

# Join the International Master of Science in Rural Development (IMRD)

## Because

In a bio-resource based economy, food and bio resource production are gaining importance and are becoming more internationally oriented. The International Master of Science in Rural Development (IMRD) responds to this need through comparative study and international exposure which are central in the programme. The 2 year master programme (120 ECTS) is jointly organized by 12 institutes from all over the world and results in a joint degree. During the master programme you will be able to specialize in rural development linked to one of the three focus areas: Economy, society and environment contained within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). You will experience a high extent of international student mobility, making it possible to learn rural development practices in different countries from specialists worldwide.



## Become

The **master of Science** in Rural Development will prepare you to become:

- ∞ A **trained specialist** that can alleviate poverty, manage natural resources and develop value chains in the agro-food sector through policy and project implementation
- ∞ A **master of science** with unique theoretical knowledge in development and agricultural economics, theories and policies, combined with a practical-based comparative knowledge of different approaches to rural development
- ∞ Part of a **global network** of specialists in rural development

## Benefit

The Master programme offers:

- ∞ The possibility to study at different universities and compare international views on rural development
- ∞ Specialization in one of the three SDG focus areas: Economy, Society or Environment
- ∞ Practical experience through a 1-month case study
- ∞ The option to gain work experience during an internship
- ∞ An intercultural learning environment with a strong focus on peer learning
- ∞ Good job prospects, with 1/3 of the alumni pursuing a PhD and many working for international organizations like FAO or the UN, in the agribusiness industry or for NGO's



Become a master of science while traveling the world

## Be involved

### Semester 1 (Sept - Jan)

General Entrance Module (30-35 ECTS) offered at Ghent University

### Semester 2 (Febr - June)

Advanced Module I (15-40 ECTS)  
Deepen your knowledge at the first of two partners offering courses in the focus area of your choice

### Summer Course

Case Study (10 ECTS): University of Agriculture in Nitra (Slovakia), University of Pisa (Italy), Can Tho University (Vietnam), or University of Pretoria (South Africa)

### Semester 3 (Sept - Jan)

Advanced Module II (15-40 ECTS):  
Deepen your knowledge at the second of two partners offering courses in the focus area of your choice

### Semester 4 (Febr - June)

Master Dissertation Module (30 ECTS) at a partner where you spent one of the advanced modules

Elective internship or language courses

Students must study in at least two different EU partner Universities with a minimum of 30 ECTS in each institute.



## Beprep & Belong

Before the start of the academic year, the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering organises a **preparatory programme** to refresh your general knowledge of mathematics, statistics and/or economics: **BEPreP**. It's also a perfect moment to get acquainted with your fellow students, finish all the administrative burdens and get to know your new surroundings. Participants who successfully complete the programme will receive a certificate.

## Partners

- ∞ **Focus area Economy:** Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra (Slovakia), University of Pisa (Italy)
- ∞ **Focus area Society:** Ghent University (Belgium), Agrocampus Ouest (France)
- ∞ **Focus area Environment:** University of Cordoba (Spain), Humboldt University of Berlin (Germany)
- ∞ **Associated Partners:** Can Tho University (Vietnam), China Agricultural University (China), Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral (Ecuador), Nanjing Agricultural University (China), University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore (India) and University of Pretoria (South Africa)



## Admission criteria

- ∞ You have at least an academic bachelor's degree of min. 3 years from a university or recognized equivalent. This degree is preferably in the field of bioscience engineering or agricultural sciences with good overall scores. Other degrees can also be accepted if you meet the following requirements.
- ∞ You must demonstrate through your transcript of records that you have basic academic training in: (i) Mathematics and/or Statistics; (ii) Life Sciences; (iii) Social Sciences and/or Rural Development and/or Economics.
- ∞ You are proficient in English (recent ACADEMIC IELTS score of 6.5, TOEFL IBT of 80, CEFR B2 issued by a European university language centre or ESOL CAMBRIDGE English CAE - Advanced).



## Cost

- ∞ Tuition fee: € 4500 per year (for students from EU countries + the Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Turkey) or € 9000 per year (for students from other nationalities)
- ∞ Estimated living & accommodation expenses: min € 850 per month

## Scholarship opportunities

- ∞ Stay up to date with possible scholarship opportunities at [imrd.eu](http://imrd.eu)!

## Apply now!

Apply before **March 1st** (for non-European applicants and scholarship seeking applicants: European or other) or before **June 1st** (for non scholarship seeking European applicants).

Questions?  
[applications.itc@ugent.be](mailto:applications.itc@ugent.be)



Please take into account that the processing time of your application could take up to 2 months. An early start is highly recommended.

V.U.: Ghent University, Faculty of Bioscience Engineering,  
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*"One of the greatest advantages is that IMRD provides students with an opportunity to observe different realities. For instance, they can compare our European vision on rural development with the one in developing countries"*


Guido Van Huylenbroeck  
Director of Internationalization, Ghent University, and founder of IMRD



## More info

[www.itc.ugent.be](http://www.itc.ugent.be)  
[www.imrd.eu](http://www.imrd.eu)  
Coupure Links 653, B-9000 Gent

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