

Head of Campus: Michael Hannon

# GMIT at Letterfrack

An Educational Partnership between  
GMIT and Connemara West

# GMIT at Letterfrack

Introduction

Higher Certificate in **Engineering** in  
*Furniture Design & Manufacture*

Higher Certificate in **Engineering** in  
*Furniture Production*

Bachelor of Science in  
*Furniture Conservation & Restoration*

Bachelor of Science (Hons) in *Furniture Technology*



# Introduction

The Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology's courses in Letterfrack are run in partnership with Connemara West (a community and rural development organisation based in North-West Connemara). Since 1987, the partnership has managed and run furniture courses.

The aim of GMIT at Letterfrack is to enable its graduates to contribute to, and influence, the fields of design processes and manufacture of furniture in ways that are innovative, creative and responsive to the needs and development of a quality Irish furniture industry.

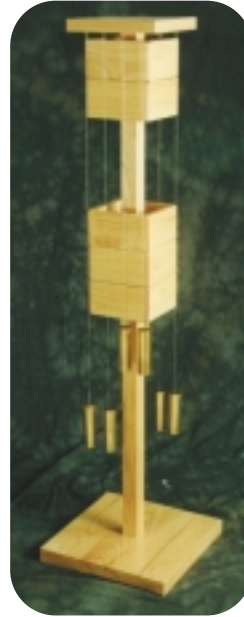
Currently there are four programmes on offer at the College:

- ◆ Higher Certificate in Engineering in Furniture Design & Manufacture
- ◆ Higher Certificate in Engineering in Furniture Production
- ◆ Bachelor of Science in Furniture Conservation & Restoration
- ◆ Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Furniture Technology

The Higher Certificate in Engineering in Furniture Design & Manufacture has been running for over seventeen years, and has developed a reputation for quality and high standards in the education of people for the furniture industry through the successful merging of design education and technological skills.

Higher Certificate in Engineering in Furniture Production was developed in response to demand from companies in the industry for graduates educated in the area of furniture production including the ability to operate equipment and develop a manufacturer's production capability.

A three year Bachelor of Science in Furniture Conservation & Restoration commenced in September 2001. It equips students with the skills and knowledge to become professional conservators and restorers of furniture and other wooden objects.



An expanded two-year add-on BSc Hons Degree in Furniture Technology is now offering applicants the opportunity to specialise in either Product Design or Manufacturing Technology. The programme aims to equip students with the theoretical and applied knowledge which is needed to operate at managerial or functional specialist level within the furniture industry.

There is a high demand by employers for graduates from all programmes at the College. The College has established linkages with industry and colleges abroad over the past number of years. Through those

linkages the college places a number of students on work experience each year under the EU LEONARDO programme.

The College promotes a range of extra curricular activities for students, these include College teams that participate in national third-level competitions in hurling, soccer and gaelic football.

# Higher Certificate in Engineering in Furniture Design & Manufacture

**Course Code:**  
GA915

**NQAI Level:** 6



## What is this course about?

Graduates of this course will develop design and making skills and knowledge to conceive, develop, make and finish high quality furniture for differing commercial environments and clientele, which can range from craft based to medium scale industrial production.

Graduates will acquire an understanding of materials and manufacturing technologies, the business environment, marketing, health and safety, and the historical context of furniture and design.

CAO Cut-off 2003: 660  
(Assessment plus LC Score)

CAO Mean: 840

Places: 32

Course Duration: Two years full-time

## Entry Requirements

The minimum entry requirements are: Pass (Grade D3 or better) in Five Leaving Certificate subjects including, Mathematics and English or Irish, and a Pass in an interview/portfolio assessment that will take place in GMIT Letterfrack in April/early May.

The interview/portfolio assessment is marked out of 600 points and places on the course are awarded on the aggregation of Leaving Certificate points and Assessment points.

## Career Opportunities:

Graduates are equipped to secure positions in small to medium sized furniture manufacturing companies, being capable of undertaking small production runs, batch manufacture and specialist furniture orders. Many graduates, after gaining industrial experience, establish their own businesses.

