



Programme-specific Section of the Curriculum for the MSc Programme in Agricultural Economics at the Faculty of Science, University of Copenhagen 2014 (Rev. 2021)

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1 Title, affiliation and language

A shared section that applies to all BSc and MSc Programmes at the Faculty of Science is linked to this programme-specific curriculum.

1.1 Title

The MSc Programme in Agricultural Economics leads to a Master of Science (MSc) in Agricultural Economics with the Danish title: *Cand.oecon.agro. (candidatus/candidata oeconomiae agronomiae)*.

1.2 Affiliation

The programme is affiliated with the Study Board of Natural Resources, Environment and Animal Science, and the students can both elect, and be elected, to this study board.

1.3 Corps of external examiners

The following corps of external examiners is used for the central parts of the MSc Programme:

- Corps of External Examiners for Agricultural Science (*jordbrugsvidenskab*).

1.4 Language

The language of this MSc Programme is English.

2 Academic profile

2.1 Purpose

On the basis of economic, mathematical, legal and statistical methodologies, the objective of the MSc programme in Agricultural Economics is to:

- Enhance the academic knowledge and skills of the student and strengthen the theoretical and methodological qualifications, competences and level of independence attained at bachelor level.
- Provide the student with the opportunity to study in depth the advanced academic aspects of disciplines and methods in the subject area(s), including training in academic work and methods, which further develop the student's ability and competences to work in a specialist professional capacity and take part in academic development work.
- Qualify the student for further studies, including PhD programmes.

2.2 General programme profile

The MSc programme in Agricultural Economics is focused on applied economic theory and methods within the agricultural sector in broad terms. These include:

- International Economics and Development which cover international trade, trade policy, public economics, economic growth, development economics and policy and the economics of globalization.
- Agribusiness and Food Economics which cover production economics, industrial economics and organisation, technology assessment, innovation and management as well as public economics and policy.
- Environmental and Natural Resource Economics which cover economic theory of environmental policies, economic valuation methods and theory of optimal extraction of natural resources over time.
- The programme offers a wide range of restricted elective course that enables students to create their own unique profile combining the economic specializations mentioned above.

Agricultural economics is the key subject area of the programme.

2.3 General structure of the programme

The MSc Programme is set at 120 ECTS.

There are no defined specialisations in this programme.

2.4 Career opportunities

The MSc Programme in Agricultural Economics qualifies students to become professionals within business functions and/or areas such as:

- A PhD programme
- Interest groups and industrial organisations.
- Consultancy and analytical work in a broad sense (banks, financial institutions, large companies, consultancy companies, and agricultural organisations etc.).
- Public administration (the EU, government, regions and municipalities).
- Research (private and public).
- Teaching (universities and business schools etc.).
- Management of own company.

3 Description of competence profiles

Students following the MSc Programme acquire the knowledge, skills and competences listed below. Students will also acquire other qualifications through elective subject elements and other study activities.

3.1 General profile in Agricultural Economics

On completion of the programme, an MSc in Agricultural Economics has acquired the following:

Knowledge about:

- How to demonstrate general knowledge of economic issues, theories and methodologies within International Economics and Development, and/or Agribusiness and Food Economics, and/or Environmental and Natural Resource Economics.
- How to identify economic and statistical methods within the above disciplines.
- How to identify economic agents and the background for their actions.
- How to reformulate theories, principles and research findings to independently form hypotheses and theories.

Skills in/to:

- Pose questions that are characteristic of agricultural economics and produce several possible answers.
- Analyse issues within agricultural economics and the associated decision-making processes.
- Formulate and solve complex economic and food economic problems, taking a theoretical, statistical and descriptive approach.
- Utilise and evaluate economic methodologies and evaluate the fundamental assumptions behind economic theories as well as their possibilities and limitations.
- Employ economic reasoning to explain economic claims.
- Work methodologically correct with both qualitative and quantitative analyses.
- Communicate own specialist knowledge clearly and precisely – in writing and orally – to various target groups.
- Select and use appropriate information and communications technology in all relevant work processes.

Competences in/to:

- Take a critical and visionary approach to economic methodologies and the fundamental assumptions behind agricultural economics.
- Assess the possibilities and limitations of the theories and their potential applications in various work-related contexts.
- Handle work and development situations that are complex, unpredictable and require new solution models in the private and public-sector labour markets – both nationally and internationally.
- Transfer and apply theories and principles to new but related economic issues.
- Implement and carry out mono-disciplinary and interdisciplinary collaboration and assume professional responsibility.
- Assume independent responsibility for and evaluate own professional development and specialisation with a view to life-long learning.
- Work with others, discuss solutions and achieve consensus.

