

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	offering
	5	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.