



Curriculum of the Master degree programme

“Agriculture and Food Economics”

Code: 066 457

**University of Natural Resources
and Life Sciences, Vienna**

Center for International Relations

For legal purposes, only the version of the curriculum that has been published in the official journal (Mitteilungsblatt) is binding and valid - this English translation is for information purposes only.

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<p style="text-align: center;">Curriculum of the Master degree programme “Agriculture and Food Economics” At the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna</p>
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As at October 1st, 2010

§ 1 Description of qualification

Students of the Master degree programme in Agriculture and Food Economics acquire a sound knowledge in the field of Agriculture and Food Economics which opens up a broad operational area for graduates. Scientific and methodological knowledge as well as social competences are features of graduates of the Master degree programme Agriculture and Food Economics.

The Master degree programme in Agriculture and Food Economics is orientated on requirements of future professions of graduates and develops the students' recognition and identification of the potential of improvement with the help of specific knowledge in the fields of ecology, economy, natural sciences and technical expertise. The exchange of students and staff with other relevant European and international universities and faculties offers students the possibility of gaining an expanded international focus and direction.

Graduates of the Master degree programme Agriculture and Food Economics qualify in these two specialisations:

- **Business Administration and Marketing** or
- **Agricultural and Food Policy**

Both specialisations equip students with the following key qualifications:

Ability to solve business- and trade-related problems, ability to solve social problems in the field of agricultural economy, food production and distribution; ability to transfer scientific and academic expertise of the field of agricultural economy, food production and distribution to other relevant aspects of agriculture; team-work and project management; linked and systematic thinking; leader competence and communication strategies applying modern information technology.

Fields of work for graduates of the Master degree programme Agriculture and Food Economics are in the chain of added value of agricultural economy, food production and distribution. These range from the production of agrarian products to foodstuffs, industrial raw materials and carriers of bio energy. The Master degree programme Agriculture and Food Economics qualifies graduates to do individual work and / or for management work in the fields of agriculture, food production and distribution, in rural areas as well as for work in the public administration, in international organisations, lobbies, research and developmental centres, agricultural schools and counselling institutions).

§ 2 Format of the Master degree programme

The Master degree programme in Agriculture and Food Economics comprises four semesters and is made up of 120 ECTS credits. Of the total number of credits 20 ECTS are compulsory courses (according to § 2 (1) and § 5 (1)), 29 ECTS are compulsory courses for a specialisation (according to § 2 (2) and § 5 (2)), 21 ECTS are elective courses for a specialisation (according to § 2 (3) and § 5 (3)) and 20 ECTS are free elective courses (according to § 2 (4) and § 5 (4)). 30 ECTS are assigned to the thesis for the Master degree (according to § 2 (5) and § 7).

These specialisations can be chosen:

- **Business Administration and Marketing**
- **Agricultural and Food Policy**

Furthermore, it is possible to have an individual compilation of compulsory courses and elective courses.

(1) Compulsory courses (P) – 20 ECTS

(2) Compulsory courses for a specialisation (SP-P) – every SP-P course pool comprises 29 ECTS

SP-P-1 Business Administration and Marketing

SP-P-2 Agricultural and Food Policy

- Students **may choose a specialisation** which will also be disclosed in their Master degree certificate. For the successful completion of a specialisation all compulsory courses of one specialisation have to be completed successfully.
- Students who do **not wish to choose a specialisation** have to successfully complete a total of 29 ECTS taken from both specialisation – compulsory courses according to § 5 (2.1) and § 5 (2.2). A Master degree seminar and two specialisation-seminars of the student's free choice are required.

(3) Elective courses for a specialisation (SP-W) – 21 ECTS

SP-W-1 Business Administration and Marketing

SP-W-2 Agricultural and Food Policy

- Students who **choose a specialisation** have to complete elective courses to an extent of 21 ECTS taken from the according specialisation.
- Students who do **not wish to choose a specialisation** have to complete courses to an extent of 21 ECTS taken from the elective courses for specialisations and / or the other not chosen compulsory-courses for a specialisation.

