

Academic Year 2023/2024

# Master of Science in Agricultural and Food Economics

Laurea Magistrale in Economia e Gestione del Sistema Agro-Alimentare



**SMEA**  
ALTA SCUOLA DI MANAGEMENT  
ED ECONOMIA AGRO-ALIMENTARE



Double Degree



AFEPA  
programme



UNIVERSITÀ  
CATTOLICA  
del Sacro Cuore

## Why to apply?

Key factors of the MSc in Agricultural and Food Economics are:

**The school.** The course is organised in the context of the SMEA Graduate School of the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC). The School has more than 30 years of experience in graduate education in the field of agricultural and food economics and business. It is part of the Postgraduate School's System of UCSC, a recognition of the institute's excellence in university education.

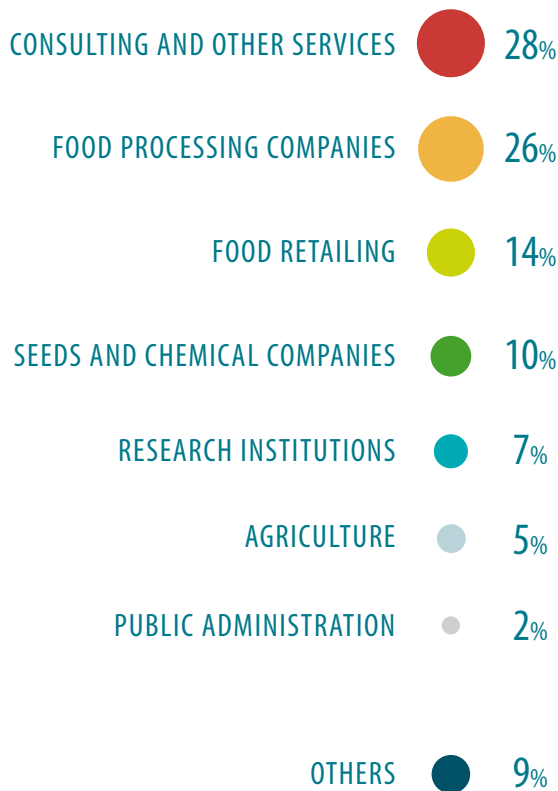
**The method.** You will experience an intensive teaching activity with active in-class participation, a direct interaction with the faculty members, and a constant relationships with academics, companies, and stakeholders of the agricultural and food supply chain.

**The university network.** The MSc also promotes a study experience at a foreign university within the UCSC network. Selected students can spend one or two semesters of the second year of the MSc at a partner university in Europe, Australia or North America.

**The uniqueness.** The MSc in Agricultural and Food Economics at UCSC has been the first Italian MSc programme in the agri-business area entirely taught in English.

**The results.** The school, the method, the university network, together with motivation and commitment of the student, help to obtain good academic results and a strong position in the job market.

## Sector of employment of graduates



## Programme structure

First Year Courses	ECTS Credits	Semester	
		October January	March June
<b>Business management and finance (integrated)</b>			
⊙ Management basics	5	●	
⊙ Financial accounting and business evaluation	6		●
<b>Economic fundamentals of the agri-food system (integrated)</b>			
⊙ Microeconomics for the agri-food system	5	●	
⊙ Economics of the agri-food system	5	●	
<b>Food safety management (integrated)</b>			
⊙ Food protection management	5	●	
⊙ Food risk analysis and management	5		●
<b>Quantitative methods (integrated)</b>			
⊙ Applied mathematics and statistics for the agri-food system	6	●	
⊙ Applied econometrics for the agri-food system	6		●
<b>Industrial organization (integrated)</b>			
⊙ Strategic decision making	4	●	
⊙ Industrial organization of the food system	6		●
Agricultural and food marketing	6		●
Research methods in agricultural and food economics	1		●

