



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service



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Master's degree

UNIKASSEL
VERSITÄT

MSc International Food Business and Consumer Studies (IFBC)

University of Kassel • Witzenhausen

Overview

Degree	Master of Science
In cooperation with	Fulda University of Applied Sciences
Teaching language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">English
Languages	Courses are held in English.
Programme duration	4 semesters
Beginning	Winter semester
Application deadline	Applicants with a first academic degree that was acquired outside of Germany: 1 March in order to allow time for registration, financing and visa formalities Applicants with degrees earned in Germany: 1 September
Tuition fees per semester in EUR	None
Combined Master's degree / PhD programme	No
Joint degree / double degree programme	Yes

Description/content

The Master's programme in International Food Business and Consumer Studies is characterised by a multidisciplinary approach at the interface between agriculture, food business and consumer science within an international context. Our goal is to qualify students to manage complex processes along the food chain, to develop and market food products and related services according to the needs of different consumer groups.

During the first semester, students are assigned one bridging module. This is designed to compensate for different levels of students' background knowledge and skills.

Compulsory modules:

- "International legislation on consumer protection and food" introduces key institutions and related administrative bodies in the EU, food products labelling, the legislation for production, distribution or sale of novel or functional food, risk management and risk communication, the barriers to the free flow of goods, and the national food control systems in Europe.
- "International organic food markets and marketing" covers the analysis of international markets for organic products, organic regulations, and basics of food marketing for exporters.

- "Research methods" provides basic knowledge in social research methods, as well as competencies to understand and work with qualitative and quantitative research methods including knowledge of data survey and analysis and data evaluation.
- "Project work" provides the opportunity to develop advanced competencies in managing research and development projects. In cooperation with external partners, students work on interdisciplinary problems.
- "Recent developments in food and nutritional sciences" covers recent scientific results on food constituents and processing, their physiological effects within various nutritional patterns, and their influence on the quality of raw material and final food products.
- "Consumer science and sustainable consumption" enables the student to understand the social and psychological impact on consumer behaviour, recent developments in consumption and the deduction of future trends with emphasis on sustainability.
- "Food product development" explores stages of product development, quality function deployment, processing and product formulations, food chemistry, manufacturing, food regulations, food additives, product testing, shelf life studies and factors affecting shelf life.
- "Food quality management" enables students to describe and understand the main challenges in developing and implementing an effective quality management system, to determine the verification of food security according to international standards, and the traceability within the food chain, and to implement an effective risk management system.

From a catalogue of business and food-related modules such as Organic Food Processing and Food Quality, Information Systems for the Food Industry, Marketing Research, etc., three elective modules have to be chosen.

The Master's thesis is an individual research study. Students work on topics related to international food economics and consumer science, often in cooperation with external partners in this field.

Course Details

Course organisation

The course duration is four semesters, starting in October. Teaching is organised on a module-credit basis and is delivered over three semesters. The fourth semester is dedicated to the completion of the Master's thesis. Students must complete 14 modules in order to successfully finish the programme. A module overview and more detailed information on all subjects are available on the website.

Learning methods include lectures, workshops, seminars and project work. The module "Project Work" includes intensive group work and teamwork activities.

Each course module is assessed individually, generally on the quality of written or visual presentation work and on oral presentations. Assessment methods may include reports, seminar papers, formal written examinations, project work, visual and oral presentations, workshops, simulations and practical exercises. The majority of the assessments are based on individual assignments but group work is also assessed.

The unique features of the programme – "short paths", traditions in project-oriented teaching and work and individual contacts between teachers and students - create optimal conditions for an excellent learning approach in the programme.

This is a joint degree programme between two German universities: University of Kassel (Organic Agricultural Sciences) and Fulda University of Applied Sciences (Nutritional, Food and Consumer Sciences). The main course location is Witzenhausen campus. Classes are taught regularly one or two days per week at campus Fulda.