(4) Free elective courses (FW) – 20 ECTS

Courses to an extent of 20 ECTS have to be completed successfully. These courses may be taken from the entire range of courses offered by all recognised national and international universities. It is recommended that students choose courses taken from the study-specific range of courses of the Master degree programme Agriculture and Food Economics or other Master degree programmes offered by the University of Natural Resources and Life Science, Vienna.

(5) Thesis for the Master degree – 30 ECTS

The graduation paper is a scientific piece of work which serves the evidence of the students' ability to work on a scientific subject autonomously and in a way that is justifiable regarding content as well as methodology. (according to § 51 (1) Z. 8 UG 2002).

§ 3 Academic qualification

According to § 54 (1) of the university law of 2002 the Master degree programme Agriculture and Food Economics is an engineering degree. In accordance with this classification of engineering degrees, graduates of the Master degree programme Agriculture and Food Economics will be awarded the academic qualification "Diplom-Ingenieur of technical sciences", shortened to "Dipl-Ing." or "DI".

§ 4 Types of courses

Courses within this degree are defined as follows:

(1) Lectures (VO):

Courses in which portions of an academic discipline and the methods involved are didactically presented.

(2) Practical exercises (UE):

Practical exercises are courses which are in professional connection to a lecture. They serve to apply specific practical abilities and skills presented theoretically during the lectures. Furthermore, these practical exercises also serve the acquisition of specific practical knowledge.

(3) Seminars (SE):

Seminars are courses which assist in the development of academic abilities. They serve to acquire knowledge autonomously and deepen learned course content and scientific discussion.

(4) Excursions (EX):

Excursions are courses held in Austria and abroad and focus on aspects of the Master degree programme which cannot be imparted at the University of Natural Resources and Life Science itself.

(5) Project courses (PJ):

These are characterised by problem-based learning. Within a certain topic, students work, primarily in small groups with assistance, through case studies involving the definition of a problem through realisation of the project to the production of written work.

(6) Combinations (VU, VX, VZ, VY, VS, UX, UY, SX)

Courses in which aspects of courses referred to in (1) to (4) are combined didactically:

Lectures with practical exercises (VU)

Lectures with excursions (VX)

Lectures with seminars and excursions (VSX = VY)

Lectures with practical exercises and excursions (VUX = VZ)

Lectures with seminars (VS)

Exercises with excursions (UX)

Exercises with seminars and excursion (USX = UY)

Seminars with excursion (SX)

(7) If necessary courses can also be held out of the University of Natural Resources and Life Science, Vienna.

§ 5 Timetable of courses¹

Used abbreviations:

SST = weekly semester hours

ECTS = European Credit Transfer System points

WS = Winter Semester

SS = Summer Semester

(1) Compulsory courses (P)

All courses to an extent of 20 ECTS have to be completed successfully.

<i>Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>SST</i>	<i>ECTS</i>
Compulsory Courses					
731.325	VO	International Commodity Markets and Trade Policy (Agricultural and Food Policy II)	WS	2.0	3.0
731.337	VO	Method and Tools of Rural Management	WS	2.0	3.0
733.301	VO	Farm Business Management I	WS	2.0	3.0
733.307	VO	Farm Business Management II	SS	2.0	3.0
731.363	EX	Excursion in Agricultural and Food Policy	SS	1.0	1.0
735.300	EX	Excursion Farm Management and Marketing	SS	1.0	1.0
735.302	VO	Agricultural Marketing I	WS	2.0	3.0
735.304	VO	Agricultural Marketing II	SS	2.0	3.0

(2) Compulsory courses for a specialisation (SP-P)

For the disclosure of a specialisation in the Master degree certificate, all compulsory courses for a specialisation to the extent of 29 ECTS have to be completed successfully. Students who do not choose a specialisation have to successfully complete a total of 29 ECTS taken from both specialisation – compulsory courses according to § 5 (2.1) and § 5 (2.2). A Master degree seminar and two specialisation-seminars of the student's free choice are required.

