temporary registration with professional body Further information at Induction	Veterinary Nursing (NI Placements only)		
Vaccinations Student Health Centre Further information at Induction	Dental Nursing Dietetics Studies OT Studies Physio Studies BSc Hons Physiotherapy		

Useful Contact Details

Department	Extension	Email	Location
Admissions	0749186125/ 6129/6127	Admissions.Donegal@atu.ie	Reception, Main Building
Exams Office	0749186124/ 6126/6128	Exams.Donegal@atu.ie	Reception, Main Building
Computer Services	0749186050	Ithelpdesk.Donegal@atu.ie	Main Building
Student Health Centre	0749186855	Health.Donegal@atu.ie	An Dánlann
Sports Centre	0749186800	sportscentre.donegal@atu.ie	An Dánlann
The Curve, Learning Support Centre	0749186175	thecurve.donegal@atu.ie	Third Floor, Main Building
Library	0749186150	librarymail.donegal@atu.ie	Main Building
Careers Service	0749186812	Careers.Donegal@atu.ie	An Dánlann
Reprographics (Printing)	0749186599	Reprographics.Donegal@atu.ie	Room 1148, Main Building
Students Union	0749186820	atusudonegal.ie	An Dánlann
Flexible and Online Learning Unit	0749186109	Flexibleonline.donegal@atu.ie	Co-Lab
Department of Life & Physical Sciences Administration Ms Josephine Bradley	0749186306	Science.Donegal@atu.ie	Room 2469 Main Building
Garda Vetting Liaison Officer-Ms Aisling Erskine	0749186305	Aisling.Erskine@atu.ie	Room 3401 Main Building
Department of Life and Physical Sciences Staff Officer (Placement) Ms Maria McConologue- Harkin	0749186369	Maria.McConologue@atu.ie	Room 2458 Main Building

