Global Academies at the University of Edinburgh

The University of Edinburgh hosts five Global Academies: Agriculture and Food Security, Health, Justice, Development, and Environment and Society.

The Global Academies focus our world-leading, multi-disciplinary research and education on responding to the most pressing global challenges facing humanity.

They span traditional subject boundaries and work synergistically to: generate new interdisciplinary conversations and projects capable of addressing global grand challenges; engage students across disciplinary boundaries with a view to building future leadership for global challenges; connect research and teaching relating to global challenges across schools and colleges; and build partnerships with practitioners, international organisations and governments, with a view to better addressing global challenges.
The Academies have supported a rich online and blended postgraduate environment, and opened access to almost 2.5 million learners through their 36 MOOCs, reaching 187 countries (see: http://edin.ac/2hvjga0).

www.ed.ac.uk/about/edinburgh-global/academies
Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Security

We are an interdisciplinary hub of research, teaching and consulting expertise, to support decision making to transform agri-food systems and food security.

Feeding the world’s growing population well, while protecting the natural systems on which we all depend, is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity. Over a third of the global population is affected by one or more forms of malnutrition – be that hunger, obesity or micronutrient deficiency. Agriculture, core to achieving food security, is both a key driver of environmental degradation, and extremely vulnerable to environmental change.

The world population is expected to reach around 11 billion by the end of this century. Demands on natural systems and resources are also at an all-time high, and so it is essential that we find new ways to feed the growing population without destroying the planet.

Achieving sustainable, healthy diets underpins many of the Sustainable Development Goals – especially those concerned with hunger, poverty, health, gender equality, land, responsible consumption and production, and climate action.
The Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Security brings people together from across the University of Edinburgh and our partner institutions to work on this complex global challenge – underpinned by world-leading interdisciplinary research, teaching and engagement.

**Our Vision:** Socially, environmentally and economically sustainable global agri-food systems.

**Our Mission:** Agenda-setting, impactful, inter-disciplinary research; inspiring lifelong education and training; promoting partnership and engagement.

We achieve this through:

- Interdisciplinary teaching and training programmes that bridge theory, policy and practice
- Research that underpins, develops and translates scientific advances into policy, practice and real-world outcomes
- Active partnerships across academia, commerce, government, civil society and local communities in the Global North and South
Key research themes

Our collective strength is in applying systems thinking and data skills to investigate challenges and opportunities in agriculture, food and environmental security. We are uniquely placed, with skill-sets and partnerships that arch across agri-food supply chains and beyond, in both the Global North and South. Our research, which underpins our teaching, is in three interconnected themes:

**Agri-Food Systems Innovation**

Transformation of global agri-food systems is central to achieving food and environmental security. We investigate and promote innovation in complex food-supply systems – including appropriate new technologies – to deliver sustainable, healthy diets, to drive the transformation towards resilient, fair and sustainable food systems, and to support growth in the wider bio-economy. Our interests include: novel farming systems; understanding the role of livestock-derived foods in sustainable, healthy diets; optimizing use of animal genetic resources and feed resources to develop sustainable livestock systems; soil, crop and livestock management for sustainable intensification; precision agriculture; and agri-business models that support fair value distribution along supply chains.

**Contact: Prof Alan Duncan**

**Data-Driven Innovation**

Advances in data science, communication-, sensor- and earth observation-technologies are driving a ‘fourth revolution’ in agriculture. Data-Driven Innovation is a cross-cutting theme, supporting our work in the Agri-Food Systems Innovation and Food, People, Planet themes. Our interests
Human health and well-being are inextricably linked with animal, crop, soil and environmental health. Our agri-food systems are putting an increasing burden on the environment and affecting ‘planetary health’. We investigate agri-food system innovations most likely to improve human health and well-being and wider planetary health. This includes the wider societal and environmental impact of agri-food system interventions, and the policy and governance issues around them. Our interests include novel approaches to predict and control crop and livestock diseases and to reduce antimicrobial resistance; developing efficient, environmentally sensitive, sustainable, agri-food systems – systems that reduce waste, are resilient to climate and environmental change, and reduce environmental impact; and regulation of new technologies.

Contact: Dr Jon Hillier
Study with us

We offer exciting, interdisciplinary, undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes to educate and nurture the next generation of leaders in sustainable farming practices to help deliver the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals.

Our undergraduate degrees combine the study of life, natural and social sciences in a real world context. Students develop skills in science, business and technology to optimize food production systems and equip them for careers as leaders in sustainable farming practices, agri-food business, research and as policy advisors in national and international agencies.

Our BSc programmes:

- BSc (Hons) Agricultural Science - Animal Science
- BSc (Hons) Agricultural Science - Crop and Soil Science
- BSc (Hons) Agricultural Science - Global Agriculture and Food Security
- BSc (Hons) Agricultural Economics
Our online Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma and MSc degrees in Global Food Security and Nutrition allow flexible access for students worldwide, including those already working in the field.

These degree programmes are delivered with our teaching partner, Scotland’s Rural College (SRUC).

For more information on these degree programmes see: [www.ed.ac.uk/global-agriculture-food-security/studying](http://www.ed.ac.uk/global-agriculture-food-security/studying)

For other programmes relevant to agriculture and food security see: [www.ed.ac.uk/global-agriculture-food-security/studying/postgraduate](http://www.ed.ac.uk/global-agriculture-food-security/studying/postgraduate)

We have a vibrant PhD student community working across our research themes and in collaboration with many partners locally and globally. We welcome applications from prospective PhD students who wish to develop research interests aligned with ours. For more details, and information on scholarships see: [edin.ac/agriculture-food-security](http://edin.ac/agriculture-food-security)

**Partner with us**

We value our many strategic partnerships and networks, and are happy to explore new ones from organisations who share our vision and aims. Please contact [globalagriculture@ed.ac.uk](mailto:globalagriculture@ed.ac.uk) if you wish to explore this.
Location

The Easter Bush Campus is located eight miles to the south of Edinburgh city centre near Penicuik.

The Academy reaches across all relevant schools in the University and is based in the Sir Alexander Robertson Building, Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies and Roslin Institute.

Easter Bush Campus

1. Veterinary Teaching Building
2. Community Garden
3. The Hospital for Small Animals and Riddell-Swan Veterinary Cancer Centre
4. The Bumstead Building
5. Campus Service Centre
6. The Roslin Institute
7. The Greenwood Building
8. Charnock Bradley Building
9. Farm Animal Practice
10. Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Security
11. Equine Diagnostic, Surgical and Critical Care Unit
12. Equine Hospital and Practice
13. Farm Animal Hospital

Overflow parking
Disabled parking
Main entrance & reception
Bus stop
Client parking
Parking
Further information
To find out more about the degree programmes and how you can apply, please contact our admissions team:

📞 0131 651 7305
✉️ globalagriculture@ed.ac.uk
🌐 www.ed.ac.uk/agrifood