Second Year Courses	ECTS Credits	Semester	
		October January	March June
<b>A - Common courses and activities</b>			
⊙ Economics of agricultural and food markets	7	●	
⊙ Agricultural and food market institutions	6	●	
⊙ Soft skills and entrepreneurship	1	●	
⊙ Optional courses (*)	10		
⊙ Thesis	20		
<b>B - "Marketing and consumer behaviour" profile courses</b>			
⊙ Multi-channel retail marketing	5	●	
⊙ Food consumer psychology and market intelligence	5	●	
⊙ Qualitative research methods for the agri-food system	5		●
<b>C - "Business and management" profile courses</b>			
⊙ Food supply chain management	5	●	
⊙ Business planning for start-up	5		●
⊙ Business strategy and leadership	5		●
Seminars	1	●	●

(\*) Suggested optional courses: Law and regulation in food value chains (5 ECTS), Agricultural, food and environmental policies (5 ECTS), Economics of sustainability and circularity (5 ECTS), Food footprint: the environmental impact of the agro food chain (5 ECTS), Italian civilization and language for international students (5 ECTS). Moreover, students selecting one profile have the possibility to take up to one course from the other profile as optional course.

## A strong international orientation





### Studying in English

The whole program of the MSc in Agricultural and Food Economics is taught in English

### Studying abroad

In the context of the exchange programmes of UCSC, and based on bilateral agreements between SMEA and the host universities, the students of the MSc in Agricultural and Food Economics have exclusive access to:

#### Europe

- ⊙ Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn (Bonn, Germany) 
- ⊙ Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (Uppsala, Sweden) 
- ⊙ Technical University of Munich (Freising, Germany)
- ⊙ Université catholique de Louvain (Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium) 
- ⊙ Wageningen University (Wageningen, The Netherlands) 

#### USA\*

- ⊙ North Dakota State University (Fargo, North Dakota)
- ⊙ University of California (Davis, California)\*\*

#### Australia\*

- ⊙ Western Sydney University (Sydney, Australia)
- ⊙ Griffith University (Brisbane, Australia)
- ⊙ RMIT University (Melbourne, Australia)

\* Exchange agreements are revised and confirmed every year according to students mobility balance.

\*\*For this destination students compete with other MSc students of the Faculty of Agricultural, food and environmental sciences.

The number of available places is limited and students participating in all the exchange programmes are selected based on merit and knowledge of English. All these exchange programs are financed by specific grants.



# DD Double Degree programmes

The M.Sc. in *Agricultural and Food Economics* gives students the opportunity to be involved in two different **Double Degree (DD)** Programmes, involving several partner Universities that are offering similar M.Sc. Programmes. Students admitted to the DD Programmes attend the entire second year at the partner University. Thanks to the mutual recognition of ECTS credits and to a jointly supervised thesis, students receive two degrees from both universities. The aim of the DD Programmes is to give students a stronger international background in the area of agricultural and food economics. This also implies experiencing a multicultural study environment, getting used to different teaching and learning methods and taking part to a larger network of job market contacts. Admission to all DDs is based on merit and knowledge of English.



## The AFEPA Consortium

The **AFEPA (Agricultural, Food and Environmental Policy Analysis) Programme** is offered by a consortium of four European partner universities (the University of Bonn, Germany, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala, Sweden, the Université Catholique de Louvain in Louvain-la-neuve, Belgium, and SMEA - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Cremona, Italy). The AFEPA Programme is part of the **Erasmus Mundus Programme**, through which selected students can obtain EU funded scholarships. AFEPA students wishing to apply for scholarships are selected through a centralized procedure before starting their first year. In addition, M.Sc. students of the four partner Universities can join the Programme during their second year. For each academic year, there are a maximum of 2 places available for each of the three partner Universities.

## Wageningen University

**Wageningen University (WUR)** in The Netherlands is the top University in the world in the area of agriculture and food. Thanks to the agreement between UCSC and WUR, from 2007 SMEA students can attend their second year at WUR. For each academic year, there are a maximum of 3 places available.



