

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NUTRITION AND FOOD SYSTEMS

120 ECTS CREDITS - LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

## WHAT

While large populations face hunger and undernourishment, elsewhere in the world overweight and diet-related chronic diseases have taken on pandemic proportions. In addition, human diets have a significant impact on natural resources and the climate. More than ever, food systems changes are required to improve human diets, promote planetary health, and achieve sustainable development. The Nutrition and Food Systems programme focuses on human nutrition and diets from a food system perspective.

After completing this degree, our students:

- have a solid academic background in human nutrition;
- understand how human diets and nutrition are driven by food systems, from the agricultural production, post-harvest handling, transformation, storage, marketing of food up to the behaviour of consumers;
- be able to identify nutritional problems, their underlying causes, and to develop, manage, and evaluate relevant interventions;
- be able to evaluate nutrition research findings critically and be competent to develop evidence-based recommendations;
- be able to collaborate, communicate and apply these competencies creatively across the disciplines for sustainable food systems change.

You acquire international and intercultural competencies through interactions with a diverse and international group of students and lecturers. Our graduates start their professional career with an international network. The Nutrition and Food Systems programme has its roots in the Nutrition and Rural Development programme, which has run as an international MSc programme at Ghent University since 1987. In response to increasing global concerns regarding the sustainability of food systems, we revised the programme and focus it explicitly on food systems now.

## STRUCTURE

The two-year curriculum is a gradual build-up of learning opportunities staggered over four terms. The initial fundamental knowledge course units gradually make way for course units that provide generic competencies for life-long learning and employment at the end. The programme allows you to tailor a part of the curriculum to your own needs, talents, and interests.

The **first term** contains general course units related to nutrition and food systems. It establishes a common ground for all students as many enter the programme with different education backgrounds in disciplines such as food technology and engineering, nutrition and dietetics, biomedical sciences, or medicine. The **second term** builds on this knowledge with more advanced course units. Students can specialise even more during the second year. The **third term** contains no mandatory course units and provides a work placement opportunity to gain professional experiences. Students can choose from a broad range of elective course units at Ghent University or at another university, if these meet the programme learning objectives. The **final term** contains the Master's dissertation alongside course units that prepare students for employment.

## LABOUR MARKET

Our alumni are found at local and national governments, United Nations agencies, (inter) national non-governmental organisations and research institutions across the globe. A considerable number of our students pursues further PhD study. The labour market opportunities are, in particular:

- positions at public institutions and local governments. Examples are technical experts at consumer organisations, city administration, regional health authorities, nutrition advisers at the Ministry of Agriculture, FAO, UNICEF, WHO or NGO's such as ACF, Rikolto, etc;
- research and education positions at universities or private research institutions, e.g., senior researcher, lecturers, professors;
- PhD programmes on nutrition, bioscience engineering, biomedical sciences, and life sciences;
- employment and consultancy services for NGO's, European-, UN or international organisations, active in nutrition or nutrition-sensitive programmes and/or sustainable development;
- private sector R&D positions, for example to guide the development of new products or services to suit the needs of consumers and markets.

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## TOELATINGSVOORWAARDEN VOOR HOUDERS VAN EEN VLAAMS DIPLOMA

### 1 Rechtstreeks:

- Bachelor in de bio-industriële wetenschappen
- Bachelor in de biochemie en de biotechnologie
- Bachelor in de biologie
- Bachelor in de biomedische wetenschappen
- Bachelor in de biowetenschappen
- Bachelor in de chemie
- Bachelor in de diergeneeskunde
- Bachelor in de farmaceutische wetenschappen
- Bachelor in de geneeskunde
- Bachelor in de industriële wetenschappen: chemie
- Bachelor in de lichamelijke opvoeding en de bewegingswetenschappen
- Bachelor in de tandheelkunde
- Bachelor of Food Technology
- Een diploma van een opleiding 'Bachelor of Science in de bio-ingenieurswetenschappen'

