Programme Specification

MSc Food Security and Development (full-time)	PFTZFDSECDHM
MSc Food Security and Development (part-time)	PPTZFDSECDHM

For students entering in 2022/23

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 Food Security and Development (full-time) - 12 months MSc Food Security and Development (part-time) - 2 years
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September

Programme information and content

This course will prepare students for a career in the food security and international development sector by providing them with:

- A multi-disciplinary understanding of the structure and operation of food systems in developing countries, and the main drivers of global food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty;
- An awareness of how food systems interact with human development policies, institutions and interventions at international, national and local levels; and
- Conceptual and practical skills for the understanding and analysis of planned food security interventions.

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
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
IDM077	Food Security and Development	10	M
IDM095	Theories and Practices of Development	20	M
IDM098	Global Issues in Nutrition and Health	10	M

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 (for Home/EU students only). 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 second year of study, a student will normally be required to complete the coursework for the compulsory module IDM071 Research and Study Skills for Independent Learning (although students should attend the taught sessions in the first year of study), the IDM072 Dissertation module and any remaining optional modules. The 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.

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 of up to 3 to 9 days. For each participating student, the cost of transport and accommodation is not expected to exceed £350.

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 2021.

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.

Study abroad opportunities

N/A

Teaching and learning delivery

Teaching is organised in modules. The delivery of materials takes a variety of forms including lectures, classes, seminars and group exercises.

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 240-260 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

The nature of the assessment is determined by the aims of the module. Typical assessments from both compulsory and optional modules include essays, in-class tests, reflective diaries and presentations.

Progression

N/A

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.

MSc Food Security and Development (full-time) for students entering in session 2022/23
23 June 2021
© The University of Reading 2021