## Fees & Scholarships

### Fees

The annual tuition fees vary depending on the applicant's financial background. For further information and the exact computation of the fee please refer to:

<https://www.unicatt.it/ammissione/costi-e-opportunita/quanto-costa-studiare-in-cattolica.html>

### Scholarships

Several types of scholarships are available for UCSC students. For all the details, please refer to:

<https://www.unicatt.it/ammissione/costi-e-opportunita/agevolazioni-economiche/opportunita-per-corsi-di-laurea.html>

Specific scholarship are available for international students enrolled in the MSc of Agricultural and Food Economics. For all details, please refer to <https://international.unicatt.it/> Moreover, thanks to an agreement between UCSC and Banca Intesa, students enrolled in the Master of Science may apply for a loan with no personal guarantees property.

## Admission requirements

To get admitted to the program, applicants need to hold an Italian undergraduate degree, obtained after a minimum of 3 years of study (180 ECTS), or an equivalent international degree. An admission committee will assess the student's academic and personal background and decide if the specific conditions for admission are met.

## Language prerequisites

A good knowledge of English is a must for an effective participation to the course. Therefore students must certify their English language level, either

- ⊙ Having successfully completed a degree program taught in English, or
- ⊙ Having one of the following English certifications:

	When admitted	By April 2024
<b>TOEFL/IBT</b>	at least 70	at least 84
<b>Academic IELTS</b>	at least 5.0	at least 6.0
<b>Cambridge English:</b>		
FCE	any score	at least B
CAE	any score	any score
CPE	any score	any score
<b>Trinity College</b>	at least I	at least II
<b>Placement Test</b>		
<b>SELDA - Catholic University Language Service</b>	at least B1+	at least B2

**For Italian students,**  
admission procedures can be initiated at the web page:  
<https://login.unicatt.it/registration/welcome.do?locale=it>

**For international students,**  
please refer to the web page:  
<https://international.unicatt.it/>



## Living in Cremona



Cremona is in the heart of Italian agricultural food production. The city is ideal for living and studying. Cremona boasts Roman origins and a long history of agriculture interwoven with music, art and culture.

This can be seen in the historic centre, organised around the central piazza and its medieval and Renaissance monuments: the cathedral, the baptistry, the tower and the council buildings.



Cremona is **easy to reach**, being directly linked with other cities in Lombardy and the main centres of Piedmont, Emilia Romagna and Veneto.

## Contacts:

# UNIVERSITÀ CATTOLICA DEL SACRO CUORE - SMEA

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## Web:

<https://www.unicatt.it/corsi/magistrale/agricultural-and-food-economics-cremona.html>

## Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/SMEACremona>

## LinkedIn:

[https://www.linkedin.com/school/smea\\_cremona](https://www.linkedin.com/school/smea_cremona)

## Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/smeacremona>

## More Info:



UNIVERSITÀ CATTOLICA del Sacro Cuore



**SMEA**  
ALTA SCUOLA DI MANAGEMENT  
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SMEA was founded in 1984 as part of the UCSC Faculties of Agriculture and Economics, in Cremona. Since 2005, SMEA is part of the Postgraduate School's System of UCSC, a recognition of the institute's excellence in university education and research. Since 1997, SMEA has been a member of Asfor, the Italian Association for Management Education Development, which aims to develop a managerial culture in Italy and to offer training in management.

The mission of the School is to create economic and managerial interest in the agricultural and food sector, offering education, research and consultancy, and raising awareness of this subject.



## Education programs include:

- *Master of Science in Agricultural and Food Economics (Laurea Magistrale in Economia e Gestione del Sistema Agro-Alimentare)*
- *Master in Agri-food Business;*
- *Double Degree;*
- *Lifelong learning.*

## Business Partners:



SMEA's education programs are also organized with the financial support of:  
Regione Lombardia / Comune di Cremona / Camera di Commercio Industria, Artigianato ed Agricoltura di Cremona.