<i>Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>SST</i>	<i>ECTS</i>
SP-P-1 Business Administration and Marketing					
733.308	VO	Controlling	SS	2.0	3.0
733.309	UE	Farm Business Management I - Application Exercises	WS or SS	2.0	3.0
733.314	SE	Master's Thesis Seminar	WS or SS	2.0	2.0
733.315	SE	Seminar Farm Business Management	WS	2.0	3.0
733.316	PJ	Business Management Project	SS	3.0	5.0

¹ A more detailed description of all courses, including objective of the course, course contents, name of lecturer, prerequisites, recommended reading, teaching methods, assessment methods and language of instruction, is found in BOKUonline: <https://online.boku.ac.at/>

735.306	UE	Agricultural Marketing	WS	2.0	3.0
735.307	SE	Agricultural Marketing	SS	2.0	3.0
735.308	PJ	Marketing Projekt - Case Studies	WS	3.0	5.0
756.322	VO	Food Supply Chain Management	SS	2.0	2.0

SP-P-2 Agricultural and Food Policy

731.338	VO	Econometrics	SS	2.0	3.0
731.339	VO	Agricultural and Food Policy II	SS	2.0	3.0
731.341	SE	Master Thesis Seminar	WS & SS	2.0	2.0
731.342	SE	Core Seminar Rural Development	WS	2.0	3.0
731.343	SE	Seminar in Agricultural and Food Policy	WS	2.0	3.0
731.344	SE	Survey Research on Economy and Social Science	WS	2.0	3.0
731.345	SE	Coaching of Project Managers	WS	2.0	3.0
731.346	SE	Rural Sociology	SS	2.0	3.0
731.347	VO	Regional Economics	SS	2.0	3.0
731.348	VU	Managerial Economics	SS	2.0	3.0

(3) Elective courses for a specialisation (SP-W)

For a specialisation (§7) elective courses to an extent of 21 ECTS have to be taken from the according specialisation. Students who do not choose a specialisation have to complete courses to an extent of 21 ECTS taken from the elective courses for specialisations and / or the other not chosen compulsory-courses for specialisations.

<i>Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>SST</i>	<i>ECTS</i>
SP-W-1 Business Administration and Marketing					
733.317	VO	Environmental Economics at Company Level	SS	2.0	3.0
733.319	VO	The World Food Economy	WS	2.0	3.0
733.320	VO	Environmental Management and Environmental Information Systems for Businesses	WS	2.0	3.0
733.321	VU	Organisational Behaviour and Gender Issues	WS	2.0	3.0
733.323	SE	Software Projection with EXCEL in Agriculture	WS	2.0	3.0
733.325	VO	Fiscal Science with Special Consideration of Agriculture	WS	2.0	3.0
733.326	VO	Banking and Credit Systems	WS	2.0	3.0
733.327	VO	Valuation and Agriculture	SS	2.0	3.0
735.324	VS	Operational and Strategic Planning Methods in Agriculture and Food Economy	WS	2.0	3.0
735.309	VO	Global Agricultural Markets	SS	2.0	3.0

Number	Type	Name	Semester	SST	ECTS
735.310	VO	Internationalization Strategies	WS	2.0	3.0
735.311	VO	Management in the Public and Private Sector	WS	2.0	3.0
735.312	VS	Total Quality Management in Dietetics	WS	2.0	3.0
735.313	SE	Direct Marketing	SS	2.0	3.0
735.314	SE	Developing and Implementing	SS	2.0	3.0
735.315	SE	E-Business in Agriculture and Food Economy	WS	2.0	3.0
735.316	SE	Multi-variant Methods in Marketing	SS	2.0	3.0
735.317	SE	Forecasting Methods in Marketing	WS	2.0	3.0
735.318	SE	Decision Support Systems	WS	2.0	3.0
735.319	SE	Co-operatives	SS	2.0	3.0
735.320	SE	Export Marketing	WS	2.0	3.0
735.321	SE	Agri-Food/Non-Food Chain	WS or SS	2.0	3.0
735.322	SE	Global Networking	SS	4.0	6.0
735.323	SE	Communication and Media Planning	SS	2.0	3.0
735.309	VO	Global Agricultural Markets	SS	2.0	3.0
733.328	VU	Tax Law	W	2.0	3.0

