



European Masters Degree in Food Studies

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

Annual Report 2008-2009

15 August 2008 – 14 August 2009

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

A Sustainability Workshop for the 10th edition was hosted by Tetra Pak on May 11th in Lund. The attractive programme, including a plant visit, presentations, group work and panel discussion was highly valued by the students and the presenters from Lund University, Tetra Pak and Nestlé. The students expressed their commitment to a sustainable approach of life and work by signing the “Common Position Paper”. This workshop represents the newly developed programme element in which actual topics can specifically be addressed.

The highlight in this reporting year was the graduation of the 9th edition on July 10th in Wageningen.

THE STUDENTS

In August 2008 the 10th edition started their studies. Again we welcomed students from countries that were represented for the first time in this programme: Brazil, Ecuador, India, Zimbabwe and Indonesia. 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 9th 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 2009, 16 students could be recruited.





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THE ALUMNI

As from August 2009 all students from previous editions have concluded their study. Now there are 112 European Masters alumni: 30 nationalities, 71 female and 41 male alumni. Many of them hold leading positions in the food industry world-wide.

THE PROGRAMME

The update of the course design of the Team Project proved its value. The Team Project is a very important part of the programme in which students teams design and execute their own projects. Board members are now actively involved in the topic selection process. This allows for an early guidance, transparent selection criteria and early decision for a valuable and feasible topic; thus providing for focus on the development and execution of the final project. Furthermore the introduction of an on-line project management fundamentals course proved its value in enhancing the effectiveness of the Team Project management by the students.

THE PEOPLE

The composition of the group of Board members remained the same. This allows the team to proceed with the strengthening of the programme along the same lines.

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.

Regarding the programme, ongoing attention for the incorporation of the topics introduced in last year's edition of the programme, sustainability and project management, is on the agenda. Additionally packaging and agro-food supply chains are part of the integrated approach in food industry; options for including learning about these themes as a regular element in the programme for next editions are under review. We look forward to continuing to build a bridge between university and industry by facilitating the European Masters Degree in Food Studies.

As in previous years it still is a major challenge to recruit high calibre students. We continue studying on available options for recruitment and will support these activities by launching a redesigned and updated website.

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