



European Masters Degree in Food Studies

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

Annual Report 2006-2007

15 August 2006 – 14 August 2007

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.

HIGHLIGHTS

This report year was festively concluded with the graduation ceremony for the students of the 7th edition and with the first alumni meeting.

Marking, On July 13th, students of the 7th edition marked the end of the study phase and the start of the professional phase in the presence of family and friends. In a traditional academic ceremony graduands were addressed by university professors and industry partners of the programme. The ceremony was followed by a reception for the new graduates and their guests.

The next day, on July 14th, alumni of the European Masters Degree in Food Studies gathered to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the first graduation. In a convivial atmosphere over 30 alumni caught up with co-alumni, professors, coordinators and industry partners.

THE STUDENTS

In the summer of 2006 the 7th edition swarmed over Europe for the thesis research project in industry. In April 2007 they joined again to conclude the programme. In August 2007 all had received the MSc diploma with certificate.

The 8th edition of the European Masters Degree in Food Studies begun in the last week of August 2006. Again this group is from diverse backgrounds, holding a BSc degree and some with several years of working experience. In this group there are 8 countries of origin: China (2), Colombia (2), France (3), Germany (1), Greece (5), Mexico (1), The Netherlands (1), Turkey (1); ten female and six male students. In June 2007 they had taken courses at all four universities and prepared for their thesis research project in the next period.

The European Masters Degree in Food Studies receives a lot of attention from future students, thirteen could be recruited for the 9th edition.



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THE ALUMNI

As from August 2007 all students from previous editions have concluded their study. Now there are 85 European Masters alumni: 27 nationalities, 51 female and 34 male alumni. Many of them hold leading positions in the food industry world-wide.

In preparation of the alumni meeting July 2007, a small team of alumni and students collected contact data of almost all alumni; a major first step has been taken to establish a European Masters alumni network.

THE PROGRAMME

In the academic year 2006-2007 the structure of the programme remained the same. Procedures and methods, especially regarding the thesis research project, were updated and improved.

THE PEOPLE

The group of Board members included representatives from six sponsoring companies and four participating universities. Following up on the wish to involve additional industry partners in the programme, invitations had been sent out to several European based food companies. A number of companies expressed the intention to join in the next period.

PERSPECTIVE FOR THE FUTURE

Together with the future industry partners, the Board will continue to strengthen the programme and the robustness of its delivery. Although the programme enjoys an increasing interest from future students, it still is a challenge to recruit high calibre students with a unique educational profile. In the next year the Foundation European Masters Food wishes to focus on a high quality of the programme's candidates.

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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