SP-W-2 Agricultural and Food Policy

731.349	VO	Management of Rural Development	SS	2.0	3.0
731.350	VO	Nature and Landscape Conservation Economics	WS	2.0	3.0
731.351	VO	Economic Valuation of Market Goods and Natural Resources	SS	2.0	3.0
731.352	VO	Principles of Equity and Futures Markets	WS	2.0	3.0
731.353	VO	Agricultural and Food Policy III	SS	2.0	3.0
731.355	VO	Commercial Law	WS	2.0	3.0
731.356	VO	Nature Protection - and Environment Law	SS	2.0	3.0
731.357	VO	General Environmental Law	SS	2.0	3.0
731.358	VO	Basics of Development Cooperation	SS	2.0	3.0
731.359	UE	Exercises in Online Trading on Equity Markets	WS	2.0	3.0
731.360	SE	Management of Rural Development	SS	1.0	1.5
731.361	SE	Agricultural Journalism	WS	2.0	3.0
731.362	SE	Social Innovation in Rural Development	WS	2.0	3.0
731.364	VU	Agricultural Sector and Natural Resource Modelling	SS	2.0	3.0
731.365	VO	Principles of Qualitative Approaches in the Social Sciences	WS	2.0	3.0
731.366	VO	Labour and Commercial Law, Extension	SS	2.0	3.0
731.367	VO	Agricultural Law	WS	2.0	3.0
731.381	VO	Advanced Natural Resource Economics	WS	2.0	3.0

732.113	VO	Introduction to Environmental Policy	WS	2.0	2.0
732.302	VO	Introduction to the Law and Politics of the European Union	WS	2.0	3.0
731.332	SE	Econometrics	SS	2.0	3.0
732.346	VS	Social Studies of Risk	WS	2.0	3.0
835.304	VU	Mathematical Modelling in Agricultural Sciences	SS	3.0	4.5
855.305	VU	Land Management	SS	2.0	3.0

§ 6 Thesis for the Master degree

(1) The thesis for the Master degree is an integral part of the Master degree programme Agriculture and Food Economics. 30 ECTS are granted for the thesis for the Master degree.

(2) The scientific subject of the graduation paper has to be chosen from a subject relevant and related to the Master degree programme Agriculture and Food Economics.

(3) The supervision and grading of the candidate's work is incumbent upon the university professor who has assigned the chosen subject for the graduation paper.

(4) The thesis for the Master degree has to be presented and defended in a public expert talk before evaluation by the supervisor. The result of this presentation has to be integrated in the grading of the Master degree thesis.

§ 7 Display of a Specialisation in the Master degree certificate

(1) Students may choose a specialisation which will also be disclosed in their Master degree certificate. For the successful completion of a specialisation all required courses of one specialisation have to be completed successfully according to § 5 (2) and courses to an extent of 21 ECTS have to be completed successfully from the elective courses according to § 5 (3).

(2) The specialisations "Business Administration and Marketing" and "Agricultural and Food Policy" can be chosen as a specialisation. Furthermore, it is possible to have an individual compilation of compulsory courses and elective courses.