4 Admission requirements

With a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics (*jordbrugsøkonomi*) from the University of Copenhagen the student is granted reserved access and guaranteed a place on the MSc Programme in Agricultural Economics if the student applies in time to begin the MSc Programme within three years of the completion of the Bachelor's degree.

4.1 Applicants with a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics

Applicants with a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Copenhagen are directly academically qualified for admission to the MSc Programme in Agricultural Economics.

4.2 Applicants with a Bachelor's degree in Economics

Applicants with a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Copenhagen, University of Southern Denmark or Aarhus University are directly academically qualified for admission to the MSc Programme.

4.3 Applicants with a Bachelor's degree in Natural Resources with the specialisation in Environmental Economics

Applicants with a Bachelor's degree in Natural Resources with the specialisation in Environmental Economics may also be admitted if their programme includes the following:

- 7.5 ECTS: LOJB10234U *Samfundsøkonomi* or NMAA04034U *Makroøkonomi 1: Introduktion til nationaløkonomi (MakØk1)* or AØKB08002U *Økonomiske principper B* or NIFB13011U *Makroøkonomi og konjunkturer* or equivalent
- 7.5 ECTS: NIFB14006U *International Economics* or AØKA08021U *International Economics (F)* or equivalent

4.4 Applicants with a related Bachelor's degree

Applicants with a Bachelor's degree from the University of Copenhagen, other Danish, Nordic or international universities may also be admitted if their programme includes the following:

- Micro Economics (at least 22.5 ECTS)
- Macro Economics (at least 7.5 ECTS)
- International Economics (at least 7.5 ECTS) including topics such as theories of trade and trade policy analysis
- Statistics (at least 7.5 ECTS)
- Econometrics (at least 7.5 ECTS)

- Mathematics (at least 7.5 ECTS)

4.5 Other applicants

The Faculty may also admit applicants who, after an individual academic assessment, are deemed to possess educational qualifications equivalent to those required in Subclauses 4.1-4.

4.6 Language requirements

Applicants must as a minimum document English language qualifications comparable to a Danish upper secondary school English B level or English proficiency corresponding to the tests and scores required. Accepted tests and required minimum scores are published online at www.science.ku.dk.

4.7 Supplementary subject elements

The qualifications of an applicant to the MSc program are assessed exclusively on the basis of the qualifying bachelor's degree. Supplementary subject elements passed between the completion of the bachelor's program and the admission to the MSc program cannot be included in the overall assessment.

However, students lacking the necessary credits in the field of Econometrics may be admitted on the condition that they pass the approved university level 7.5 ECTS Econometrics subject element (Econometrics1 – LOJB10283U), before the start date of the study programme.

Also, subject elements passed before the completion of the bachelor's program may be included in the overall assessment. This includes subject elements completed as continuing education as well as subject elements completed as part of a former higher education program. A maximum of 30 ECTS supplementary subject elements can be included in the overall assessment.”

Subject elements passed before completing the BSc programme which are to form part of the MSc programme to which the student has a legal right of admission (§12-courses) cannot be included in the overall assessment.

5 Prioritisation of applicants

If the number of qualified applicants to the programme exceeds the number of places available, applicants will be prioritised as follows:

- 1) Applicants with a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Copenhagen with reserved access to the programme.
- 2) Applicants with a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Copenhagen.
- 3) Applicants with a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Copenhagen, University of Southern Denmark or Aarhus University.
- 4) Applicants with a Bachelor's degree in Natural Resources with the specialisation in Environmental Economics from the University of Copenhagen.
- 5) Other applicants.

If the number of qualified applicants within a category exceeds the number of places available, applicants will be prioritised according to the following criteria (listed below in prioritised):

- ECTS credits obtained in relevant subjects (micro economics, macroeconomics, international economics, agricultural economics, environmental- or resource economics, statistics, econometrics, mathematics).

6 Structure of the programme

The compulsory subject elements, restricted elective subject elements and the thesis constitute the central parts of the programme (Section 21 of the Ministerial Order on Bachelor and Master's Programmes (Candidatus) at Universities).

6.1 Programme components

The programme is set at 120 ECTS and consists of the following:

- Compulsory subject elements, 15 ECTS.
- Restricted elective subject elements, 60 ECTS.
- Elective subject elements, 15 ECTS.
- Thesis, 30 ECTS.

