

International Graduate Programmes

MASTER AND CERTIFICATE
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International graduate programmes

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The biggest green university of applied sciences in the Netherlands

To many people, the words 'Holland' or 'the Netherlands' evoke images of tulips, cheese, cows and windmills. Even though they are a bit of a cliché, each of them contains an element of entrepreneurship, innovation and nurturing. It's no coincidence then that we, as a university of applied sciences, have chosen to develop various levels of study programmes in the three domains in which we as a country thrive: Delta Areas and Resources, Food and Dairy, and Animals and Business.

As our world grapples with poverty, food shortages, climate change and how to make the most of the available resources, we are convinced that the world has never needed more expertise, progressive ideas and dedication in these areas as much as it does now. We are proud to be a knowledge institution that inspires generations of students to play a role in devising solutions and innovations for these issues.

Next to its Bachelor programmes, Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences offers a range of Master programmes, Certificate programmes and short courses which will augment, challenge and improve your current knowledge. Even though your academic performance is our priority, the study experience does not only revolve around academic development. By studying in the Netherlands you can count on a culturally, socially and personally enriching experience, which will give you an insight into a new culture, enable you to establish valuable contacts and broaden your horizons.

Studying at Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences

Locations

VHL University of Applied Sciences is based on two locations in the Netherlands: Leeuwarden and Velp. The environmentally friendly building in Leeuwarden has green houses on its roof. The Velp site is situated on the Larenstein estate – a wonderful area for the practical 'green' programmes. At both locations we also offer Bachelor programmes, which results in an interesting mix of students from varying backgrounds.

Our campuses are located in established student cities with plenty of entertainment and cultural experiences that appeal to both Dutch and international students. Both have state-of-the-art teaching, learning and leisure facilities and are serviced by an efficient and convenient public transport system that easily connects you to the rest of the Netherlands and even other parts of Europe.

International

Van Hall Larenstein was formed in 2003 and is the result of a combination of the Van Hall Institute and the International Agricultural College Larenstein. These two institutions have a rich history, providing education for more than a century. We currently have more than 4500 students and approximately 450 employees distributed over two locations.

Educational philosophy

We are convinced that the academic and personal developments of our students go hand in hand. That is why all our study programmes contain a well balanced mix of theoretical knowledge and practical experience that gives our students an important advantage on the job market. All programmes are competence-based: each theoretical subject supports work group situations in which you tackle practical problems and explore feasible solutions.

By simulating professional situations, we coach our students to develop not only their subject specific knowledge but also interpersonal, self management and communication skills. Throughout your study you will be required to get involved in projects that develop your skills around teamwork, planning, working independently, working creatively and reflecting on your actions and behaviour - undoubtedly characteristics that any employer will appreciate.

For more information please visit our website: www.VHLuniversity.com

Master programmes

Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences is one of the few institutions in the Netherlands that combine theoretical knowledge and practical experience and are fully accredited by the Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO). We offer four Master programmes: a Master of Management of Development (MSc), a Master in Agricultural Production Chain Management (MSc), a Master in River Delta Development (MSc) and a Master in Innovative Dairy Chain Management (MSc). Some of our Master programmes have several specialist areas that students can focus on. Graduates are awarded an MSc diploma.





Specialisation

Horticulture Chains

Master of Agricultural Production Chain Management (MSc)

1 year* | Master | English taught programme | Velp

Keeping pace with developments

Through various channels, the horticultural production chain ensures that all vegetables, fruits and flowers reach domestic and international markets. Built upon a complex system of stakeholders and channels, each variable in the sector affects the others. In order to adapt to the constantly changing consumer demands, market regulations, technological advancements and increasing number of national and international laws and regulations like quality requirements, stakeholders working in the dynamic horticulture sector are in constant development and need of optimisation.

