

INTERNATIONAL MASTER OF SCIENCE IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAMME JOINTLY OFFERED BY GHEENT UNIVERSITY, HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN, SLOVAK UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE IN NITRA, UNIVERSITY OF PISA, AGROCAMPUS OUEST, UNIVERSITY OF CORDOBA, INSTITUT NATIONAL D'ENSEIGNEMENT SUPÉRIEUR POUR L'AGRICULTURE, L'ALIMENTATION ET L'ENVIRONNEMENT - ÉCOLE INTERNE AGROCAMPUS OUEST, L'INSTITUT AGRO RENNES-ANGERS - ÉCOLE NATIONALE SUPÉRIEURE DES SCIENCES AGRONOMIQUES, AGROALIMENTAIRES, HORTICOLES ET DU PAYSAGE

120 ECTS CREDITS - LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

WHAT

The joint International Master of Science in Rural Development (IMRD) offers the opportunity to study European visions on rural development and rural economics in their diversity of approaches and applications, and to make comparative analyses of EU and non-EU agricultural and rural development strategies and agricultural policies. IMRD is amongst others supported by the Erasmus Mundus and EU-Atlantis Ekafree programmes of the European Union. The objective is to train students from European and non-European countries, from developed, developing and transition countries to become specialists in Integrated Rural Development with focus on socio-economic and institutional aspects. This is achieved through a two-year Master's programme jointly organised by sixteen European leading institutes in Agricultural Economics and Rural Development of worldwide renown, in collaboration with several partners from Belgium, Italy, Slovakia, Germany, France, the United States, China, India, South Africa, South Korea, Vietnam and Ecuador. A detailed list and the specialty disciplines of the partner institutions can be found on the website.

The International Master of Science in Rural Development provides students with:

- awareness of the multifunctional role of rural areas and agriculture and an integrated vision on development of rural areas;
- knowledge of different approaches to Rural Economics and Development and ability to apply these in diverse situations in developing, developed and transition countries;
- the ability to apply adequate instruments, methods and innovative tools to analyse, evaluate and solve problems related to Agricultural Economics and Policy, Food Systems, Rural Development and Countryside Management;
- the ability to develop innovative tools and instruments for the multifunctional development of rural areas;
- a general training in both technical and social sciences disciplines and advanced competencies in at least two Rural Development related disciplines;
- the ability to dialogue with different actors of the socio-professional world as a consequence of their

pluri-disciplinary training;

- critical reflection skills and the necessary communication skills for integrated team work when dealing with Rural Development challenges.

STRUCTURE

The methodology consists of a combination of basic and specialised training in technical, economic and social sciences, staggered across three terms, a one-month case study during the European summer period and an individual Master's dissertation research project in the fourth term. The programme includes a high extent of student and scholar mobility, making it possible to learn from specialists within and outside of Europe. Non-European students study mainly in the European Union, European students have opportunities to study within and outside the EU.

Each two-year programme consists of one basic module (one term), two specialised training modules (two terms), a case study during the European summer period and a final term dedicated to the Master's dissertation research and writing. The basic and specialist modules offer training in Agricultural Economics; Rural Economics and Management; Institutional and Resource Economics; Sustainable Territorial Approaches to Rural Development; Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Sociology. An absolute condition to obtain the Master's degree is to fulfil the mobility requirements of the programme, i. e. to study at at least two of the partner institutes, and to participate in the case study. The IMRD has a policy of equal distribution among partners offering course units in the same term. The Erasmus Mundus track provides several mobility trajectories within and outside the EU and is offered to both European and non-European students. For this track scholarships under the EU Erasmus Mundus programme are available. The Atlantis track allows comparative analysis of EU and US rural development and agricultural economic problems and policies and is offered to European and US students. The Ekafree track likewise focuses on a comparative analysis of EU and South Korean rural development and agricultural economics topics and policies.

All tracks are also open to self-sponsoring students

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or students with other scholarships. For all tracks specific scholarships are awarded each year by the IMRD consortium.

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TOELATINGSVOORWAARDEN VOOR HOUDERS VAN EEN VLAAMS DIPLOMA

1 Na onderzoek van de bekwaamheid van de student om de opleiding te volgen:

- Een diploma van een bacheloropleiding in het academisch onderwijs

Additional Information on Admission (Flemish Degree)

Holders of one of the above-mentioned diplomas who wish to follow the study programme must present themselves to the Management Board of the study programme before 1 September of the previous academic year. After this date one cannot be admitted.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEGREE STUDENTS

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree of minimum 3 years with good overall scores (at least a second class or equivalent, preferably higher) from a university level or recognized equivalent.

Candidates are expected to have basic science training (demonstrable in the transcripts) in the following fields: (1) mathematics and/or statistics, (2) agronomy and/or biology and/or environmental sciences and (3) social sciences and/or rural development. Candidates who cannot present a combined training of these fields will be evaluated on their aptitude, based on experience and knowledge of these fields, as demonstrated by CV or other evidence.

Additional information on the admission requirements and the admission procedure for this Erasmus Mundus study programme is to be found on the following page: <https://www.imrd.ugent.be/>.

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: TOEFL 550 (paper-based) - TOEFL 80 (internet-based) - IELTS: 6.5 (with a minimum of 6 for the writing component) - certificate CEF-B2 (issued by a European university language centre) - ESOL 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/international-master-of-science-in-rural-development-IMRDVC-en/programma

Information sessions

EVOLV

evolv.gent/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 2026 19u00 - 21u00 - Campus Coupure (E-blok, Agora), Coupure Links 653, 9000 Gent

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Enrolling institution

Ghent University, Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, University of Pisa, University of Cordoba

Information on enrolment at Ghent University.

Application Deadline (for International degree students)

More information on programme specific application procedures and deadlines for both **Belgian and international students**.

Tuition fee

More information is to be found on: www.ugent.be/tuitionfee

Contact

Ghent University
Faculty of Bioscience Engineering
International Training Centre
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Learning path counsellor

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imrd.eu