



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service



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# Master's degree



## International Master of Science in Rural Development (IMRD)

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin • Berlin

### Overview

Degree	Master of Science in Rural Development
In cooperation with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ghent University, Belgium (UGent)</li><li>• Institut Agro Rennes Angers, France (IARA)</li><li>• Universidad de Cordoba, Spain (UCO)</li><li>• Slovenska Polnohospodarska Univerzita V Nitre, Slovakia (SUA)</li><li>• Universita di Pisa, Italy (UNIFI)</li></ul>
Teaching language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• English</li></ul>
Languages	Courses are held in English.
Full-time / part-time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• full-time</li></ul>
Programme duration	4 semesters
Beginning	Winter semester
Application deadline	<p>Non-<a href="#">EEA</a> citizens need to complete the online application before 1 March for the following winter semester (starting in September).</p> <p>Non-<a href="#">EEA</a> citizens living in Belgium with a valid residence permit or <a href="#">EEA</a> citizens who are not applying for a scholarship must complete the application before 1 June.</p>
Tuition fees per semester in EUR	Yes
Additional information on tuition fees	<p>In order to follow the programme, students need to pay a participation cost, covering all activities the different universities should reasonably provide to enable you to complete your degree.</p> <p>Covered: lectures, case study participation, tuition fee for all partners where you take courses.</p> <p>Participation cost:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4,500 EUR per academic year for programme country nationals</li><li>• 9,000 EUR per academic year for partner country nationals</li></ul>
Combined Master's degree / PhD programme	No

Joint degree / double degree programme

Yes

Description/content

Rural areas today face multiple challenges, ranging from economic inequalities to environmental sustainability and social inclusion. The International Master of Science in Rural Development (IMRD) programme recognises the urgency of developing a new cadre of professionals capable of addressing these challenges holistically and of proposing solutions for social transformation that strengthen the role of rural areas. Therefore, the IMRD aims to train graduates who can not only support the development of rural areas as such, but also research and promote the contribution of rural areas to overarching societal challenges.

Overall objectives of IMRD are:

1. **Comprehensive education:** Our curriculum includes a unique blend of applied and social sciences related to rural development, covering qualitative and quantitative approaches as well as the multidisciplinary development of skills and competences, providing students with a comprehensive understanding of the complex dynamics in rural areas.
2. **Practical engagement:** Through immersive fieldwork, case studies, practical training, and collaborative projects with a network of academic and non-academic partners in Europe and abroad, students will gain practical experience, and work directly with rural communities. This practical engagement promotes transdisciplinary learning and bridges the gap between theory and practical application, fostering empathy and understanding that are critical to effective action.
3. **Intercultural exchange:** Through an extensive consortium network, student mobility tracks and staff exchanges, our programme will facilitate learning and teaching environments for both students and staff in diverse situations, contexts and settings worldwide. This engagement will broaden perspectives, enrich learning, and promote inclusive approaches to rural development.

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## Course Details

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Course organisation

The academic programme covers two academic years that consist of two course semesters each and a case study in the summer.

The IMRD starts with a General Entrance Module in the first semester. The General Entrance Module (25 to 30 ECTS) is common for all IMRD students and takes place at UGent during the first semester. It consists of a basic skills and knowledge foundation package, in a combination of an obligatory course package of 25 ECTS. A set of courses that focus on theory of rural development and rural sociology, scientific communication skills, and basic research methods needs to ensure that each student has the required general theoretical and methodological knowledge to become a rural development specialist. Students follow two rural development labs and a seminars course jointly offered by the partners.

In Advanced Module I (semester two) and Advanced Module II (semester three), students further acquire specialised skills and interdisciplinary knowledge essential for them to later drive meaningful transformations in rural communities. Students take the Advanced Module I and Module II within one of the following three tracks:

1. Agri-food systems and sustainable rural development
2. Social transitions and rural development policies
3. Governance and sustainability in rural development

Between the second and third semester, the students complete a compulsory case study (10 ECTS summer course). This is an important practical component of the programme, which is made possible by the international scope of the programme.

The fourth semester is dedicated to the Master's dissertation. Students are supervised by experts of the two partner universities at which they spent semester two and three as part of their chosen track.

<b>A Diploma supplement will be issued</b>	No
<b>International elements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training in intercultural skills</li> <li>• International guest lecturers</li> <li>• Integrated/optional study abroad unit(s)</li> <li>• Courses are led with foreign partners</li> <li>• Content-related regional focus</li> </ul>
<b>Integrated/optional study abroad unit(s)</b>	All IMRD students are required to spend at least one semester at a minimum of three EU partner universities. Depending on the track and individual mobility choices, additional mobility requirements (case study, internship) may be necessary.
<b>Special promotion / funding of the programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ERASMUS+</li> </ul>
<b>Course-specific, integrated German language courses</b>	No
<b>Course-specific, integrated English language courses</b>	Yes

## Costs / Funding

<b>Tuition fees per semester in EUR</b>	Yes
<b>Additional information on tuition fees</b>	<p>In order to follow the programme, students need to pay a participation cost, covering all activities the different universities should reasonably provide to enable you to complete your degree.</p> <p>Covered: lectures, case study participation, tuition fee for all partners where you take courses.</p> <p>Participation cost:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4,500 EUR per academic year for programme country nationals</li> <li>• 9,000 EUR per academic year for partner country nationals</li> </ul>
<b>Semester contribution</b>	Included in participation cost
<b>Funding opportunities within the university</b>	Yes
<b>Description of the above-mentioned funding opportunities within the university</b>	Financial aid in the form of scholarships (Erasmus Mundus, VLIR-UOS) can be awarded to top applicants.

## Requirements / Registration

**Academic admission requirements**

Academic Bachelor's degree of min. three years from a university or recognised equivalent. This degree is preferably in the field of bioscience engineering or agricultural sciences with good overall scores. Other degrees can also be accepted if you meet the requirements below.

Applicants must demonstrate through a transcript of records that they have basic academic training in the following:

- mathematics and/or statistics
- life sciences
- social sciences and/or rural development and/or economics

**Language requirements**

The English language proficiency can be met by providing a certificate (validity of five years) of one of the following tests:

- TOEFL iBT 80; TOEFL iBT Home Edition is accepted.
- TOEFL PBT 550
- ACADEMIC IELTS 6.5 overall score with a minimum of 6.0 for writing
- CEFR B2 issued by a European university language centre
- ESOL CAMBRIDGE English CAE (Advanced)

**Application deadline**

Non-**EEA** citizens need to complete the online application before 1 March for the following winter semester (starting in September).

Non-**EEA** citizens living in Belgium with a valid residence permit or **EEA** citizens who are not applying for a scholarship must complete the application before 1 June.

**Submit application to**

<https://www.imrd.ugent.be/application>

## Services

**Support for international students and doctoral candidates**

- Welcome event
- Accompanying programme
- Specialist counselling
- Support with registration procedures

**Supervisor-student ratio**

1:15

# Contact

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🌐 Course website: <https://www.imrd.ugent.be/>

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# International Programmes in Germany - Database

[www.daad.de/international-programmes](http://www.daad.de/international-programmes)  
[www.daad.de/sommerkurse](http://www.daad.de/sommerkurse)

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Consortium for International Higher Education Marketing  
[www.gate-germany.de](http://www.gate-germany.de)

## Disclaimer

The data used for this database was collected and analysed in good faith and with due diligence. The DAAD and the Content5 AG accept no liability for the correctness of the data contained in the "International Programmes in Germany" and "Language and Short Courses in Germany".

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