



European Master in Food Studies

An international and industry oriented MSc programme in food science and technology

Annual Report 2011-2012

15 August 2011 – 14 August 2012

The European Masters Degree in Food Studies is a two-year accredited MSc Programme studied by a select group of international students, organised by four top universities in Europe and sponsored by eleven multinational food companies.

The purpose of the programme is to provide academic training in an international context, with a strong emphasis on the European Food Industry. By having a group of students of many different nationalities following classes at universities in four countries, an exposure to multicultural environments is emphasized and is part of the learning. By a combination of classes and thesis work in industry, the programme helps as well to build a bridge between university and industry.

This educational journey provides the students with a strong awareness of cultural, social and economic realities of modern European and global Food Industry.

The programme is coordinated by Wageningen University and has both an Executive Board and an Academic Steering Group.

HIGHLIGHTS

The board was delighted to grant a full fellowship for the first time to a candidate from Ghana starting in September 2012.

In the morning of the Friday July 13, 2012 two teams of the 12th edition presented their team project work. The audience got introduced in the use of insects as an ingredient for food products.

The graduation ceremony closed the programme for the students of the 12th edition.



“mini-livestock”



and what may come out of it

THE STUDENTS

In August 2011 the 13th edition started their studies. Among the 19 students, we are counting 10 nationalities; and once more we welcomed students from countries that are represented for the first time in this programme: South Korea and Switzerland.

Also in this group diverse backgrounds in education and working experiences are represented. The group took academic courses in Wageningen, Cork, Massy/Paris and Lund in the first year of their studies. In June 2012 they prepared for their thesis research project in industry in the next academic year.

Meanwhile the 12th edition students individually carried out their thesis research project in industry and as a group worked on their team project. After the final course they all received the MSc diploma with certificate; one of the highlights of this report year.

The European Master in Food Studies continues to receive a lot of attention from future students, for the edition starting in August 2012, 23 students were recruited.



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THE ALUMNI

As from August 2012 there are 151 European Masters alumni: 39 nationalities, 64% women and 36% men alumni. Many of them hold leading positions in the food industry world-wide. An alumni database has been set up and we expect to be able to present detailed alumni information on a regular basis as from 2013.

THE PROGRAMME

In February 2012 an overall review of the programme took place. The overall programme was still found to be adequate, both from an educational and from an employers' perspective. A couple of improvements will be implemented for future editions: Risk Communication will be included in the Consumer Behaviour module, the Molecular Gastronomy module will be replaced by a Food Structuring module. And two special topics, Sustainable Food Processing and Food Law will be first taught in 2013.

The number of alumni of the programme has reached the size where it will also be valuable to regularly consult previous participants about the effectiveness of the programme for their career. Furthermore an exit questionnaire will be developed in the course of 2012-2013.



Students of the 13th edition, enjoying their time in Sweden



Geoffrey Morris and Elisabeth Dumoulin, during the graduation ceremony

FELLOWSHIPS

Additional to the partial fellowships, the full fellowship reserved for students from Africa could be granted to a candidate from Ghana starting in September 2012.

THE PEOPLE

Although quite some new representatives entered the board, all academic and industry partners have reconfirmed their active participation in the programme for the next years.

A very special moment occurred when the board were thanking their retiring partners from the first hour: Geoffrey Morris and Elisabeth Dumoulin.

PERSPECTIVE FOR THE FUTURE

As continuous interest is shown by industries in Europe, the Foundation's consortium wishes to investigate the impact of extending the number of sponsors. This may also open options for extending the consortium's activities.

In October 2012 the 20th anniversary of the programme will be celebrated at Sial, Paris.