A Horticulture Chains Management specialist stimulates development of knowledge and skills that increase stakeholders' adaptability to the business context and optimisation of their processes. Designed to increase professionals' ability to anticipate and exploit these developments, this programme examines each stakeholder in the chain (including suppliers, farmers, processors, traders, retailers and consumers) throughout the farm to fork process.

The study programme is targeting mid-career horticulture professionals, whether working for a private company, tasked to increase efficiency, provide information or control product quality, or in the public or NGO-sector, facilitating the linkage between chain stakeholders as a chain supporter. It is experience based and practise oriented and approaches value chain development from the different perspectives of sustainability, business economics, logistics, quality management, certification, marketing, information flows and international trends.

Competences

As a graduate, you will be competent:

- to analyse the sustainability of value chains and production systems
- to initiate innovative chain processes and projects
- to design new business models for chain actors
- to conduct applied research towards resilient value chain governance
- to build sustainable relations with chain stakeholders
- to communicate global value chain developments in a multicultural setting
- to reflect on a professional attitude in an international business environment

Career opportunities

Value chain specialists will find themselves working either within the agricultural production chain or on the outside, playing the role of a chain manager or chain facilitator respectively. They will act as a facilitator of change applying an integrated chain development approach that considers various political, socio-economic, technical and environmental factors within the horticulture context.

**Please contact us for more information about the different study options of the Master programme, e.g. 2 times 6 months or 4 times 3 months.*

Specialisation

Livestock Chains

Master of Agricultural Production Chain Management (MSc)

1 year* | Master | English taught programme | Velp

Keeping up with international developments

Livestock produce, such as milk, meat, eggs and their various by-products, travel through a complex series of stakeholders and channels before making their way to domestic and international markets. Stakeholders within these livestock production chains work in a dynamic environment, experiencing rapid technological development and an ever-increasing number of national and international regulations and quality standards.

Livestock Chain Management specialists are equipped with the competences needed to evaluate each actor in the chain (including suppliers, farmers, processors, traders, retailers and consumers) and analyse the different stages from input to processing and consumption [from grass to glass or from pork to fork] from various perspectives. They will thus enhance their ability to manage, facilitate and innovate within the livestock value chains.

The study programme is targeting mid-career livestock professionals, whether working for a private company, tasked to increase efficiency, provide information or control product quality and food safety, or in the public or NGO-sector, facilitating the linkage between chain stakeholders as a chain supporter. It is experience based and practise oriented and approaches value chain development from the different perspectives of sustainability, business economics, logistics, quality management, certification, marketing, information flows and international trends.

Competences

As a graduate, you will be competent:

- to analyse the sustainability of value chains and production systems
- to initiate innovative chain processes and projects
- to design new business models for chain actors
- to conduct applied research towards resilient value chain governance
- to build sustainable relations with chain stakeholders
- to communicate global value chain developments in a multicultural setting
- to reflect on a professional attitude in an international business environment

Career opportunities

Value chain specialists will find themselves working either within the agricultural production chain or playing the role of a chain manager or on the outside as chain facilitator. They will act as a facilitator of change applying an integrated and inclusive chain development approach by empowering agri-food or green entrepreneurs that considers various political, socio-economic, technical and environmental factors within the the international agri-business context.

**Please contact us for more information about the different study options of the Master programme, e.g. 2 times 6 months or 4 times 3 months.*

“This programme considers all stakeholders of the chain.”



Specialisation

Forest Chains

Master of Agricultural Production Chain Management (MSc)

1 year* | Master | English taught programme | Velp

Keeping up with international developments

Commodities produced in forested landscapes such as timber, palm-oil, shea-butter, cocoa, and coffee go through a complex series of stakeholders and channels before making their way to domestic and international markets. Stakeholders within these forest commodity chains have to work with ever changing consumer demands, market and certification regulations, technological advancements, and an increasing number of national and international laws and regulations.

Forest Chain Management specialists are equipped with the competences needed to examine each actor in the chain (including producers, smallholders, suppliers, processors, traders, retailers and consumers) and analyse the different stages from harvest to processing and consumption [from forest to floor] from various perspectives, including sustainability. They will thus enhance their ability to manage, facilitate and innovate these forest value chains.