## What subjects will I study?

### Year 1

Furniture Materials 1, Furniture Making Techniques, Business and Communications, Furniture History, Design, Drawing and IT, Maths and Science, Furniture Making Projects.

### Year 2

Furniture Materials 2, Furniture Manufacture, Manufacturing Management, Management and Finance, Industrial Design History, Design and CAD Studies, Maths and Engineering, Design and Manufacture Projects.

**Further Information:**

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### Progression Opportunities:

Graduates can proceed to the B.Sc (Hons) in Furniture Technology, which offers a Product Design or Manufacturing specialization to applicants. The B.Sc. is a two-year add-on programme and is delivered at GMIT Letterfrack.

### Restricted Applications Course

Applications for this course will be accepted until 1 February, 2005, and cannot be introduced as a new choice by an applicant after this date.





# Higher Certificate in Engineering in Furniture Production

**Course Code:**  
**GA943**

**NQAI Level: 6**

## What is this course about?

This Higher Certificate programme will provide graduates with the education and skills in furniture production which are associated with batch and volume production environments. Graduates will develop knowledge of current manufacturing technologies and the capability to manufacture furniture of quality and precision in competitive commercial environments.

## Graduates will be able to:

- ◆ Explain the nature and properties of materials and finishes used in the furniture industry.
- ◆ Describe the principles of factory planning, layout, work organisation and production flows in a furniture manufacturing environment.
- ◆ Specify, set-up and maintain furniture production machinery and tooling.
- ◆ Demonstrate a clear understanding of technology, business and work practices.

CAO Cut-off 2003: 170

CAO Mean: 301

Places: 32

Course Duration: Two years full-time

## Entry Requirements

MINIMUM entry requirement is: Pass (Grade D3 or better) in five Leaving Certificate subjects including Mathematics and English or Irish. Points will be calculated from the SIX best subjects. It is anticipated that entry levels will be significantly higher than the minimum.

Applicants for this course should be interested in problem solving and manufacturing process techniques and should be comfortable with mathematics and analytical subjects generally. It would also be helpful to have studied one or more of the following subjects: Science, Computing, Engineering, Construction or Technical Drawing.



## Careers Opportunities:

Graduates will be employed in medium to large wood and furniture manufacturing companies where a knowledge of manufacturing and production technologies are required. With experience, the graduate will be well placed to work at a senior level in a wood processing, furniture manufacturing or timber products manufacturing facility. Graduates will have the knowledge, skills and competence to progress to supervisory and management roles in the wood and furniture industry.

## What subjects will I study? Year 1

Furniture Materials 1, Production Processes 1, Operations Management 1, Business and Communications, Furniture History, Technical Drawing and IT, Maths and Science, Projects 1.



## Year 2

Furniture Materials 2, Production Processes 2, Operations Management 2, Management and Finance, Industrial Design History, CAD and IT, Maths and Engineering, Projects 2.

### Further Information:

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## Progression Opportunities:

Graduates can proceed to the B.Sc (Honours) in Furniture Technology, which offers a Product Design or Manufacturing specialization to applicants. The B.Sc. is a two-year add-on programme and is delivered at GMIT Letterfrack.

# Bachelor of Science in Furniture Conservation & Restoration

**Course Code:**  
GA948

**NQAI level:** 7

## What is this course about?

This ordinary level degree programme aims to provide students with a thorough knowledge of traditional furniture making and finishing processes, current conservation and restoration methods as well as the scientific and business capabilities to pursue a career in furniture restoration and conservation.

The programme aims to produce competent professional furniture conservators/restorers with a high level of practical skill, a sound theoretical base, and an understanding of the historical, ethical and aesthetic aspects of the subject. The graduate will have the opportunity to deepen and build upon the programme through work experience, further studies and later specialisation.

CAO Points 2003: N/A

CAO cut-off in 2002:  
480+ (Assessment plus LC score)

CAO Mean: N/A

## Entry Requirements:

The minimum entry requirements is a Pass (Grade D3 or better) in five Leaving Certificate subjects including Mathematics and English or Irish, and a pass in an interview/portfolio assessment that will take place in GMIT Letterfrack in April/early May.

