

Centre for Food and Drug Discovery – Project Summary

The Centre for Food and Drug Discovery (CFDD) at Ulster University's Coleraine campus, will be a collaborative, industry-facing consortium that builds on existing research excellence to create a leading hub for innovation in food and pharmaceutical health. Its mission is to position both the University and the wider Causeway Coast and Glens region as a premier destination for drug discovery and health innovation, nationally and internationally.

CFDD will offer a unique 'one-stop shop' facility for the food and drug innovation pipeline, providing integrated preclinical expertise across all key stages of development. It will serve as a single-site hub for business collaboration, supporting university spinouts, local enterprises, and global partners.

The project aims to:

- Drive increased investment in food and pharmaceutical Research and Development across the region.
- Produce world-leading research outputs to attract Foreign Direct Investment and foster collaborative innovation.
- Strengthen regional leadership in Research and Development and Innovation, enabling local companies to access innovative research and infrastructure.
- Develop a skilled talent pipeline aligned with industry needs in food and pharmaceutical sectors.

Over a 16-year appraisal period (1 year setup, 15 years operational), CFDD is expected to deliver:

- Approximately 230 direct and indirect jobs (184 net).
- Fifty jobs attributable to Foreign Direct Investment.
- £134 million in Net Present Social Value (NPSV).
- Synergistic opportunities with other innovation centres, for example the Centre for Digital Healthcare Technology, Future Medicines Institute, UU School of Medicine.

CFDD represents a strategic investment in regional innovation capacity, economic growth, and workforce development, anchored in scientific excellence and collaborative enterprise.