The study programme is targeting mid-career forest professionals, whether working for a private company or as consultant, in the public- or NGO-sector. The study approaches forest value chain development from different perspectives of sustainability, business economics, logistics, quality management, certification, marketing, information flows and international trends.

**Please contact us for more information about the different study options of the Master programme, e.g. 2 times 6 months or 4 times 3 months.*

Competences

As a graduate, you will be competent:

- to analyse the sustainability and resilience of value chains, stakeholders and production systems
- to initiate and manage innovative chain processes and projects
- to advise chain actors and business service entrepreneurs
- to conduct applied research that contributes towards efficient and sustainable value chain development
- to develop policies and networks for integrated value chain management
- to build relations with attention for values in complex processes
- to communicate global value chain developments in a multicultural setting to specialists and non-specialists
- to apply and reflect on a professional attitude in a changing international business environment

Career opportunities

Forest chain specialists may find themselves working either within or outside the forest production chain, playing the role of a forest chain manager, facilitator, certifier, or consultant. They will act as a facilitator of change applying an integrated chain development approach that considers various political, socio-economic, technical and environmental factors within the forestry context.

Specialisation

Disaster Risk Management

Master of Management of Development (MSc)

1 year | Master | English taught programme | Velp

Building people's resilience to disasters and conflicts

One of the key development challenges of our time is the increasing number of people placed at risk of crises and disasters; people's vulnerability increases due to shocks and trends as a result of natural and man-made hazards. The number, complexity and impact of disasters are increasing which heightens the need for better disaster management. Disaster Risk Management (DRM) has become one of the cornerstones of international development: there is an urgency to reduce disaster losses and a need to minimize the impact of disasters on sustainable development. Disasters are, in essence, the result of poorly managed risks and human failure to introduce appropriate risk reduction measures. Effective crises and disaster responses therefore demand a shift away from reactive Emergency Relief to pro-active Disaster Risk Reduction. DRM combines the concept of response and recovery (in the post-disaster phase) with the concept of prevention, mitigation and preparedness (the pre-disaster phase).

Graduates will be better able to respond to natural and man-made disasters in increasingly complex and dynamic environments. In the context of increasing climate variability and climate change (slow-onset disasters), this specialization pays attention to linking Disaster Risk Reduction with Climate Change Adaptation. Additionally, the specialisation touches on conflict, making the course also relevant for those working in tense and conflict affected regions. Central to the DRM specialization is the focus on reducing the negative impact of disaster and conflict on peoples' lives and livelihoods and to build people's resilience to disasters, crises and conflict.

Competences

Upon graduating, you will be able to:

- apply disaster and conflict theories to real-life crises and disaster settings
- understand the changing roles, responsibilities and modes of operations of key DRM actors
- design and conduct risk and context analyses which aim to identify appropriate disaster response strategies and options
- analyse and strengthen local risk governance
- apply emerging good-practice integrated approaches to address crucial issues in building community resilience
- address challenges faced by agencies and staff in responding to crises, including safety and security concerns
- conduct applied research in disaster and conflict affected communities/settings

Career opportunities

Within an increasingly complex and dynamic context, graduates are trained and equipped to enhance community resilience and reduce the impact of crises and disasters on sustainable development. Graduates have acquired new insights and know how to use innovative approaches, which have proved their potential to build community resilience to better manage risks as required by the nature of today's crises and disasters. By looking through a disaster and conflict lens, graduates can make an important contribution to sustainable development.



