Programme Specification

MSc in Agriculture and Development (full-time)   PFTZAGRDEVHM

MSc Agriculture and Development (part-time)   PPTZAGRDEVHM

For students entering in 2020/21

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	MSc in Agriculture and Development (full-time) - 1 years MSc Agriculture and Development (part-time) - 2 years
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September

Programme information and content

The aim of this MSc course is to enable students to explain the role of agriculture and of agricultural research for development in the context of the research-to-development continuum. A flexible programme is offered, including a Horticulture pathway. More specifically, students will be able to:

- Explain the role and contributions of agriculture (including horticulture) to human development as: a source of food, nutrition and livelihoods security, an economic activity, a provider of ecosystem services and contributing towards achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals;
- Describe the different physical, economic and social environments in which farming systems of developing countries are managed and scope for their sustainable intensification in order to meet the needs of a growing population;
- Elaborate the recent developments in agricultural research in response to international challenges such as climate change, environmental sustainability, ecosystem services, and globalization;
- Evaluate the factors and processes that influence the use of agricultural knowledge, science and technology for development, and explain how to enhance the relevance, quality and impact of agricultural scientific research for development and to achieve sustainable intensification.

Module information

The programme comprises of 180 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules. Compulsory modules are listed.

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
APMA103	Rethinking Agricultural Development (including Horticulture): Implementing Solutions	20	M

APMA41	Agriculture in the Tropics	10	M
IDM071	Research and study skills for independent learning	10	M
IDM072	Dissertation (International Development and Applied Economics)	60	M
IDM095	Theories and Practices of Development	20	M

Student will be required to take one of the following modules:

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
APMA93	Experimental Agriculture	10	7
Or			
APMA98*	Experimental Horticulture	10	7

*Horticulture option

Students wanting to specialise in horticulture should select APMA98, and submit a dissertation topic in a field related to Horticulture**.**

The remaining credits will be taken from a list of optional modules from the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development or from an approved list of modules from across the University.

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

The programme can be taken part-time over two years. In the first year of study, a student will normally be required to complete optional modules totalling no less than 50 credits and no more than 80 credits. In the first year of study, a student will normally be required to complete the following compulsory modules: APMA103, APMA41 and either APMA93 or APMA98, which together comprise 40 credits. Individual modules must be completed in the academic year in which they are taken. The overall programme may not be completed over more than two years.

Additional costs of the programme

During your programme of study, you will incur some additional costs.

Students may incur costs of textbooks and travel costs to placements. For some outside visits, students may need wet-weather clothing. Field trips: students will need to purchase meals (or bring their own food).

For some outdoor visits you may need a waterproof coat and trousers and a pair of wellington boots (£15) and/or sturdy footwear e.g. walking boots (£50 – 100) (should you need to purchase these, approximate costs are in brackets).

Where applicable, core textbooks recommended for student purchase may cost around £15 to £25 per module; there may be other books/resources which you would find it convenient to buy. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A wide range

of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks, more specialist studies, and electronic resources, are available through the library.

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost per A4 page of £0.05 (black and white) and £0.30 (colour). Essential costs in this area will be low as most coursework is submitted electronically.

A few optional modules may include study trips. For each participating student, the cost of transport and accommodation is not expected to exceed £350 and is usually considerably less for day trips.

Students may incur travel costs to placements

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

The estimates were calculated in 2019.

Optional modules

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the programme. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Placement opportunities

With the agreement of their dissertation supervisor, students may be allowed to study abroad or take up placements during the Summer Term as part of their dissertation work. With the explicit agreement of the Programme Director, the Dissertation may be researched and written away from the University.

Teaching and learning delivery

Teaching is organised in modules. The delivery of materials takes a variety of forms including lectures, seminars, practical classes (includes PC and science laboratory and glasshouse activities), group/team exercises and outside visits (includes University farm(s) and a two-day field trip).

Total study hours for your programme will be 1800 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is – 270 - 290 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details
N/A

Assessment
Assessment is modular and involves coursework and, for some modules, unseen examinations. The nature of the assessment is determined by the aims of the module.

Progression

Classification

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:
 	
Mark Interpretation
 	
70 - 100% Distinction
60 - 69% Merit
50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)
 	
Failing categories:
 	
40 - 49% Work below threshold standard
0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work
 	
For Masters Degree
 	
To qualify for **Distinction**, students must
 	
   i.   gain an overall average of 70 or more over 180 credits; and
  ii.   a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation; and
 iii.   the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
 iv.   students must not have any mark below 40.
 	
To qualify for **Merit**, students must
 	
   i.   gain an overall average of 60 or more over 180 credits; and
  ii.   a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and
 iii.   the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
 iv.   students must not have any mark below 40.
 	
To qualify for **Passed**, students must
 	
   i.   gain an overall average of 50 or more over 180 credits; and
  ii.   a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and

iii.   the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and

iv.   the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits.

For PG Diploma

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must

i.   gain an overall average of 70 or more over 120 credits; and

ii.   In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and

iii.   students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must

i.   gain an overall average of 60 or more over 120 credits; and

ii.   the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and

iii.   students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must

i.   gain an overall average of 50 or more over 120 credits; and

ii.   the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and

iii.   the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits.

For PG Certificate

To qualify for a **Postgraduate Certificate**, students must

i.   gain an overall average of 50 or more over 60 credits; and

ii.   the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 10 credits.

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.