MSc Food Security

Postgraduate Opportunities 2018

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THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
School of GeoSciences

SRUC
Helping to feed the world in the 21st Century

Food security has become a critically important issue for societies around the globe. Interactions between demographics, changes in diet, trade liberalisation, an increased focus on conservation, technological innovations including GM crops, the impact of climate change and new responses to climate change resource limitations (particularly in terms of energy, water and nutrients) all affect food security. There is an increasing demand for qualified experts to contribute to policy creation and legislation in food production and the supply chain.

This unique MSc, a collaboration by Scotland’s Rural College (SRUC) and the University of Edinburgh’s School of GeoSciences, offers you the scope and the multidisciplinary approach to address all these issues, as well as giving you an understanding of technical, agronomic, environmental, economic and socio-political factors that also influence food security. Upon completion, you will be equipped with the necessary analytical and communication skills to contribute to humanity's efforts to achieve and sustain food security during the 21st century.

Studying MSc Food Security (2018 entry)

This programme consists of six taught courses studied over two semesters and an individual dissertation project. The programme also includes a study tour, which takes place in spring, and focuses on the work of key international organisations such as FAO and WFP.

Programme Delivery and Duration

The programme is delivered on-campus full-time over 12 months or part-time over 24 or 36 months.

Compulsory courses typically will be*:
- Frameworks to assess Food Security; Sustainability of Food Production; Interrelationships in Food Systems; Professional and Research Skills in Practice; Dissertation

Option courses may include*:
- Applications in Ecological Economics;  
- Atmospheric Quality and Global Change; 
- Case Studies in Sustainable Development; Climate Change and Corporate Strategy; Ecosystem Services 1: Ecosystem Dynamics and Functions; 
- Ecosystem Services 2: Ecosystem Values and Management; Environmental Impact Assessment; Foundations in Ecological Economics; Human Dimensions of Environmental Change and Sustainability; Interrelationships in Food Systems; Land Use/Environmental Interactions; Marine Systems and Policies; Principles of Environmental Sustainability; Soil Protection and Management; Soil Science Concepts and Application; Understanding Environment and Development

*Courses are offered subject to timetabling and availability.

Student experience

The MSc Food Security typically includes a week long study tour which forms an assessed part of the programme. In previous years, the tour has taken place in locations such as Paris, Rome and Kuala Lumpur.

Careers

Graduates of this programme typically go on to work in government and nongovernmental agencies as well as international bodies and businesses where they can utilise the invaluable skills they have acquired on the programme, such as food security assessment.

Entry Requirements

A UK 2:1 degree in an agricultural, ecological, biological or environmental science, engineering, social science, economics, politics or other relevant subject. Applicants with a UK 2:2 degree may also be considered with relevant work experience.

English Language Requirements

IELTS 7.0 (with no score lower than 6.0 in each section) TOEFL-iBT: Total 100 (with no score lower than 20 in each section). A degree from an English speaking university may be accepted in some circumstances.

2018/19 Tuition fees will be in the region of*:
- Home/EU - £12,300
- Overseas/International - £25,500

*Please note that fees typically rise around 5% each year.

Scholarships

Students applying for this programme may be eligible to apply for funding. Details of current opportunities may be found on our website. Deadlines apply so early application is encouraged.

How to Apply

For more information and to apply for this programme online, please visit:


Contact us

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This exciting MSc is offered by Scotland’s Rural College (SRUC) and the University of Edinburgh’s School of GeoSciences. SRUC is a widely respected higher education institute dedicated to producing specialist research, delivering high quality education and providing comprehensive consultancy services in the rural sector within the UK and beyond. The most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014) rated our School as having the greatest concentration of ‘world-leading’ and ‘internationally excellent’ researchers in the field of GeoSciences. In 2016, the University was ranked 20th in the world in the Guardian University League Tables.