Specialisation

Food Security

Master of Management of Development (MSc)

1 year | Master | English taught programme | Velp

Local Food Security in a Globalising World

Food security exists when everybody has access to sufficient, nutritious and safe food at all times. However, various predictable and unpredictable challenges around the globe, including changes in climate (i.e. rising/falling temperatures, droughts and floods, diseases and pests), market tendencies, insufficient access to food for households, unequal distribution of resources and opportunities and inadequate food distribution channels, prevent the realisation of this idealistic and often oversimplified term. Despite a growing number of large-scale, high-external input farms and enough food production to feed the world, post-harvest losses result in less optimal yields and (locally) produced foods are often used for other purposes, such as animal feed or biofuel. Consequentially, 795 million¹ undernourished people around the globe do not have access to this lost and wasted food.

Ensuring access to food for everyone is the key to ending hunger, which will require improved collaboration between various stakeholders - producer (organisations), the private sector, governments, traders and development organisations. Structures, policies and programmes must be continuously adapted to a variety of external factors, such as the economy, environment and current social structures. Rethinking of informal rules and habits is another essential step in attaining food security, considering even members of the same household are not guaranteed equal access to food. In light of these external factors and challenges, this specialisation presents various interventions needed to combat hunger and ensure food security for everyone.

¹ FAO, IFAD and WFP. 2015. *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2015. Meeting the 2015 international hunger targets: taking stock of uneven progress.* Rome, FAO.

Competences

Upon graduating, you will be able to:

- analyse rural livelihoods and food and nutrition security
- analyse the livelihoods of farmers who produce for local and regional markets and understand their coping strategies
- define the economic, commercial and marketing needs, constraints and opportunities for small-scale producers in rural communities
- develop appropriate strategies and interventions for local food security
- develop support programmes for farmers, producers and other stakeholders

Career opportunities

Food Security specialists explore effective responses to mal- and undernourishment, by defining needs, constraints, coping strategies and opportunities for small-scale producers in rural communities. In selecting appropriate context-specific interventions, which reflect understanding of the local context in its wider context, they consider stakeholder relationships and how collaboration could be organised to each stakeholder's benefit while helping farmers to safeguard their ability to ensure local food security. In the face of globalisation, slow economic growth and political instability, specialists may design and implement responses for (non-)governmental organisations or partners in the private sector, in the form of projects, programmes, market structures or policies.

Specialisation

Social Inclusion, Gender and Youth

Master of Management of Development (MSc)

1 year | Master | English taught programme | Velp

Linking sustainable development to social inclusion

While governments around the world have committed themselves to fighting poverty, poverty can only be eradicated once marginalised individuals and groups experience equality, regardless of their gender, race, ethnicity, disabilities or age. That is why discussions on sustainable development and reversing poverty often refer to social inclusion. Development organisations and government agencies can contribute to inclusive transformation processes that improve circumstances for marginalised people and allow them to take part in society and benefit from social services and various political, social, physical and market spaces. Youth are particularly important drivers of innovation, entrepreneurship and prosperity in developing countries and engaging them in the agricultural sector and keeping them in the rural areas should be a priority.

To ensure context-specific inclusive transformation processes, development professionals and organisations need to understand and define marginalised peoples' needs, interests, constraints and possibilities, as well as understand their roles in decision-making processes at household, economic and societal levels. This specialisation equips students with competences needed to understand and define these contextual factors, reduce inequities and improve social and economic conditions for everyone.

Competences

Upon graduating, you will be able to:

- identify opportunities for systemic change and enhance opportunities and interests of youth, men and women in rural environments
- promote social inclusion and mainstream gender and other social equity issues in rural development
- recommend changes that will bring about gender equality in organisations
- develop a personal strategy for enhancing empowerment, social inclusion, youth involvement and gender equality in your own profession and organisation

Career opportunities

Specialists in Social Inclusion, Gender and Youth contribute to inclusive transformation of social processes that improve circumstances for marginalised people to take part in society. Recognising that equal access to markets and social services, influence over decisions affecting one's life and young people as key drivers of innovation, entrepreneurship and prosperity will increase security over livelihood and improve social economic conditions for everyone, specialists may design interdisciplinary projects to mainstream social inclusion and reduce inequities. As agents for community development, they may be managers, coordinators or consultants in a (non-)governmental organisation or in the private sector.



