MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NUTRITION AND FOOD SYSTEMS

120 ECTS CREDITS - LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

WHAT

While large populations face hunger and undernourishment, 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 MSc Nutrition and Food Systems 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 primary production, post-harvest handling, marketing, consumer behaviour considering the socio-cultural, economic and political context;
- can identify nutritional problems, their underlying causes, and to develop, manage, and evaluate relevant interventions;
- can evaluate nutrition research findings critically and be competent to develop evidence-based recommendations;
- can collaborate, communicate and apply these competencies creatively across the disciplines for sustainable food systems transformations. 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 MSc Nutrition and Food Systems Programme has run as an international programme at Ghent University since 1987 and has a wide network of alumni and stakeholders.
The Master of Science in Nutrition and Food Science is an **Accredited Degree Programme** by the Association for Nutrition, (accreditation granted 09.02.2026, due for reaccreditation 09.02.2031). Graduates are hence eligible to apply for direct entry to the UK Voluntary Register of Nutritionists at Registered Associate Nutritionist level. The accreditation assures potential employers that graduates of the master programme have covered set competencies to work as a nutrition professional.

STRUCTURE

The two-year curriculum is a gradual build-up of learning opportunities staggered over four terms. The **first term** contains general courses and establishes a common ground for all students as many enter the programme with different education and professional 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 courses and one elective course.
Students can specialise during the second year and tailor a part of the curriculum to their own need, talents and interests. The **third term** contains no mandatory courses and provides an (elective) internship to gain professional experiences. Students can also choose from a broad range of elective course units at Ghent University or participate in international mobility, for instance through the EU Erasmus programme. The **final term** contains the Master's dissertation alongside courses 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'

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.

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, Philippines, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda, UK, USA, Zambia, and 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.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Study programme

studiekiezer.ugent.be/master-of-science-in-nutrition-and-food-systems-en/programma

Information sessions

EVOLV

evolv.gent/en/students/further-studies

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

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FACULTY OF BIOSCIENCE ENGINEERING

2026-27

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- TOEFL iBT 86 (iBT Home Edition is accepted)
- TOEFL pBT 570
- Academic iELTS 6,5 overall score with a min. of 6 on all sub parts (online test is accepted)

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