§ 8 Graduation requirements

(1) The Master degree programme Agriculture and Food Economics is concluded upon the successful completion of the following requirements:

- positive completion of all required compulsory courses to an extent of 20 ECTS (according to § 5 (1)),
- positive completion of all required compulsory courses for a specialisation to an extent of 29 ECTS (according to § 5 (2.1) and § 5 (2.2)),
- positive completion of elective courses for a specialisation to an extent of 21 ECTS (according to § 5 (3)),
- positive completion of free elective courses to an extent of 20 ECTS (according to § 2 (4)),
- positive evaluation of the Master degree thesis and its public defence (according to § 6 and § 8 (4)).

(2) Evaluation takes place as course exams. Course examination may be oral and / or written, as defined by the lecturer. Students are granted the right to request a different method of course examination. This can only be done in cooperation with the lecturer and by stating justified reasons.

(3) The course examination has to be in accordance with the type of course: lectures are concluded either orally or in a written, unless they are not evaluated accompanying the lecture. Courses of the types SE, VS, VSX, SX and USX can be concluded by handing in a self-composed, written seminar paper. The amount of this seminar paper has to be defined by the lecturer of the course. With all other types of courses the method of course examination will be defined individually by the lecturer.

(4) The graduation paper is a scientific piece of work which serves the evidence of the students ability to work on a scientific subject autonomously and in a way that is justifiable regarding content as well as methodology (§ 51 (1) Z. 8 UG 2002).

(5) The concluded graduation paper has to be presented and defended in a public expert talk. This presentation and defence has to be organised by the supervisor of the thesis. At least one additional university lecturer with respective professional competence has to be nominated. This person also has to participate in the subsequent expert talk. The candidate has the right to suggest this person. This summoned university lecturer has to be informed on the topic of the graduation paper in advance.

(6) Courses held in foreign languages:

Students are explicitly advised to complete study-specific courses held in foreign languages to an extent of at least 6 ECTS.

§ 9 Admission to the Master degree programme

(1) The Master degree programme Agriculture and Food Economics requires the Bachelor degree programme Agro Sciences at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna. Graduates of the Bachelor degree programme Agro Sciences at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, are therefore admitted to the Master degree programme Agriculture and Food Economics.

(2) Graduates of Bachelor degree programmes taken from all professionally adequate fields and equal international studies are admitted to the Master degree programme Agriculture and Food Economics. It has to be stated that knowledge in the fields of natural scientific foundation, socio-economic basics, agrarian, horticultural and market gardening production is required for graduates of other Bachelor degree programmes.

§ 10 Commencement

The Master degree programme Agriculture and Food Economics comes in force on October 1, 2004.

§ 11 Transitional regulations

(1) Regular students, who are permitted to follow the diploma degree programme "Landwirtschaft" according to their degree course scheme on the basis of the UniStG from 1. 10. 2000, may continue to follow their degree programme.

From the effective date of the new degree programmes for Bachelor and Master degrees, students are permitted to complete their degree within the legal duration period, with the addition of one extra semester, according to § 80 b (2) UniStG. If the degree is not completed within this period, then the

student will be required to follow the Bachelor degree programme for the remainder of his / her studies (An admission to the Master degree programme can only take place after the positive completion of a Bachelor degree programme, see § 3).

(2) For students, who continue their degree according to a diploma degree programme there is an equivalence list which shows which courses or groups of courses from the range of the Master degree programme of the respective diploma degree programme are equivalent to the Master degree programme. Courses of diploma degree programmes, which are no longer offered or no longer assessed have to be completed according to the equivalence list of the Master degree programme.

Equal footing in this equivalence list do not need any further confirmation. Credentials, which were issued for diploma degree programmes after the effective date of the new degree programmes for Master degree programmes count for diploma degree programmes without any further confirmation.

(3) After admission to the Master degree programme according to § 12 (7) of the Bachelor degree programme Agro Sciences (acknowledgements after switching from the diploma degree programme "Landwirtschaft") all successfully completed exams for the third part of the diploma degree programme "Landwirtschaft" according to UniStG for subjects of the chosen Master degree programme will be accredited. This does only apply to subjects which are covered and equal; otherwise they can be claimed as free elective courses for the chosen Master degree programme.