



European Masters Degree in Food Studies

An industry directed programme on food science, technology, engineering and management

Annual Report 2005-2006

15 August 2005 – 14 August 2006

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 a number of 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 from different countries 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.

THE STUDENTS

In 2005, after a one-year break and revisions to the board and programme, the 7th edition of the European Masters Degree in Food Studies began in the last week of August. Due to the late start of recruitment, only eight students make this 7th edition. Nevertheless the group is from diverse backgrounds, highly motivated and well balanced in nationalities; 7 countries of origin: China (1), Cyprus (1), France (1), Germany (1), The Netherlands (2), Portugal (1), Spain (1); six female and two male students.

Looking ahead at the 8th edition, we are pleased to be able to conclude that the European Masters Degree in Food Studies receives a lot of attention from future students: over 30 have shown serious interest in the programme and sixteen of them will take up their study as the 8th edition in August 2006.

THE ALUMNI

As from February 2006 all students from previous editions have concluded their study. There are 77 European Masters alumni: 26 nationalities, 45 female and 32 male alumni. In the autumn of 2005 the first steps have been taken to establish a European Masters alumni network.



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THE PROGRAMME

Before the start of the academic year 2005-2006 the revision of the programme was settled, resulting in a completely new structure according to the outline of all Wageningen University's MSc Programmes. The language of instruction is English. The programme starts each year in August, one week prior to the start of the academic year; it lasts two years and is comprised of 120 ECTS credits (one credit is equivalent to a study load of 28 hours). The programme consists of several blocks and multiple subjects: 1 week team building, 1 month team project, 12 months classes at four European universities, 8 months master thesis research project in one of the food companies that are partner in the programme. The subjects in the courses are: food structure and behaviour, consumer studies and management, food technology, product development and innovation in SMEs.

THE PEOPLE

The Executive Board of the Foundation European Masters is the official body. The primary task of this Board is to consider the strategic development of the European Masters Degree in Food Studies.

The day-to-day operations of the programme are guided by the Academic Steering Group.

The group of Board members includes representatives from the sponsoring companies and the participating universities. The current group are: Elisabeth Dumoulin – ENSIA, Lex Ronteltap – Heineken, Christian Jung (Fabien Guilmineau) – Kraft Foods, Ingegerd Sjöholm – Lund University, Mike Croghan (Peter Hendrix) – National Starch and Food Innovations, Herb Hottinger (Jan de Wit) - Nestlé, Jan Maat (chairman) – Unilever, Mary McCarthy (secretary) – University College Cork, Ralf Hartemink (programme director) and Anja Kleijn (treasurer and programme coordinator) and Fons Voragen – Wageningen University, Geoffry Morris, Gökhan Oran.

PERSPECTIVE FOR THE FUTURE

In its 10 years of existence, the programme has shown to deliver high quality graduates that have found leading positions in the food industry.

The recent revision of the programme and structure of the Board contribute to the robustness of the delivery. Despite the mark time in 2004-2005 and a hesitating start in 2005 with a small 7th edition, the programme enjoys an increasing interest from future students. In the next year the Foundation European Masters Food wishes to continue building on the high quality of the programme and its candidates and to involve additional industry partners in the programme.

Our aim is to prepare students for a position in a major food company, to help them to become knowledgeable and multicultural oriented team-players - competent to fulfil major positions in multinational food industries. We look forward to continuing to build a bridge between university and industry by facilitating the European Masters Degree in Food Studies.

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