Innovative Dairy Chain Management (MSc)

1 year | Master | English taught programme | Leeuwarden

Changes and innovations in the international dairy sector

The Master Innovative Dairy Chain Management (IDCM) focuses on farms delivering milk of sufficient quantity and excellent quality in a profitable manner while adhering to quality and safety requirements of the chain. IDCM is suitable for candidates interested in modern and highly developed dairy chains. It also focuses on milk processing from the perspective of processing companies, collaborating with stakeholders in the chain or supporting the chain. "Innovative" stands for creativity in dealing with complex situations such as: developing scenarios for farms and the sector as a whole for uncertainties as opposed to traditional advisory services; developing strategies for changing circumstances; innovative technologies in production, processing and in chain governance; and the establishment of farms in new countries or new areas.

The educational programme will make use of cases from dairy countries with a high reputation as well as from countries in transition. It is all about the international dairy industry and providing a reliable and sufficient volume of quality milk. The programme is primarily aimed at mid-career dairy professionals involved in management or co-ordination. The 1 year Master is a fulltime programme. IDCM is also available in a parttime programme which takes 2 or 3 years. As an international student you can finish the research part of the Master in your own country.



This programme is offered in cooperation with Dairy Campus.

This project is financially supported by SNN (Samenwerkingsverband Noord-Nederland, Ruimtelijk Economisch Programma).



Competences

Upon graduating, you will be able to:

- identify innovative needs in (inter)national dairy chain projects and processes
- advise on sustainable dairy business development
- facilitate dairy chain governance towards sustainability and efficiency
- mainstream policy development for inclusive dairy value chains
- manage quality assurance in the dairy chain
- conduct applied research in a dairy value chain
- communicate effectively and convincingly in a varying multicultural sector
- apply an independent and creative learning attitude in a continuously changing international business environment towards sustainability

Career opportunities

The programme offers career opportunities through dairy production and chain innovations as well as capacity to facilitate processes of change in the international dairy sector. Both qualities are essential for the three job profiles for which this Master is intended:

- Farm manager
- Chain advisor (e.g. veterinarian, nutrition expert, financial expert)
- Chain professional (e.g. procurement officer of cooperative, lobby expert, sustainability expert, certification expert)

River Delta Development (MSc)

1 year | Master | English taught programme | Vlissingen/Velp/Rotterdam

Delta approach in practice

The aim of the Master River Delta Development is to prepare graduates for employments as facilitator of change in river deltas. Many of these highly fertile and ecologically valuable deltas are prone to increasing pressures related to urbanization and climate change. Sea level rise, river discharge increment, drought, subsidence and heat stress pose serious threats to flood safety, fresh water supply and biodiversity. The challenge is to reduce the vulnerability and at the same time enhance opportunities for sound economic and ecological development. In this master the development is considered as a transition, an ongoing adaptation, that asks for professionals who can effectively intervene in river delta systems. This requires thorough insight into the functioning of the coastal, fluvial and urban systems in river deltas and the coherence between these systems. Besides, a clear understanding of key aspects to sustainability transition in local development is needed. Additionally, being effective demands applied research skills and interactive learning abilities.

The educational programme therefore takes place in a professional context taking into account relevant aspects of the so-called "Delta Approach". This unique and dynamic approach has been developed over centuries in The Netherlands and contains a strategic planning process that integrates sustainability, institutional, physical and social economic aspects. The building blocks of this approach include for instance a long term approach versus short term measures, cooperation between government and stakeholders and innovation.

A minimum number of participants is required for the course to start.

