



European Master in Food Studies

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

Annual Report 2009-2010

15 August 2009 – 14 August 2010

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

Three major events took place on July 9 and 10.

In the morning of the Friday, two teams of the 10th edition presented their team project work. Apart from the good quality tangible results, prototypes of products and reports, the audience was regaled with a lively presented compilation of the students' learning experiences during the past two years.

In the afternoon all 19 students of the 10th edition received their diplomas and certificates.



Jim Leslie

On Saturday around 50 alumni and partners from all over the world gathered for the celebration of the 10th edition of the European Master programme. Jim Leslie, representing the founding fathers of the programme took the audience for a journey through the history of the programme, which started in the early nineties of the 20th century. Reflecting on the purpose of the programme as defined in 1995 – to provide scientific and business training in an international context, and to create awareness of the cultural, social and economic realities of the modern European Food Industry – he concluded that nowadays the important themes for the food industries still require the competences as foreseen 15 years ago.

THE STUDENTS

In August 2009 the sixteen students in the 11th edition started their educational journey. Again a fine mix of nationalities, with Vietnam represented for the first time. The group took academic courses in Wageningen, Cork, Massy/Paris and Lund in the first year of their studies. In July 2009 they prepared for their thesis research project in industry in the next academic year. In the first study year the industry orientation of the programme was expressed by meetings between students and industry representatives and by the preparation for and start-up of the team projects.



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11th edition visiting industry

Meanwhile the 10th 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 increasing attention for the European Master programme proved to be persistent; resulting in the recruitment of 23 students for the edition starting in August 2010.

THE ALUMNI

With the celebration of the 10th graduation, the number of alumni amounted up to 132; 38 nationalities. It is estimated that almost 50% is currently employed by one of the participating companies in the programme. Many of the alumni hold leading positions in the food industry world-wide.

THE PROGRAMME

In the reporting period the approach for ensuring a continuous attention for maintaining and improving the quality of the programme has been under review and an updated approach of course evaluation was agreed upon.

The sustainability workshop was hosted by Tetra Pak for the second time. Representatives from Tetra Pak, Nestlé and Lund University initiated the students into the principles of this actual and important theme.

FELLOWSHIPS

Supporting the wish for a world-wide spread in origin of candidates, the board decided to add a full fellowship reserved for students from Africa to the European Masters Fellowship programme. Each year one full fellowship and three partial fellowships are available now.

THE PEOPLE

In July 2010 the Board members welcomed a new chairman, Stefan Palzer. And said goodbye to Jan Maat who handed over the gavel after a period of six years in which the European Master programme was developed into its current shape of a high quality and accredited MSc programme.

PERSPECTIVE FOR THE FUTURE

In the next year the Foundation European Masters Food wishes to continue focussing on a high quality of the programme's candidates, of the programme's courses and of increasing the awareness of the students for the learning opportunities offered by the programme.

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