

The international dimension of the Master of Science training in Aquaculture is reflected throughout the 2-year programme in one of Europe's most historical cities, i.e. the diversity of students, the variety of international visiting lecturers, the worldwide experience of the staff, the top quality seminars and the study trips abroad. A wide range of interuniversity and international research projects, networks and partnerships in Europe, Asia, the Americas and Africa also enforce the worldwide recognition of the Laboratory of Aquaculture & Artemia Reference Center (ARC) at Ghent University and provide a direct feedback to the education offered.



Objectives

The objectives of the MSc in Aquaculture refer to general scientific, organisational and managerial abilities at a Masters level. Independent learning is developed in the context of a need for ongoing and continuous learning and the objectives ensure that students obtain a critical attitude necessary for scientific research. The education leads to both fundamental and applied aquaculture research and management, it also focuses on the competences for executing scientific research and on the technical and managerial requirements for the aquaculture industry.

Learning Outcomes

The learning outcomes and competences will differ from student to student as each one will follow his/her own customized program, with a solid foundation in the basic principles applied. Students are educated to approach the research project from a scientific standpoint, to acquire experience of research via what is known and unknown, to develop and execute a complete research project and, finally, to analyse the results obtained, to critically interpret them in the context of other studies, to write up the project as a thesis, and to present the research to a staff and peer audience. This means that the Master's research project (dissertation or thesis) is the endpoint in which all the objectives culminate.

Networking



Since 1993 the ARC is running an exchange programme with the Aquaculture and Fisheries department of the Wageningen University and Research Centre in The Netherlands. Based on this experience there was, in the framework of the EU - Erasmus Curriculum Development Project MAqFish, an expansion of the collaboration to 7 European Universities (NTNU & UiB, Norway; UCC, Ireland; UAlg, Portugal; UWM, Poland; WUR, The Netherlands; UGent, Belgium) of which many are involved in overseas cooperation projects in China, Thailand, Vietnam, Chile, Ecuador and South-Africa. Each member of this consortium offers a Master programme in Aquaculture. The close collaboration between the

7 universities allows the students to interexchange for courses and/or thesis work. Additionally, Intensive Programmes (Socrates) and Training Courses were already offered by the Consortium: Live feed cultivation, Recirculation systems, Scientific writing & presentation techniques, Statistics & data analysis. This Erasmus CD-project 'MAqFish' is coordinated by Ghent University.

The ICP also benefits from its participation in the European Thematic Network Aqua-TNET, which aims at facilitating the integration of European education in aquaculture, fisheries and aquatic resource management. Ghent University has always been a pioneer and a forerunner in coordinating and participating in various European networks. ARC is also coordinating the Flemish Interuniversity Cooperation with the Can Tho University in Vietnam (VLIR-CTU). This includes the promotorship of the project for 'Distant Education in the Mekong Delta' which generates valuable expertise on the implementation of modern education technology in Developing Countries.



Study Programme

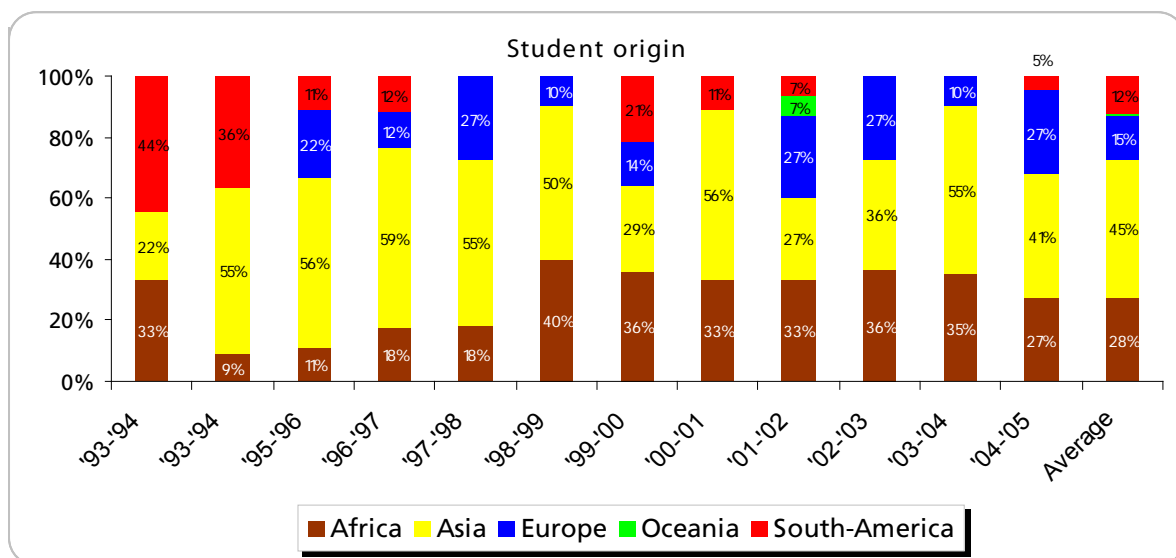
The programme is an expression of the University's strive for cooperation with partner universities and is an example of a way to use the University's multiplicity of disciplines to create education and research that transcends boundaries: university staff from 11 departments from 4 faculties grouped in the UGent Aquaculture Consortium are involved in aquaculture research and/or education.

The full implementation of European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) at the Ghent University guarantees international academic recognition of this Curriculum.

Programme History

The ICP-Aquaculture was set up in 1991 and is followed by students from Belgium, other European and Third World Countries. In the academic year 2005-2006, 21% of the first year's students and 29% of the second year's students were European citizens. In the same period, a total of 34 Erasmus exchange students followed courses in addition to the regular ICP students. They attended courses that are only offered in the ICP Aquaculture Curriculum for a total of 15 to 30 ECTS. These students came from Turkey, Spain, Chechnya, Portugal, France, Poland, Greece, Italy.

Given the importance and potential of aquaculture for Developing Countries, the ICP Aquaculture receives significant funding support from the Belgian and Flemish Development Cooperation agencies (more than 10 scholarships annually). As a result of the highly technological and research-based approach in European aquaculture with increasing career opportunities, there has been a net increase of Belgian and European students over the last few years.



Additional Information

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Ghent University • www.ugent.be
Faculty of Bioscience Engineering • www.fbw.ugent.be
Course Catalogue • www.opleidingen.ugent.be/studiegids

MAqFish • www.maqfish.com • maqfish@ugent.be

Aqua-TNET • www.aquatnet.com