

## Comparative Sustainability Analysis of Food Packaging – Internship (I690023)

**Course size** (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)

**Credits 5.0**

**Study time 150 h**

**Course offerings in academic year 2024-2025**

A (semester 2)

English

Kortrijk

**Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025**

Nachtergaele, Pieter

LA24

lecturer-in-charge

Boone, Lieselot

LA24

co-lecturer

Ragaert, Peter

LA23

co-lecturer

**Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025**

[Master of Science in Sustainable Food Packaging](#)

**crdts**

5

**offering**

A

**Teaching languages**

English

**Keywords**

Food packaging systems, Sustainability analysis, Food packaging design, Packaging strategy, Interdisciplinarity, Internship, industrial practice

**Position of the course**

The purpose of an internship is to allow students to test the knowledge acquired during the programme against industrial practice. This is an integrating course unit combining the knowledge and skills learned throughout previous course units from the Master in Sustainable Food Packaging. In this course, an internship is performed at a company or other stakeholder within the food packaging chain regarding sustainable food packaging. The student will preferably contribute to the design and/or optimise a food packaging system, taking into account functionality and the embedding in the food and packaging chain, with a conscious and critical choice of resources, production methods and the end-of-life of the packaging system (circularity). The proposed packaging strategy should take into account the corporate or organisational culture of the company, its mission and vision, and the broad socio-economic context. The students should integrate requirements from sales, purchase, production, quality, marketing, sustainability and the supply chain within the food packaging system. During the internship, attention will also be given to soft skills such as professional and interdisciplinary communication.

**Contents**

*The students will contribute to the design and/or optimise a food packaging system for a specific company. The internships will be provided by industrial partners or other stakeholders. Students will need to incorporate insights from the different aspects from the master's programme's courses during the internship:*

· Food packaging systems: materials, machines, conditions.

*Food packaging economics & management*

· Shelf life of packed foods

· Sustainability in food systems

· Food safety of packaging materials

· Management of end-of-life packaging

· Quality management in food packaging

· Food packaging design

*The students are encouraged to find creative solutions and to work in an*

*interdisciplinary way.*

*Afterwards a written and oral report will be made on both the scientific and socio-economic context.*

### **Initial competences**

Competences obtained in the previous course units: Food packaging systems: materials, machines and packaging conditions; Food packaging economics & management; Shelf life of packed foods; Sustainability in food systems; Food safety of packaging materials; End-of-life management of packaging; Quality management in food packaging.

### **Final competences**

- 1 To work in an interdisciplinary team to design and/or optimise a food packaging system.
- 2 To make evidence-based decisions regarding the individual aspects of sustainable food packaging for the development of a new or optimised food packaging system.
- 3 To integrate possible requirements from sales, purchase, production, quality, marketing, sustainability and supply chain within the food packaging system.
- 4 To develop a packaging strategy within a company or organisation, considering the corporate or organisational culture, its mission and vision, and the broad socio-economic context.
- 5 To have the professional skills to act as a key figure in professional communication inside and outside an organisation, when designing and/or optimising a packaging system.
- 6 To apply new technological skills in response to developments in the field of packaging systems or to a new context.

### **Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

### **Conditions for exam contract**

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

### **Teaching methods**

Work placement

### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

Lecture: this refers to the plenary sessions when students receive instructions for the project or on specific topics (7.5 hrs).

Guided self-study: This refers to the interactive moments with coaches and experts (10 hrs).

Group work: This refers to when the students work on the project in a group (16 hrs).

Independent work: This refers to when the students work on the project individually (10 hrs).

Study visit: This refers to when students visit the company/organisation to learn about the case study/present results (5h)

Integration seminar: This refers to a moment where one group discusses the work of another group and formulates suggestions (1.5 hrs).

### **Study material**

Type: Internship

Name: Internship

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

### **References**

### **Course content-related study coaching**

Students are guided by an academic promotor as well as a promotor from the professional organisation that has proposed the topic. During the academic year, the students get the necessary supervision and guidance, mainly guided by the industrial promotor. These talks can be organised at fixed points in time or after making an appointment. The responsible teacher also monitors their process.

### **Assessment moments**

end-of-term and continuous assessment

**Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period**

Presentation, Assignment

**Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period**

Presentation, Assignment

**Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Professional practice

**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

examination during the second examination period is possible

**Extra information on the examination methods**

*Students who eschew period aligned and/or non-period aligned evaluations for this course unit may be failed by the examiner.*

*PE Oral examination: presentation of internship with Q&A session*

*PE Report: The report is graded by the lecturers and internship supervisors.*

NPE Behavioural evaluation on the work floor: Evaluation of the process:  
participation and collaboration in the team, communication inside and outside the  
organisation, commitment, initiative, quality of execution, problem approach

**Calculation of the examination mark**

Periodic evaluation (50%)

- Written report (25%)
- Oral presentation of written report (25%)

Non-periodic evaluation (50%)