Zimbabwe, can provide a stamped and signed certificate of English proficiency issued by their previous university if they have obtained at least 60 ECTS credits with English as the language of instruction during a previous bachelor or master level higher education degree. This certificate should clearly state that English was the language of instruction during the previous degree. Candidates from any other nationality need to present test results of one of the following tests (validity of 5 years):  
- TOEFL iBT 86  
- TOEFL pBT 570  
- Academic iELTS 6,5 overall score with a min. of 6 for writing (online test is accepted)

### Exemptions:

- Prospective students who have a diploma (Secondary Education, Academic Bachelor Degree, Master Degree) issued by an institution officially recognized by the Flemish Government (see Education and Examination Code art. 10 § 1 2°).

**Remark:** this exemption does not count for application to Erasmus Mundus Programmes.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEGREE STUDENTS

Consult [the programme website](#) for specific academic and language requirements.

Information on admission requirements and the administrative procedure for admission on the basis of a diploma obtained abroad, can be found on the following page: [www.ugent.be/prospect/en/administration/enrolment-or-registration](http://www.ugent.be/prospect/en/administration/enrolment-or-registration).

## LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Language requirements Dutch: no language requirements

Language requirements for this study programme differ from the required standard level for English taught study programmes as specified in the Ghent University Education and Examination Code:

### English:

Only nationals of all EU and EEA countries, Australia, Botswana, Cameroon, Canada, Eritrea, Gambia, Ghana, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda, UK, USA, Zambia, and

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### Study programme

[studiekiezer.ugent.be/master-of-science-in-nutrition-and-food-systems-en/programma](http://studiekiezer.ugent.be/master-of-science-in-nutrition-and-food-systems-en/programma)

### Information sessions

### Graduation Fair

[afstudeerbeurs.ugent.be/en/students/further-studies](http://afstudeerbeurs.ugent.be/en/students/further-studies)

### Open Days

Each spring the graduation fair **EVOLV**, organised by the UGent Association, offers the opportunity to discover all possible options to continue studying or to start looking for a job (with more than 200 different companies).

For some programmes, there is a specific **Open Day**. If this is the case, you will find the date here (at the latest Feb 15th).

Do you prefer information online? A replay of the programme webinar is available.

28 April 2025 19u00 - 21u00 - Campus Coupure (E-blok, Agora), Coupure Links 653, 9000 Gent

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## Enrolling institution

Information on enrolment at Ghent University.

## Application Deadline (for International degree students)

For programme specific application procedures and deadlines consult the programme website.

## Tuition fee

More information is to be found on: [www.ugent.be/tuitionfee](http://www.ugent.be/tuitionfee)

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## Contact

Ghent University  
Faculty of Bioscience Engineering  
International Training Centre  
Coupure Links 653  
B-9000 Gent  
[applications.itc@ugent.be](mailto:applications.itc@ugent.be)  
**Learning path counsellor**  
Mevr. Isabelle Vantornhout  
[studietraject.coupre.bw@UGent.be](mailto:studietraject.coupre.bw@UGent.be)

[www.itc.ugent.be](http://www.itc.ugent.be)

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## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEGREE STUDENTS

## LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Language requirements for this study programme differ from the required standard level for English taught study programmes as specified in the Ghent University Education and Examination Code:

**English:** TOEFL 550 (paper-based) - TOEFL 80 (internet-based) - IELTS: 6.5 (with a minimum of 6.0 for the writing component) - certificate CEF-B2 (issued by a European university language centre) - Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE)

### Exemptions:

- Prospective students who have a diploma (Secondary Education, Academic Bachelor Degree, Master Degree) issued by an institution officially recognized by the Flemish Government. **Remark:** this exemption does not count for application to Erasmus Mundus Programmes.
- Prospective students who are nationals from or have obtained a bachelor and/or master degree in a higher education institute with English as mode of instruction in USA, Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland or Canada. In the latter case a certificate has to be submitted that states that English was the language of instruction.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### Study programme

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### Information sessions

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**Learning path counsellor**  
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