6.1.1 Compulsory subject elements

All of the following subject elements are to be covered (15 ECTS):			
• LOJK10272U	Applied Econometrics	Block 1	7.5 ECTS
• NIFK14003U	Incentives and Regulation	Block 3	7.5 ECTS

6.1.2 Restricted elective subject elements

60 ECTS are to be covered as subject elements from the following two lists:

1) 15 ECTS are to be covered as subject elements from the following list:			
• NIFK14022U	Industrial Organization	Block 1	7.5 ECTS
• NIFK14023U	Advanced International Trade	Block 1	7.5 ECTS
• NIFK16005U	Advanced Development Economics	Block 2	7.5 ECTS
• NIFK14001U	Microeconomic and Econometric Production Analysis	Block 2	7.5 ECTS
• LOJK10229U	Natural Resource Economics	Block 2	7.5 ECTS

2) 45 ECTS are to be covered as subject elements from the following list:			
• NIFK14022U	Industrial Organization	Block 1	7.5 ECTS
• NIFK14023U	Advanced International Trade	Block 1	7.5 ECTS
• NIFK14031U	Behavioural and Experimental Economics	Block 1*	7.5 ECTS
• NIFK14026U	Entrepreneurship and Innovation	Block 1	7.5 ECTS
• NIFK14001U	Microeconomic and Econometric Production Analysis	Block 2	7.5 ECTS
• NIFK16005U	Advanced Development Economics	Block 2	7.5 ECTS
• LOJK10229U	Natural Resource Economics	Block 2	7.5 ECTS
• NIFK16007U	Computational Methods for Policy Analysis in AgriFood Markets	Block 2	7.5 ECTS
• NIFK16001U	Economic Efficiency and Benchmarking	Block 2	7.5 ECTS
• NIFK14025U	Contracts and Cooperatives	Block 2	7.5 ECTS
• LOJK10248U	Economic Valuation Methods and Cost-Benefit Analysis	Block 3	15 ECTS
• NIFK14032U	Business Development and Innovation	Block 3	7.5 ECTS
• NIFK13003U	Applied Environmental and Natural Resource Economics	Block 4	7.5 ECTS
• LOJK10255U	Agricultural and Food Policy	Block 4	7.5 ECTS
• LOJK10292U	Agricultural Value Chains in Developing Countries	Block 4	7.5 ECTS
• NIFK15003U	Applied Economics of Consumption	Block 4	7.5 ECTS
• NIFK19006U	Managing and Analyzing Data in Social Science	Block 5	7.5 ECTS
• NFKK14006U	Project in Practise	Block 1-5	15 ECTS

* The course is not offered in 2021-22

6.1.3 Elective subject elements

15 ECTS are to be covered as elective subject elements.

All subject elements at MSc level may be included as elective subject elements in the MSc Programme.

BSc subject elements corresponding to 15 ECTS may be included in the MSc Programme.

Projects outside the course scope may be included in the elective section of the programme with up to 15 ECTS. The regulations are described in Appendix 5 to the shared section of the curriculum.

Projects in practice may not exceed 15 ECTS in total of the programme. Project in practice may be written as a combination of the restricted elective and elective section of the programme. The regulations are described in Appendix 4 to the shared section of the curriculum.

Thesis preparation projects may be included in the elective section of the programme with up to 15 ECTS. The regulations are described in Appendix 6 to the shared section of the curriculum.

Projects outside the course scope, projects in practice and thesis preparation projects may not exceed 45 ECTS of the programme.

6.1.4 Thesis

The MSc Programme in Agricultural Economics includes a thesis corresponding to 30 ECTS, as described in Appendix 2 to the shared curriculum. The thesis must be written within the academic scope of the programme.

6.1.5 Academic mobility

The curriculum makes it possible to follow subject elements outside the Faculty of Science.

For students admitted in September the academic mobility in the MSc Programme in Agricultural Economics is placed in block 1+2 of the 2nd year.

For students admitted in February the academic mobility in the MSc Programme in Agricultural Economics is placed in block 3+4 of the 2nd year.

Academic mobility requires that the student follows the rules and regulations regarding pre-approval and credit transfer.

In addition the student has the possibility to arrange similar academic mobility in other parts of the programme.

7 Exemptions

In exceptional circumstances, the study board may grant exemptions from the rules in the curriculum specified solely by the Faculty of Science.

8 Commencement etc.

8.1 Validity

This subject specific section of the curriculum applies to all students enrolled on the programme – see however Appendix 2.

8.2 Transfer

Students enrolled on previous curricula may be transferred to the new one as per the applicable transfer regulations or according to an individual credit transfer by the study board.

8.3 Amendment

The curriculum may be amended once a year so that any changes come into effect at the beginning of the academic year. Amendments must be proposed by the study board and approved by the Dean.

Notification about amendments that tighten the admission requirements for the programme will be published online at www.science.ku.dk one year before they come into effect.

If amendments are made to this curriculum, an interim arrangement may be added if necessary to allow students to complete their MSc Programme according to the amended curriculum.