Competences

Upon graduating, you will be able to:

- analyse the (integrated) functioning of coastal, fluvial and urban delta systems
- Interpret current developments in relation to encompassing transitions
- Engage in relevant networks
- Develop and implement feasible interventions in co-creation with stakeholders
- Conduct applied research in river delta systems
- Monitor and adjust the professional learning process and the professional actions
- Enhance joint learning within a professional network

Career opportunities

As a graduate from this programme the job opportunities are wide-ranging. You can become an advisor, project leader, hydrologist, researcher, manager or planner in both public and private organizations. We set high standards for ourselves and aim at educating graduates who can flourish as (junior) consultants in (international) firms and organizations in delta zones worldwide, equipped with a strong set of analytical, technical and reflective skills.



This programme is offered in cooperation with HZ and Rotterdam Universities of Applied Sciences

Certificate programmes

Our one-year Certificate programmes are best suited to those who would like to complement their qualification and improve their current knowledge in a specific field. We currently offer three Certificate programmes which enable you to master the fundamentals of your chosen field or add new skills to a current related position. Our stimulating Certificate programmes are ahead of developments in the related domain, which gives learners a competitive advantage in the workplace. If you have already completed two or more years of a relevant Bachelor programme or if you already have a couple of years of relevant working experience, these programmes could be the right choice for you. A Specialist Certificate is issued upon completion of the course.



Certificate

Sustainable Water Technology

1 year | Certificate | English taught programme | Leeuwarden

The triple P: Sustainable water solutions

Healthy water is vital to people, animals and plants. In this certificate programme you will look at the miracle called water from an environmental, social and technical point of view. You will learn how to treat wastewater and how to produce clean healthy drinking water. You will also explore the social aspects of water technology: you will learn about water policy, different water demands in different countries and how to deal with these technologically. And of course you will learn to deal with water treatment from an economic point of view. This is called the Triple PPP-approach: looking at solutions from a social (people), environmental (planet) and an economic (prosperity) point of view, finding the most efficient combination and communicating this effectively. Modern teaching and learning methods are used: a modular curriculum, an integrated thematic approach, student centred learning strategies and competence-based learning. In the latter, concrete situations from professional practice are the starting point for acquiring knowledge and skills. Furthermore students are responsible for their own learning processes, while coached by lecturers. A part of the program can be carried out through an internship or research project in our Centre of Expertise in Sustainable water technology (CEW) and Water Application centre (WAC).

Main topics and projects

- Sustainable water technology
- Technology for a clear environment
- Water treatment and soil remediation
- Process engineering
- Sanitation
- Energy from water
- Nutrient recovery
- Water reuse
- Sludge management
- Sustainable Cities
- Air quality and climate
- Energy and material cycles
- Dealing with environmental risks
- Basic GIS
- Research project / internship CEW/ WAC

Target group

This Certificate programme is suitable for wastewater and recycling administrators, water consultants, city planners, energy managers, researchers and other professionals in the water and environmental sector interested in developing best practices in sustainable water technology.

Career benefits

Our environmentally oriented courses are well known, which gives you a distinct advantage in consultancy, engineering, (non-)governmental agencies and industry. You gain knowledge of water issues from various perspectives, which places you in a position to suggest well informed sustainable solutions. This puts you in good stead if you intend to be or are currently employed in this field. Your knowledge also allows you to work abroad on water solutions in the field of technology, quality or management.



Certificate

Food and Dairy Technology

1 year | Certificate | English taught programme | Leeuwarden

Food and dairy through the lens of technology

All over the world people appreciate Dutch food and dairy products such as Gouda and Edam cheese. The high quality demands placed on food products, before they are ready for consumption, creates the need for professionals who are experts in the development and production of foodstuffs. This Certificate program covers various food technology fields and processes such as dairy, meat and bakery products. The program focuses on technological aspects of food development and production processes, food quality, health and safety, and logistics. Special attention is given to dairy process technology.

One of the unique features of the Department of Food technology is the pilot plant in which students practice the different food technology processes used in Dutch food industry. In this plant, students and staff work on the development of new, and the improvement of existing products for food industry together with other students, researchers, professors and specialists from food industry. This Certificate program is especially interesting for mid-career professionals who would like to specialise in dairy process technology. Others who are interested in food technology, food safety and food product design in the general sense, can benefit from this programme as well. One of the prerequisites is a solid background in microbiology, chemistry, physics and/ or biotechnology.

