



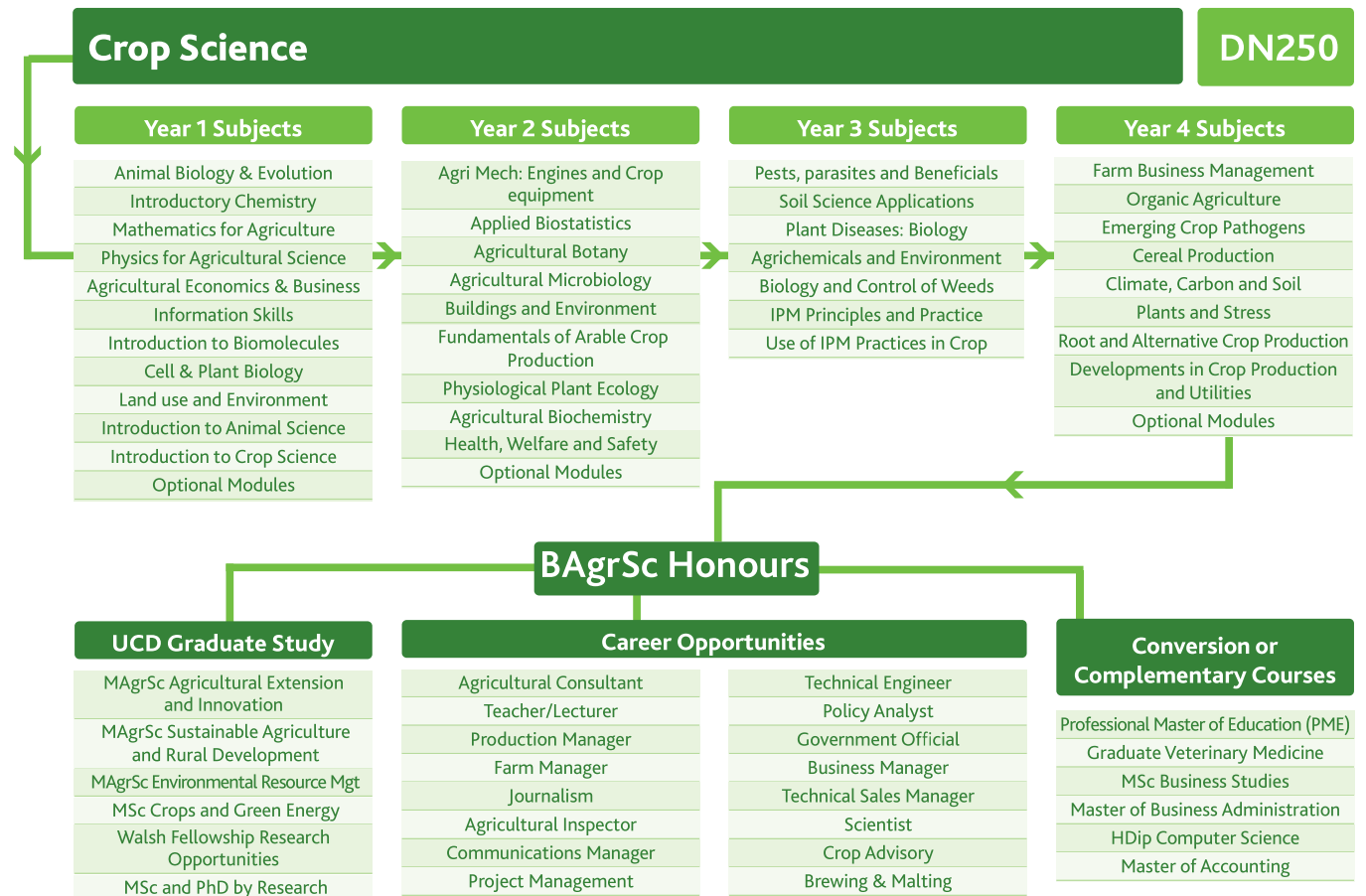
Exciting new Crop Sciences programme at UCD

The new Crop Science programme at the UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science was launched in 2021 and is the only third level Crop Science degree programme offered in Ireland. There is an increasing demand for highly qualified graduates in the area of crop agronomy and graduates from this programme will be qualified to address a skills shortage in this sector as identified by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. It is estimated that over the next decade there will be growth opportunities for the tillage sector in areas such as increasing demand for barley and malt for the rapidly expanding brewing sector in the whiskey, and micro-brewing industries. Additionally, increased demand for oats, due to their health and nutritional benefits, will drive the requirement for higher value-added tillage crops. The production strategy for these crops requires a higher degree of agronomic management and supply chain management to ensure the products attain their premium markets.

This exciting new programme will also address the growing responsibility for the tillage sector with regard to climate change. The tillage sector has the potential to produce animal and human protein ingredients utilizing soil and crop carbon management strategies that reduce GHG emissions from the sector and from the food supply chain.



Programme Pathway



Consus Project

UCD has partnered with the leading agribusiness company, Origin Enterprises plc to develop the next generation of digital tools for use by the farmer and agronomist. CONSUS is a €17.6m programme over 5 years, which is jointly funded by Science Foundation Ireland and Origin Enterprises.

CONSUS, is a collaborative research programme focused on the application of

precision agriculture to crop production with a particular emphasis on optimisation of agri-food production systems leading to more efficient food production with lower environmental impacts. The outcomes from this research programme will deliver a step-change in crop agronomy tools and practices, leading to enhanced global competitiveness and inform teaching on the new Crop Science degree programme.