A Diploma supplement will be issued

Yes

International elements

- Training in intercultural skills
- Study trips
- Projects with partners in Germany and abroad
- International comparisons and thematic reference to the international context
- Integrated study abroad unit(s)
- International guest lecturers

Integrated study abroad unit(s)	German students are required to earn at least 12 ECTS abroad. Students holding a first degree from a university outside Germany are not expected to spend a semester abroad.
Integrated internships	No internship is included, but support and contacts to companies and institutions are available.
Course-specific, integrated German language courses	Yes
Course-specific, integrated English language courses	No

Costs / Funding

Tuition fees per semester in EUR	None
Semester contribution	Mandatory registration fees allow students to use public transport free of charge and to eat at the university's refectories and cafeterias at reduced prices. The registration fee increases regularly – for the 2023/2024 winter semester, it will be approximately 310 EUR.
Costs of living	In order to cover personal expenses while studying in Kassel, it is recommended that students budget around 750 to 900 EUR per month for accommodation, food, health insurance, books, and miscellaneous expenses.
Funding opportunities within the university	No

Requirements / Registration

Academic admission requirements	The programme attracts students from a wide range of backgrounds, disciplines and nationalities. Applicants are welcome from academic disciplines in the fields of agricultural science, nutrition, food and consumer sciences and food technology. Admission is normally open to those with a good undergraduate honours degree (or equivalent overseas degree from a recognised institution) with a "B" (upper division) grade average assessment on the final certificate or an average final grade of at least 2.5 on the German scale. A letter of motivation and two letters of reference that prove the eligibility of the applicant are additionally requested. For further information, see: http://www.uni-kassel.de/go/m_ifbc/
Language requirements	Applicants whose first language is not English should be able to demonstrate a satisfactory level of spoken and written English and provide a proof of their language skills in English, level C1 according to CEFR or equivalent (e.g. TOEFL – Internet-based, IELTS or an equivalent certificate). Further information: http://www.uni-kassel.de/go/m_ifbc/
Application deadline	Applicants with a first academic degree that was acquired outside of Germany: 1 March in order to allow time for registration, financing and visa formalities Applicants with degrees earned in Germany: 1 September

Submit application to

All information can be found on http://www.uni-kassel.de/go/m_ifbc/.

Applicants with a first academic degree from outside of Germany, please apply through uni-assist.

The online application is available at <https://www.uni-assist.de/en/>.

Services

Possibility of finding part-time employment

Students can apply for various part-time jobs or work as student assistants on campus. Please have a look at www.uni-kassel.de. Some departments also provide positions as tutors or working students.

Accommodation

International students enrolled at the University of Kassel can choose between staying at a student residence hall ("Wohnheim") or private accommodation. There are about 1,000 rooms available in the student residencies around the campus. Please have a look at <https://www.studierendenwerk-kassel.de/en/wohnen/>. Rent for a room varies between 200 and 350 EUR per month depending on the location and facilities. Students can choose single apartments with en-suite facilities or a shared flat with fellow students. Private furnished or unfurnished accommodation in Kassel is also available and can be found in the local paper, on flyers on campus, or on the Internet (e.g. social media).

Support for international students and doctoral candidates

- Welcome event
- Tutors
- Accompanying programme
- Specialist counselling
- Visa matters

General services and support for international students and doctoral candidates

Mentoring system

Contact

University of Kassel

Organic Agricultural Sciences

Ute Gilles

Steinstr. 19
37213 Witzenhausen

Tel. +49 5542981214

✉ ifbc@uni-kassel.de

🌐 Course website: <https://www.uni-kassel.de/uni/studium/international-food-business-and-consumer-studies-master>

Helga Keil

Tel. +49 6619640356

✉ [Email](#)

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www.daad.de/international-programmes
www.daad.de/sommerkurse

Editor

DAAD - Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst e.V.
German Academic Exchange Service
Section K23 – Information on Studying in Germany
Kennedyallee 50
D-53175 Bonn
www.daad.de

GATE-Germany

Consortium for International Higher Education Marketing
www.gate-germany.de

Disclaimer

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