Main topics:

Food product development, Applications in dairy technology, Dairy process and product technology, Fermented products, Plant and process design, New dairy processes & simulation, research project.

Objectives:

- Designing a food production process while taking into account safety and quality control systems.
- Designing and developing fermentation processes. Determining the effects of different starter cultures and process environments on the quality and properties of fermented dairy products
- The design, development and production of a new food product: from consumer and market orientation to production try-out.
- Determining the effects of additives and production environment on the quality of dairy products in theory and practice.
- Gaining extensive knowledge on dairy processes, milk components and their behaviour in dairy processes, dairy products and their properties, including the impact on human health.
- Developing a design of an efficient and sustainable dairy process for a high quality and safe dairy product using computer simulation tools.
- Preparing and writing advices for a real client from food industry.

Career benefits

Since the food and dairy industry is very competitive and innovative, this Certificate programme will supply you with the knowledge and skills you need to develop new products of high quality and food safety standards, which will be interesting for new and existing consumers. You will become an outstanding technologist with hands-on experience in dairy and other foodstuffs. You will develop relations with the Dutch food industry that will enhance your further career.

Certificate

Innovations for Sustainability

1 year | Certificate | English taught programme | Leeuwarden

Innovative solutions for a sustainable world

There is no news like environmental news, constantly on the television and in the newspapers; the planet is becoming one of the most talked about topics. From new energy sources to the implementation and enhancement of sustainable practices worldwide - it's all trending. It's about time to restore the balance between the Earth and human prosperity. To do so, as a community, it is vital to battle against climate change and natural disasters. The Innovations for Sustainability programme focuses on sustainable development as a framework to analyse and develop innovative solutions for the most important problems of our time. It puts a special emphasis on environmental issues, such as waste, water, energy, biodiversity, sustainable cities and climate change. The programme covers technology, management and policy while putting the focus on natural sciences. Modern teaching and learning methods are used: a modular curriculum, an integrated thematic approach, student-centred learning strategies and competence-based learning. In the latter, concrete situations from professional practice are the starting point for acquiring knowledge and skills. Furthermore students are responsible for their own learning processes, while coached by lecturers. Part of the programme can be carried out through an internship or research project at one of our centres of Expertise: Centre of Expertise in Sustainable Water Technology (CEW) or Centre in Bio-Based Economy (CBBE).

Main topics and projects

- Innovations for sustainability
- Sustainable cities
- Air quality and climate
- Dealing with environmental risks
- Energy and material cycles
- Basic GIS
- Business and Natural Resources Management
- Solutions for Business and Natural Resources Management
- Internship at CEW or CBBE

Career benefits and opportunities

Sustainable development and innovations are an important issue in most professions worldwide. This programme will equip you for your contribution to a sustainable future. This Certificate programme is suitable for recycling and wastewater administrators, city planners, energy managers, environmental policy consultants, researchers and other professionals in the environmental sector interested in developing best practices in the field of innovations for sustainability. Participants of the programme find employment in: consultancy and engineering firms, local, provincial or national governments, water authorities, industry, research institutions, non-governmental organisations and nature protection authorities.

“The most important problems of our time need innovative solutions”

Entry requirements and scholarships

Entry requirements

Master programmes *

To qualify for enrolment you should have a Bachelor degree or equivalent qualification in a relevant subject and at least two years of relevant post-graduate working experience in middle or higher management positions. You also need sufficient English-language skills (TOEFL 550 or more). Applicants may be requested to submit proof of this proficiency, such as certificates issued by a recognised language institute, for example TOEFL or the British Council. Computer literacy (Windows, Word, Excel) is strongly recommended.

