

Programme Specification

DAgriFood Sustainable Food Quality for Health (part-time flexible) PPRZFHGENFR

For students entering in 2021/22

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	DAgriFood Sustainable Food Quality for Health (part-time flexible) - 6 years
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September

Programme information and content

Programme Aims

The Professional Doctorate in Agriculture and Food (DAgriFood) programme aims to offer food industry employed professionals the opportunity to develop their professional roles and to implement an independent programme of research within the workplace. The DAgriFood programme provides an award at doctorate level that is distinct from a traditional PhD award and is directly relevant to the needs of the individual's professional work setting.

The DAgriFood programme consists of a doctoral level research project conducted in the workplace coupled with a flexible taught component of postgraduate training in science, technology, engineering and research practice.

The taught component aims to provide a depth of understanding at the cutting edge of current knowledge across a broad base of disciplines relevant to the modern food industry. The programme has been designed as flexible, modular training to allow for part-time study to enable participants to balance study with work. As a programme with a research component, training in research skills and the practice of research is fundamental, particularly the critical evaluation of research findings and the skills required for planning and execution of original research appropriate to a professional context.

To link the taught and research elements of the programme, participants will have the opportunity to produce a reflective portfolio of professional practice of research to demonstrate the relevance of learning and skills development to their own professional context.

A flexible pathway delivers training that crosses traditional skill disciplines within the fields of food and agricultural science and the doctoral programme brings the opportunity to engage in critical reflection upon existing scientific literature and current state-of-the-art research findings towards the planning and execution of original industry-based research. Graduates of the programme will acquire cognitive, practical, professional and transferable skills to enable them to assume leadership roles within the industry.

This programme is delivered through the AgriFood Training Partnership (AFTP), which was established with funding from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) following the success of the Food Advanced Training Partnership which preceded it. The AFTP is a formal collaboration between university, industry and research partners to foster the development of high-level skills in the agri-food sector.

Overall, the AFTP programmes aim to:

- Provide learning opportunities at the cutting edge of knowledge relevant to career development of professionals working in the food industry.
- Provide flexible learning pathways that allow for time constraints and changing strategic needs of the food industry.
- Support the enhancement of personal scholarship and professional development of students to increase their personal impact in the workplace.
- Encourage research-based solutions to challenges facing the modern food industry.
- Encourage food industry employers to become partners in developing their employees' scientific, technical and professional skills.

Module information

The programme comprises of 540 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules. Compulsory modules are listed.

Compulsory modules

Participants who have undertaken an equivalent 10 credit module to Research Methods (FZMR05) at another institution and are able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Programme Tutor that the learning outcomes are appropriately matched will be exempt from this module.

The remaining credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from a list available from the AFTP administrative office subject to agreement by the Programme Director.

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

The programme is delivered as a part-time modular programme to deliver a total of 540 credits for the doctoral award. One academic credit represents 10 hours of participant effort spent on learning activities, which includes all forms of study, taught contact time, preparation of assignments, revision and assessment. Participants are required to enrol online every subsequent year of study whether they elect to take modules or not. The taught and research components of the programme are intended to fit within the participant's existing workload with additional study as required.

Additional costs of the programme

This programme requires students to accumulate 120 taught credits in addition to completing the compulsory *Research Methods and Project Management* module and the Work-based Research Project. The current fees for modules delivered by the University of Reading are:

10 credit online module: £800

10 credit blended learning module: £1,600

15 credit online module: £1,000

20 credit campus workshop: £2,000

In addition, up to 50% of the taught credits may be accumulated from other AgriFood Training Partnership institutions. As a result, 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 2020.

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

Participants will be able to undertake the project module at any approved institutional or industrial establishment, dependent on appropriate supervisory arrangements being in place. The food and agricultural industry operates globally and therefore there may arise opportunities for study abroad within the context of the project module. The Flexible Learning Plan may include study abroad subject to approval by the Programme Director.

Study abroad opportunities

N/A

Teaching and learning delivery

The teaching is organised in taught modules and portfolios and a work-based research project module. Taught modules involve a combination of lectures, tutorials, workshops, seminars, practical sessions, delivered as blended learning including face-to-face teaching and distance learning where appropriate to learning outcomes.

Total study hours for the taught element of your programme will be 1200 hours. The contact hours for this element will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is approximately 120 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

Taught modules are assessed by coursework assignments, including essays, case studies, oral presentations and module examinations, as specified in individual module descriptions. The assessment of the portfolio of professional practice and research project is based on a written portfolio and thesis, respectively, and an oral presentation of the work undertaken followed by a viva voce examination.

Progression**Progression**

To qualify be eligible for the award of DAgrIFood, the student must achieve an overall weighted mean of at least 50 in taught modules with no module mark below 40.

Progress will be monitored on an annual basis via the Board of Studies. The Board of Studies has the option to recommend the termination of the participant's enrolment on the programme if progress in taught modules is not meeting the required standard. In this eventuality, the participant may qualify for the award of a lesser qualification as an exit award. Six months after commencing the research component of study and thereafter at 12 monthly intervals, the participant and supervisors will be required to complete a report on the progress of the research project to be submitted to the Programme Director. The Programme Director or his/her nominated delegate will review these reports to assess progress and where there is a concern a formal action plan will be drawn up and agreed between the participant, academic and industrial supervisors along with the Programme Director. In addition to the report on progress, the participant will be required to complete an evaluation of supervisory arrangements. The report at 6 months is accompanied by a brief summary (3 pages maximum) of the agreed project plan including aims and objectives with timelines and milestones. The report at 18 months is accompanied by a detailed written report (40 pages maximum including tables and figures) on the research project that includes:

- An abstract summary of the report
- An introduction giving the background to the work and a critical review of the relevant literature
- A clear statement of the aims of the project
- A description of the methods used
- The results achieved, progress and attainments to date
- A thorough evaluation and discussion of results obtained
- An outline for future work
- References
- Details of any posters or presentations by the student

If the participant has drafted, submitted or had accepted for publication a research paper in a reputable refereed journal, then this may be submitted instead of the report if accompanied with an indication of the extent of the student's contribution to the work. The paper must

relate to the doctoral project and represent a significant part of that work to date. The report at 18 months will be used to assess whether the participant should progress further towards a Professional Doctorate or seek to downgrade to a lesser qualification. The report at 42 months is to be accompanied by a thesis plan that has been agreed with the supervisors. At any stage where there is concern about the participant's progress, a formal action plan will be drawn up and agreed between participant, academic and industrial supervisors and the Programme Director. In exceptional cases this may include termination of the participant's enrolment on the programme.

Classification

The following provide a classification guide for each module with the final degree classification being determined in accordance with the procedures of the University of Reading which can be found in full at:

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/exams/PGclassification-post-2008.pdf>

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 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.

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