Appendix 1 Tables

Table for students admitted to the programme in September (summer):

Table – MSc Programme in Agricultural Economics

	Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4
1st year	Applied Econometrics	Restricted elective	Incentives and Regulation	Restricted elective
	Restricted elective	Restricted elective	Restricted elective	Restricted elective
2nd year	Restricted elective	Restricted elective	Thesis	
	Elective	Elective		



Compulsory



Restricted elective

Elective

The table illustrates the recommended academic progression. The student is allowed to plan an alternative progression within the applicable rules.

Table for students admitted to the programme in February (winter):

Table – MSc Programme in Agricultural Economics*

	Block 3	Block 4	Block 1	Block 2
1st year	Incentives and Regulation	Restricted elective	Applied Econometrics	Restricted elective
	Restricted elective	Restricted elective	Restricted elective	Restricted elective
2nd year	Restricted elective	Restricted elective	Thesis	
	Elective	Elective		



Compulsory



Restricted elective

Elective

The table illustrates the recommended academic progression. The student is allowed to plan an alternative progression within the applicable rules.

*This table is only relevant for students who begin the MSc Programme in February (block 3)

Appendix 2 Interim arrangements

The Shared Section of the BSc and MSc Curricula for Study Programmes applies to all students.

The interim arrangements below only consist of parts where the current curriculum differs from the rules and regulations that were previously valid. Therefore, if information about relevant rules and regulations are missing, it can be found in the curriculum above.

Different competence profiles may apply to students admitted to the programme in different academic years. Competence profiles applicable to previous admissions can be found in the Revision History for Competence Profiles at SCIENCE.

1 General changes for students admitted in the academic year 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21.

Students admitted to the MSc Programme in the academic year 2018/19 must finish the programme as listed in the curriculum above with the following exceptions.

Restricted elective subject elements

45 ECTS are to be covered as subject elements from the following list:			
• Restricted elective subject elements offered in this curriculum (list 2)(see above)			
• NIFK14015U	Topics in Development Studies	Discontinued*	7.5 ECTS
• LOJK10258U	Economic Growth and Development	Discontinued*	7.5 ECTS

* See course specific changes below.

2 General changes for students admitted in the academic year 2017/18

Students admitted to the MSc Programme in the academic year 2017/18 must finish the programme as listed in the curriculum above with the following exceptions.

Restricted elective subject elements

45 ECTS are to be covered as subject elements from the following list:			
• Restricted elective subject elements offered in this curriculum (list 2)(see above)			
• NIFK14018U	Applied General Equilibrium Analysis	Discontinued*	7.5 ECTS
• NIFK14015U	Topics in Development Studies	Discontinued*	7.5 ECTS
• LOJK10258U	Economic Growth and Development	Discontinued*	7.5 ECTS

* See course specific changes below.

3 Course specific changes

Discontinued course	Interim arrangement
Applied General Equilibrium Analysis (NIFK14018U), 7.5 ECTS	The course was a restricted elective course in the academic year 2017/18. Offered for the last time: 2017/18. Last exam if applicable (cf. SCIENCE's Teaching and exam rules): 2018/19.
Economic Growth and Development (LOJK10258U), 7,5 ECTS	The course was a restricted elective course in the academic year 2017/18 and earlier. Offered for the last time: 2019/20 Last exam if applicable (cf. SCIENCE's Teaching and exam rules): 2020/21.
Topics in Development Studies (NIFK14015U), 7.5 ECTS	The course was a restricted elective course in the academic year 2018/19 and 2017/18. Offered for the last time: 2018/19. Last exam if applicable (cf. SCIENCE's Teaching and exam rules): 2019/20.

Appendix 3 Description of objectives for the thesis

After completing the thesis, the student should have:

Knowledge about:

- Scientific problems within the study programme's subject areas.
- A suitable combination of methodologies/theories based on international research for use in his/her work with the problem formulation.
- Theories/models on the basis of an organised value system and with a high degree of independence.

Skills in/to:

- Apply and critically evaluate theories/methodologies, including their applicability and limitations.
- Assess the extent to which the production and interpretation of findings/material depend on the theory/methodology chosen and the delimitation chosen.
- Discuss academic issues arising from the thesis.
- Draw conclusions in a clear and academic manner in relation to the problem formulation and, more generally, considering the topic and the subject area.
- Discuss and communicate the academic and social significance, if any, of the thesis based on ethical principles.

Competences in/to:

- Initiate and perform academic work in a research context.
- Solve complex problems and carry out development assignments in a work context.

If the thesis includes experimental content/own data production, the student will also be able to:

- Substantiate the idea of conducting experimental work/producing own data in order to shed light on the topic as formulated in the problem formulation.
- Process data through a choice of academic analysis methods and present findings objectively and in a concise manner.
- Assess the credibility of own findings based on relevant data processing.