Certificate programmes

To qualify for enrolment, you should successfully have completed at least two years of Bachelor-level studies in a relevant subject. Applicants with a different background may also be eligible for enrolment. Several years of relevant working experience may compensate for a lack of formal qualifications. Every application will be assessed for eligibility on an individual basis. You must have basic computer skills and be proficient in English (IELTS test with an overall band score of at least 6.0, or TOEFL 550/TOEFL iBT 80). For some majors, complementary requirements apply (for example Chemistry or Biology). Please visit our website for more details of these extra entry requirements.

Admission

Admission is possible only for those who meet the entry requirements. If you have deficiencies, or if a period in employment compensates for a lower level of formal education, the admissions committee will make individual decisions on your admission. For details of the admission procedure and the entry requirements per programme, please visit our website.

The Netherlands Fellowship Programme - NFP

Some of our Master and Certificate programmes and short courses are eligible for the Netherlands Fellowship Program (NFP). The fellowship programme is financed by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is intended for professionals from developing countries. To qualify for a scholarship, applicants need to be admitted to a programme offered by a Dutch institute for higher education and recognised by the NFP programme. If you wish to apply for an NFP scholarship, please note that you need to submit your application directly at the university you are applying at. For exact requirements and procedures on the NFP programme, please visit our website. Various other scholarships and grants are available that may help you cover the costs of studying at Van Hall Larenstein University. In general, you should bear in mind that such application procedures usually take several months. You should therefore apply for grant or scholarship as early as possible. Please find more information on www.grantfinder.nl.

* For entry requirements and admission regarding the Master River Delta Development, please visit our website. www.VHLuniversity.com

Studying in Holland

Off campus

There are plenty of ways to keep yourself occupied when you are not studying. Our two campus locations are surrounded by picturesque nature areas where one can easily spend hours cycling or walking. Throughout the year there are several free festivals, markets and concerts in every major city and village in the Netherlands that one can attend. This will no doubt ensure that you come in touch with locals and other nationalities. People from all corners of the globe visit cities like Amsterdam and The Hague each year - and not for nothing. There's so much to absorb in these delightful cities that one would have to spend several weekends there to discover it all. The impressive inter-city public transport system makes discovering other parts of Europe very easy. Cities like Paris and Berlin are literally one train journey away. With almost a thousand museums, the Netherlands has the highest density of museums that house everything from world famous paintings to comic strips. There are also numerous student clubs for all kinds of interests. It is quite common to join a club in order to make new friends and keep yourself entertained.

Accommodation

There are various accommodation options depending on the location where you will be studying. Students generally live in houses or flats with rooms that are occupied only by students and where amenities such as the bathroom and kitchen are shared.

The Netherlands

The Dutch way of life is as varied as that of any other country in world. From the food we eat to the way we celebrate birthdays, these habits are what makes cultures such an interesting aspect of our existence. Here are some things about the Netherlands in general as well as the Dutch way of life that can be peculiar, but nonetheless endearing.

- Bread is a staple part of a Dutch diet. It's eaten for breakfast and lunch. A warm meal is eaten for dinner, which in many homes is around 6pm.
- Cycling is an integral part of Dutch lifestyle. With the country being about as flat as a well-made pancake, cycling here is a relatively stressless, inexpensive, healthy option for short distance and leisure travelling. There are more than 20 million bicycles in the Netherlands.
- Tulips don't actually come from Holland. They come from Turkey.
- Orange is the national colour. This is particularly obvious during important sporting activities in which Holland is represented, at festivals and on certain public holidays.
- The weather in the Netherlands can be temperamental - one moment sunny, the next one rainy and windy. Summers are generally mild with an average of 21°C while the average winter temperature hovers around 4°C.
- Holland is the third largest exporter of agricultural produce, yet only 3% of the Dutch population is employed in the agricultural sector.
- The Dutch are the tallest people in the world. Men average 1.84 m and women 1.70 m.
- A quarter of the Netherlands lies below sea level and almost half of the country lies about a meter above sea level, meaning most of the country would be flooded by the North Sea if it weren't for the dunes and dikes.



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