



European Masters Degree in Food Studies

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

Annual Report 2007-2008

15 August 2007 – 14 August 2008

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 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

July 11th was the unrivalled highlight of this report year. For an audience of university professors, representatives of industry partners and a large number of family and friends, all 18 students of the 8th edition were awarded a Master of Science diploma with European Masters certificate; two of them even passed “cum laude”. The traditional academic ceremony was followed by a sparkling reception party. 101 students have now completed the programme.

A second highlight in this report year was the warm and ambitious interest of industry in the programme, resulting in 11 participating companies by the end of the year.



THE STUDENTS

In August 2007 the 9th edition started their studies. For the first time in this programme we welcomed students from Morocco and the United States. 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 2008 they prepared for their thesis research project in industry in the next academic year.

Meanwhile the 8th 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 Masters Degree in Food Studies continues to receive a lot of attention from future students, for the edition starting in August 2008, 19 students could be recruited.



European Masters Degree in Food Studies

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

THE ALUMNI

As from August 2008 all students from previous editions have concluded their study. Now there are 101 European Masters alumni: 30 nationalities, 63 female and 38 male alumni. Many of them hold leading positions in the food industry world-wide.

THE PROGRAMME

On November 9th all programme partners gathered for an extra meeting to evaluate the programme, that was redesigned in 2005. Generally companies were of the view that the graduates have the correct profile for their company. It was considered to be desirable to include a programme element in which actual topics could specifically be addressed; a concept needs to be worked out.

THE PEOPLE

At the end of the report year the group of Board members includes representatives from eleven sponsoring companies and four participating universities. The numbers of participants and students are considered to be in balance.



PERSPECTIVE FOR THE FUTURE

Our aim remains 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. Project management is considered an essential competence in food industry; training in project management will be included in the programme for next editions. Furthermore learning about sustainable developments in the agro-food supply chain is going to be a regular element in the programme; it will be organised by the industry partners in the programme. We look forward to continuing to build a bridge between university and industry by facilitating the European Masters Degree in Food Studies.

Although we may conclude that the programme meets the needs of industry and attracts an increasing number of students, it still is a major challenge to recruit high calibre students. In the next year the Foundation European Masters Food wishes to continue focussing on a high quality of the programme's candidates.

Foundation European Masters Food
Bomenweg 2, 6703 HD, Wageningen, The Netherlands
www.eurmscfood.nl