

## Professional Conduct in Biosciences: Business, Consultancy and Research (1002916)

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

**Credits 5.0**

**Study time 150 h**

**Course offerings in academic year 2025-2026**

A (semester 2)

English

Gent

**Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026**

Hung, Christine Yung

LA27

lecturer-in-charge

Lachat, Carl

LA23

co-lecturer

**Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026**

[Master of Science in Nutrition and Food Systems](#)

**crdts**

5

**offering**

A

**Teaching languages**

English

**Keywords**

Behaviour, Ethical leadership, Food and Nutrition, Professional development, Responsible business conduct, Research integrity.

**Position of the course**

This course aims to prepare graduates for a leadership position in a professional environment by informing decisions and shaping behaviours. It enables moral and ethical management, fostering the accountability and sustainability of the organization in settings such as private, public or non-profit sectors with a special focus on food and nutrition.

Distinctive in its practical approach, this course equips students with knowledge and skills that can be readily integrated into both personal and professional lives. It consists of three pillars that caters for an extensive profession with diverse specialisms and practices: Responsible Business Conduct, Professional Development and Scientific Research Integrity.

The course emphasises the importance of continual reflection on and evaluation of professional competencies and conduct. As a case study, students will learn how to critically reflect on and demonstrate their acquired experiences and competencies as a nutritionist. This course is designed to cultivate professional conduct and encourage students to identify the areas for further growth and lifelong learning after graduation.

**Contents**

This course offers theories, guidelines and case studies within the three pillars:

**1. Responsible Business Conduct**

- Business concept with triple bottom line
- Ethical leadership and decision-making tools
- Moral management and organisational culture, behaviour and performance

**2. Professional development**

- Competency mapping and portfolio building in nutrition
- Standards of ethics, conduct and performance in nutrition
- Development of own career path and approach for life-long learning

**3. Scientific Research Integrity**

- Fundamental principles and violations of research integrity
- Ethics assessment, informed consent and data management
- Responsible research innovation for a sustainable future

**Initial competences**

**Final competences**

- 1 Fully aware of the principles and basic concepts regarding responsible business conduct, consultancy ethics, and research integrity
- 2 Having insight in ethical leadership, challenges and potential opportunities in professional environment in agro-food and nutrition
- 3 Able to critically reason in ethical terms with a system-thinking approach and make justified managerial decisions
- 4 Able to translate, apply and integrate knowledge about professional conduct into concrete applications and problem solving
- 5 Capable of working and sharing responsibility within a team
- 6 Able to present and communicate ideas and arguments effectively with multidisciplinary teams

**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**

Group work, Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

**Study material**

None

**References**

European Science Foundation, & All European Academies. (2017). The European code of conduct for research integrity. European Science Foundation.  
Kinicki, A. & Soignet, D. B. (2022). Management: A practical introduction, 10th edition. McGraw-Hill Education.  
OECD (2014). OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises: responsible business conduct matters, OECD Publishing.  
Lawrence, A. T., & Weber, J. (2020). Business and society: Stakeholders, ethics, public policy. 16th edition. McGraw-Hill Education.  
UKAfn (2023). UKVRN Standards of Ethics, Conduct and Performance, Association for Nutrition.

**Course content-related study coaching****Assessment moments**

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Written assessment

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

Written assessment

**Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Participation, Presentation, Peer and/or self assessment, Assignment

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

examination during the second examination period is not possible

**Calculation of the examination mark**

*Integrated group and individual assignments: 50% of the final score*

*Written examination: 50% of the final score*

*Scores obtained based on permanent evaluation cannot be transferred to later academic years.*

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