

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NUTRITION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

MAJORS: MA NURD 00 PUBLICHEALTH - MA NURD 00 SECURITY&MANT

120 ECTS CREDITS - LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

## WHAT

Healthy and sustainable diets are a global challenge. While large populations face hunger and undernutrition, overweight and diet-related chronic diseases have taken on pandemic proportions. In addition, changes in nutrition and diets have a significant impact on natural resources and climate change. Improving nutrition is therefore key to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. To solve the existing nutrition (security) problems worldwide, specialists with an integrated and multidimensional view on development problems are urgently required. The MSc Nutrition and Rural Development trains a workforce that can think critically and develop programs to improve diet and nutrition of populations. Using better nutrition and food security as a starting point, students will contribute to sustainable development at household, national and international level. The programme has an international focus with specific attention to the international dimension of nutrient and food security and challenges faced in high as well as low- and middle income countries. Students come from a diverse background of cultures, technical background and nationalities. During the courses, students collaborate closely to critically assess available evidence, share lessons learned and develop innovative solutions to prevailing problems from community to national and international level. The general objectives are:

- Obtain the necessary basic knowledge, insight and practical experience in the area of food production, post-harvest handling, transformation, storage, marketing and consumption of food;
- Familiarise with methods and analysis of nutrition research. Specific attention is given to evidence-based approach and the critical analysis of nutrition research findings;
- Ability to identify problems, define the underlying causes and prioritise them to develop, manage and evaluate relevant interventions;
- Acquire the necessary written and oral communication skills to interact with technical experts and others, and to be able to develop and critically evaluate scientific research independently.

The programme fosters knowledge, skills and competencies with regard to nutrition and food security of populations. Courses such as food

chemistry, human nutrition, nutrition disorders, food safety, nutritional epidemiology and interventions and dealt with extensively. Nutrition is considered in a multi-disciplinary perspective. As determinants of nutrition are often rooted in other domains such as agriculture, sociology and economic development, nutrition experts should be able to collaborate with other stakeholders to improve diet nutrition and food security.

The programme specifically aims to:

- Foster multi-disciplinary skills and knowledge via a number of general and specific courses that integrate new research and experiences from the field;
- Make students familiar with various international nutrition and food challenges. The program provides the necessary tools to deal with these challenges effectively: A broad and in-depth know-how to analyse nutrition and food security problems in the context of rural development;
- Understanding of recent developments in the area of research and policy with regard to nutrition and food security;
- Offer various means of communication (discussions, policy briefs, presentations...) so students can interact with scientists, policy makers and the society at large;
- Stimulate students towards a life-long learning attitude after graduation;
- Bring students into contact with existing networks and national, international organisation that work in the area of nutrition and food security.

## STRUCTURE

This MSc Nutrition and Rural Development offers two majors: **Public Health Nutrition** or **Nutrition Security and Management**. While the first mainly deals with the public health aspects of nutrition, the second deals, more with the developmental and economic aspects.

The first semester of the **first year** gives in-depth knowledge in general courses related to nutrition and rural development. This approach aims to establish a common ground between all students of different backgrounds. To tailor the course programme to the individual needs and interests, students can already take one elective course during the first master year. The **second year** of this programme provides a more in-depth understanding of the specific problems and their solutions for the

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major they chose. The second year therefore consists of specific courses, a limited list of standard courses per major chosen, another elective course and master's dissertation research. For the elective courses (including possibilities for an internship) the students may choose other courses offered in programmes at master's level, at UGent or at an institute cooperating with UGent as long as they enable the student to compile a tailor-made study curriculum enhancing their individual needs or interests.

## LABOUR MARKET

- Research and education at universities, private or governmental institutions;
- Research in research institutions, private or governmental;
- Development project collaborators (governmental, national or international NGOs, private);
- Food and nutrition policy development, implementation and evaluation;
- Administration of rural and urban projects to improve diet, nutrition or food security;
- Industrial sector i.e. improvement of nutritional contribution of foods or nutritional services; consultancy services
- PhD programmes;
- Overseas project collaborators for local governmental and non-governmental development organisations;
- Involved in Europe in some international organisations, active in the development cooperation field;
- In administration as policy preparatory jobs;
- ...

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## TOELATINGSVOORWAARDEN VOOR HOUDERS VAN EEN VLAAMS DIPLOMA

### 1 Rechtstreeks:

- Bachelor in de bio-ingenieurswetenschappen
- Bachelor in de biochemie en de biotechnologie
- Bachelor in de biologie
- Bachelor in de biomedische wetenschappen
- Bachelor in de diergeneeskunde
- Bachelor in de farmaceutische wetenschappen
- Bachelor in de geneeskunde
- Bachelor in de lichamelijke opvoeding en de bewegingswetenschappen
- Bachelor of Food Technology
- Master in de biowetenschappen: voedingsindustrie

### 2 Na het met succes voltooiën van een voorbereidingsprogramma:

#### MIN 10 SP - MAX 60 SP

- Bachelor in de biowetenschappen
- Bachelor in de chemie
- Bachelor in de industriële wetenschappen, afstudeerrichting: chemie
- Bachelor in de industriële wetenschappen: chemie
- Bachelor in de pedagogische wetenschappen
- Bachelor in de psychologie
- Bachelor in de revalidatiewetenschappen en de kinesitherapie
- Bachelor in de tandheelkunde

#### aantal studiepunten te bepalen door de faculteit

- Bachelor in de bio-industriële wetenschappen

## 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:** 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

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

### Information sessions

#### Graduation Fair

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

#### Open Days

25 April 2023 19u00 - 21u00 - Campus Coupure (E-blok, Agora), Coupure Links 653, 9000 Gent

### Enrolling institution

Information on enrolment at Ghent University.

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## Application Deadline (for International degree students)

For programme specific application procedures and deadlines consult [the programme website](https://www.ugent.be/bw/en/education/master-programmes).

## Tuition fee

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

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