

Programme Specification

MSc in Agricultural Economics (full-time)

PFTAGECONM

MSc in Agricultural Economics (part-time)

PPTAGECONM

For students entering in 2027/28

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 Agricultural Economics (full-time) - 1 years MSc in Agricultural Economics (part-time) - 2 years
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	N/A

Programme information and content

With an ever-increasing world population, and growing pressure on the world's finite resources, the analytical skills of agricultural economists are as relevant as ever. The programme is designed to provide a rigorous, stimulating, and enjoyable training in applied economics and quantitative research techniques.

The MSc in Agricultural Economics will provide an opportunity for those with or without previous economic backgrounds to develop the necessary core skills to become an Economist. It will offer a eclectic pathway that would not be afforded by many Economics degrees that focus to a greater extent on theory and emphasis on mathematical methods. Students should emerge with an understanding of the key global challenges such as Food Security, Climate Change, and the role that Agriculture plays in relation to these issues.

On completion of this course students should be qualified for careers in industry, government, NGOs, international institutions, and consultancies or to undertake further study or research in Agricultural Economics or related disciplines. Students have the option to specialise in a development pathway that will provide them with the specific skills needed for working in agricultural development. The modules offered by this MSc will also support Ph.D. students in Agricultural Economics who require additional taught course training. Beyond these specific vocational qualifications, the course will provide transferable skills and broad perspectives to students that may shape their thinking and widen their horizons.

Programme Learning Outcomes

-MSc in Agricultural Economics (full-time)

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

Learning outcomes	
1	Understand and critically analyse how economic forces impact upon agricultural production and the food chain, and on the rural economy; and how markets work (or sometimes do not work) to co-ordinate economic activity.
2	Understanding the issues that arise when considering the likely economic impact of government intervention, and of the framework, and be able to identify constraints, within which policy is formulated.
3	Apply a range of quantitative techniques, including Econometrics and to be able to collect, analyse and interpret economic data.
4	Develop communication skills and be able to present coherent, structured and well-balanced arguments to a range of audiences.
5	Perform economic analyses using appropriate software.
6	Demonstrate how to model economic systems.
7	Suggest, design, conduct, analyse and present an independent research project and communicate the results.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

Module information			
The programme comprises 180 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.			
Compulsory modules			
Module	Name	Credits	Level
ADMCPM	Consumers, Producers, Markets and Trade	20	M
ADMDIS	Dissertation	60	M
ADMECM	Econometrics	20	M
ADMREE	Environmental and Resource Economics	20	M
<i>Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development or from an approved list of modules.</i>			
PATHWAYS			
In addition to the Agricultural Economics compulsory modules above, you can qualify for the Development Pathway, providing you complete two specified modules.			
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 compulsory modules totalling no less than 60 credits and no more than 80 credits. In the second year of study, a student will be required to			

complete the ADMDIS Dissertation module and any remaining optional modules. The programme must be completed within two years.

Placement opportunities

N/A

Study abroad opportunities

N/A

Optional modules

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Teaching and learning delivery

Students will experience a variety of approaches to teaching and learning. There will be a balance of emphasis between skills, theory and application. Most of the teaching and learning will take place face to face (lectures, seminars, and tutorials) but supported by learning capture and or online seminars and lectures. Students will be encouraged to take advantage of Dept Seminars which cover a variety of topics that should be of interest to those completing the MSc in Agricultural Economics. Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology and may also include field trips.

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The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including 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 programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations, coursework (including class tests) and oral examinations. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

Part-time and modular progression requirements

If there are specific progression requirements that a part-time student needs to meet before they can progress into the second year, these should be listed here. Any specific compulsory modules should be listed with their module code.

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 Master's Degree

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Master's degree:

Award of a Master's degree

- (i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 180 credits
- (ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 120 credits
- (iii) no credits with a mark below 40%
- (iv) a mark of 50% or more for the Dissertation

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Master's degree, the following **further** conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction

An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 180 credits

OR

an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 180 credits and marks of 70% in at least 90 credits

AND

Where the dissertation is included in the conditions for the award of a Master's degree, a mark of at least 60% in the dissertation

AND

No marks below 40%.

Merit

An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 180 credits

OR

an overall average of 58% or more over 180 credits and marks of 60% in at least 90 credits

AND

No marks below 40%.

For Postgraduate Diploma

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma:

Award of a Postgraduate Diploma

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 120 credits

(ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 80 credits

(iii) no credits with a mark below 40%

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, the following further conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction

An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 120 credits

OR

an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 120 credits and marks of 70% in at least 60 credits

AND

No marks below 40%.

Merit

An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 120 credits

OR

an overall average of 58% or more over 120 credits and marks of 60% in at least 60 credits

AND

No marks below 40%.

For Postgraduate Certificate

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate:

Award of a Postgraduate Certificate

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 60 credits

(ii) No credits with a mark below 40%.

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the [Assessment Handbook](#) under:

- Section 19: Awards: Postgraduate Master's, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate

Please note that there may be a specific version for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

The additional costs may entail textbooks that are specific to courses but will be available online or in the library. These should in total less than £200.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the [DTS Student Hub](#).

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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4 August 2026

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