### Non-Standard and Mature Students

These applicants do not have to meet the Leaving Certificate entry requirements but will

be selected on the basis of their score in the interview/assessment.

Places: 16

## Course Duration:

Three years full-time including a sixteen week work placement at the end of year two.



## Career Opportunities:

There is an extensive untapped furniture restoration/conservation market in Ireland in vernacular and fashionable furniture, as well as other wooden objects in museums, heritage centres, antique businesses, state and semi-state bodies and private collections. Graduates from the ordinary level degree programme will be in a position to enter this market either as employees of other conservators/restorers, by



sub-contracting or by establishing their own businesses. In addition, the range and level of expertise of the graduates also open up opportunities for international employment.

### What subjects will I study?

There are six subject areas, which are carried through the three years:

1. Traditional Processes - Traditional cabinet making skills using hand tools, power and machine tools.
2. Furniture Materials - The nature of timber, timber derivatives, metals and other materials.
3. Conservation Science – The scientific aspects of furniture restoration and conservation.
4. Communication Skills – Freehand sketching, technical drawing, photography, computers, information technology and report writing.
5. Furniture History – The influence of historic, economic, social, cultural and political factors on furniture styles, materials and construction.
6. Restoration Business - The procedural, institutional and ethical environment within which furniture conservation and restoration business strategies must be devised.

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### Restricted Applications Course

Applications for this course will be accepted until 1st February, 2005 and cannot be introduced as a new choice after this date.

### Progression Opportunities:

GMIT at Letterfrack is planning to establish a one-year "add on" programme, which will enable the students to graduate with an Honours Bachelor Degree.

# Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Furniture Technology

**Course Code:**  
*GA\_TFURN\_BLF*

**NQAI Level:** 8

## What is this course about?

This programme is designed to provide degree level studies relevant to the furniture and wood-related industries. Two options are offered within the programme: manufacturing and product design. Applicants choose one of these options as their core specialisation, and also share a range of common subjects.

The programme equips students with the theoretical and practical techniques which will enable them to function as professionals within the furniture and wood products industry. The Degree is characterised by applied studies in areas such as materials, product development, outsourcing, quality, information systems, furniture design, prototyping, CAD, CAM, resource management and market influences relevant to the Irish furniture industry.

This is a dynamic programme in which projects are structured to simulate real-world situations, which require the students to engage in creative problem solving activities and draw on their knowledge and experience. Study visits to companies, international trade shows, and the experience gained through work placement are important sources of learning opportunities that are highly valued and exploited on the programme.

Places: 32

## Course Duration:

Two years full-time including 3 month work placement over Summer Period.

## Career Opportunities:

Graduates will be employed in various positions in the furniture and wood products manufacturing industries and related areas. Typical areas of employment include furniture design, production management, plant design and layout, machine selection and purchase, furniture production including finishing and upholstery, the application of design, outsourcing, product development and prototyping and the implementation of quality systems. To date, demand for graduates of the programme has been very high. Several recent graduates have progressed to senior positions while some others have chosen entrepreneurial options.





### What subjects will I study?

The programme includes the following study areas/subjects over two years:

#### Common Subjects

- ◆ Quantitative Techniques
- ◆ Materials and Standards
- ◆ Project Management
- ◆ Communications and IT
- ◆ Marketing
- ◆ Accounting and Finance
- ◆ Product Development
- ◆ Organisational Behaviour & HRM
- ◆ Strategic Management

#### Product Design Option

- ◆ Design Studies
- ◆ Industrial Design
- ◆ Design & Innovation
- ◆ Prototyping

#### Manufacturing Option

- ◆ Operations Management
- ◆ Applied Science
- ◆ Automation and Control

#### Projects (Team and Individual)

- ◆ Contract Manufacturing
- ◆ Product Development
- ◆ Professional Practice
- ◆ Major Project

#### Further Information:

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### Progression Opportunities

Graduates may progress to post-graduate studies at Colleges and Universities in Ireland and the EU.

# Contacts

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