

Food and Nutrition Policies (1002784)

Due to Covid 19, the education and assessment methods may vary from the information displayed in the schedules and course details. Any changes will be communicated on Ufora.

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0

Study time 150 h

Contact hrs

50.0h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2021-2022

A (semester 1)	English	Gent	integration seminar	12.5h
			group work	12.5h
			lecture	26.25h
			excursion	12.5h

Lecturers in academic year 2021-2022

Dessein, Joost	LA27	lecturer-in-charge
Hung, Christine Yung	LA27	co-lecturer
Lachat, Carl	LA23	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2021-2022

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Nutrition and Rural Development	5	A
Master of Science in Global Health	5	A
Exchange Programme in Bioscience Engineering: Food Science and Nutrition (master's level)	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Governance of food systems; Food policy; Nutrition policy; Food justice

Position of the course

This course provides an overview of contemporary focus areas in food and nutrition policies across the world. The objective of this course is threefold:

1. To make students familiar with the principles and diversity of food and nutrition policies
2. To enable students to integrate and apply all their knowledge and skills in public health, nutrition and food systems to the development and analysis of food and nutrition policies
3. To enable students to further develop professional and personal competencies in food and nutrition science through providing them with the skills and competences to critically evaluate food and nutrition policy actions. This course will also pay attention to communication of evidence based recommendations to policies in relation to food and nutrition.

Contents

The course revolves around three modules: food governance, policy interventions at Eu level, and getting acquainted with the professional field of food and nutrition policy.

The first module: food governance:

- the shift from classic government to contemporary governance settings;
- the concepts of 'politics of scale', 'environmental justice', 'food justice' and 'food sovereignty'
- the power of discourses in policy making

The second module: policy interventions at the EU level:

- Classification of food and nutrition policies: changing the market environment versus fostering informed choice

- Evaluation of the intervention effectiveness
- Case study: current intervention, call for amendment and stakeholder participation
- Key success factors for public health campaigns

The third module : getting acquainted with the professional field of food and nutrition policy.

- *Individual work*: preparing an attractive, real-life policy brief, in written or audiovisual form, on a chosen topic.
- Students will identify, compare and critically reflect on the food and/or nutrition policy at a specific policy level (local, regional, national) in their country of origin. The exercises consist of a *group work* (3-4 students) and plenary (mid-term and final) presentation of an overview and comparison of food and nutrition policies (local, regional, national) in the respective countries. This leads to recommendations to improve the governance of the food systems.
- *Excursions* to selected examples of policy making and advocacy in the field of nutrition and food policies, at European and local levels.

Initial competences

Basic knowledge and know how acquainted through the programme of the first year Master in Rural Development and Nutrition.

Final competences

- 1 **Knowledge**: In-depth understanding of the characteristics of and requirements for a good food and nutrition policy.
- 2 **Skills**: Ability to justify the theoretical bases for critical appraisal of food and nutrition policy at national and regional level, within an international context.
- 3 **Skills**: Ability to contribute effectively to the planning (including implementation and monitoring) of food and nutrition policies, taking into consideration health and environmental issues.
- 4 **Skills**: Ability to make reasoned proposals for the implementation and monitoring of food and nutrition policy, taking into consideration the broader societal, political, economic and technological constraints.
- 5 **Skills**: Make reasoned proposals for monitoring and evaluating food and nutrition policy in line with state-of-the-art practices and methodologies.
- 6 **Attitude/Skills**: The students are competent in advocacy in food and nutrition policy planning and are able to draft evidence based policy recommendations.

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, Excursion, Lecture, Integration seminar

Extra information on the teaching methods

adjusted teaching methods may be used if necessary due to Covid-19

Learning materials and price

Readings, policy documents, assignments and handouts of Powerpoint presentations are available through UFORA.

References

See UFORA

Course content-related study coaching

Permanent coaching through UFORA.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written examination with open questions, Assignment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written examination with open questions, Assignment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Oral examination, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is not possible

Extra information on the examination methods

The evaluation is based on a written examination with open-ended questions (periodic evaluation), an individual submitted food and nutrition policy brief (permanent and periodic evaluation), and a food and nutrition policy related workpiece from groupwork which is presented and discussed in class (permanent evaluation).

Calculation of the examination mark

Written examination: 50% of the final score, including written periodic exam at the end of the term (25%) and written policy brief to be submitted at the end of the term (25%)

Workpiece and presentations : 50% of the final score, including mid-term presentations of the groupwork and policy brief, and final presentation of the groupwork

Students who eschew periodic and/or permanent evaluations for this course unit may be failed by the examiner.