

MDP in Bio-Economy and Natural Resources Management

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Developing of Forest Bio-Economy

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Case: Higher Education in Ghana

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**UNIVERSITY OF
EASTERN FINLAND**

MDP in Bio-Economy and Natural Resources Management (ECORES): A brief resumé

UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN FINLAND
FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND FORESTRY
MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMMES

Bio-Economy and Natural Resources Management (ECORES)



MDP in Bio-Economy and Natural Resources Management (ECORES): A brief resumé

Who is it for?

- *ECORES is designed for full-time students as well as working-life persons who work in the fields of forestry, agriculture or economics*
- *Applicants should hold a BSc or equivalent degree in biosciences, economics or environmental engineering from a recognised university*
- *As all courses are given in English, proficiency in the English language is a prerequisite*
- *ECORES is for applicants who have such a background and a keen interest and motivation to study in an international multidisciplinary environment*
- *The Programme is run at the Graduate School of the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR-FORIG), Kumasi, Ghana*

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What's in it for you?

- *You earn a MSc degree after 120 ECTS and a separate eMBA certificate after 90 ECTS*
- *A MSc degree and an eMBA certificate **will be granted** by UEF and UEF/Ghanaian accredited partner organization, respectively*
- *ECORES offers you a **higher education** that is **meaningfully linked to working life** in multicultural environments*
- *After this, you can utilise knowledge on innovative ways in **managing natural resources as a business**, generating innovative ideas to inspire the **development and application of environmental technologies** relevant for transformation of economies of developing countries*

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Content

- *ECORES Programme has four **modules**, two in **business** and one in **natural resources**, together with **Master's thesis**, and covers the key areas of business administration and natural resource management*
- *The two-year education (120 ECTS) is constructed of **advanced compulsory studies***
- *Compulsory studies are composed of courses related to **sustainable management, development and innovation competence, business relationship and financial management, forest and wildlife management, soil and water management, and adaptation to climate change***

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When is it?

- *The programme can be **completed within two years** (provided 60 ECTS credits are obtained per academic year)*
- *The **official academic year** starts on 1 August and ends on 31 July*
- *However, in the **autumn semester** lectures are scheduled mainly between September and mid-December, and in the **spring semester** between early January and May*
- *Annual applications for admission through **University Admissions Finland (UAF)** are received between early January and mid-February*
- *Extra calls for applications available through **University of Eastern Finland (UEF)***

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Structure and form

- *The study is **structured around four modules** comprising core studies and advanced courses in business management and natural resources management, and a Master's thesis*
- *The **teaching and learning methods** include face-to-face teaching, problem-based group work activities, presentations, interactive student-led seminars, laboratory work, literature-based research and/or assignments and discussions online and offline in the distance learning platform (Moodle)*
- ***Local Ghanaian teachers** from KNUST and FORIG*
- ***Finnish teachers** support through Moodle and intensive courses*

References

- *The Programme organisers (UEF and CSIR-FORIG) have teaching and research experience particularly in three knowledge clusters: forestry, agriculture and environment relevant to this programme*
- *UEF School of Forest Sciences has experience in offering course-based Master's Programmes (European Forestry, CBU Forestry, Wood Materials Science) for international students coming from over 50 countries including Ghana*
- *MDP in Green Biotechnology and Food Security (under development)*
- *UEF and CSIR-FORIG have the experience in organising national and international short term seminars, workshops and conferences*

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Price (tuition fees)

- *5,040 EUR for the two years programme*
- *The collection of tuition fees from **students outside the EU/EEA region** is temporary and based on **a trial period** ending by the end of 2014 (the Ministry of Education and Culture)*
- *What happens in **2015 and after that is not known** at the moment*
- *General view, however, is that tuition fees must be approved in the future*

Configuration of Master

- *We have offered study places for a maximum 25 students per cohort*
- *Master's programme started in September 2012*
- *At the moment all the students (24) are from Ghana, except one from Nigeria*
- *Due to challenges in IT and broadband issues in Western Africa we have only recently been able to plan distance learning possibilities between UEF and Kumasi campuses*
- *Under UEF's responsibility has been the organizing of the curriculum for the programme, the quality assurance of the courses, programme budget and student enrolment*
- *Ghanaian accredited partner organization (CSIR-FORIG) is offering most of the teaching in the programme with the best teachers and their competences confirmed by UEF*

Experience and background of Master

- *The rationale behind the construction and definition of the master was based on **long-term cooperation** between Finnish and Ghanaian organizations on **forestry sector**. The Master was constructed starting from the **educational and capacity development needs** identified by the partner organization in Ghana.*
- *There was a lack of this kind of Master's programme in the **bio-economy** field, tailored to West African conditions*
- *Our programme is **cost-efficient** and fits into the strategies and targets to advance **knowledge in education and research for sustainable development** in Ghana*



CSIR-FORIG – UEF Graduate School: Initiated from ongoing research activities

- *Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Academy of Finland have funded projects in Kumasi, Ghana. We developed Modified Taungya System (MTS) to fit for restoration of degraded forest landscape activities in Ghana (Green Village -programme)*
- *Latest Academy of Finland - UEF project: 2008-2011 (No. 206578), Prof. Ari Pappinen*
- *25 scientific publications + several other titles*
- *23 Ltd companies and/or cooperatives established*
- *14 MSc degrees*
- *4 PhD degrees*
- *2 post-doc trained*

CSIR-FORIG – UEF Graduate School

- *CSIR -FORIG (Forestry Research Institute of Ghana) is our main local partner in Ghana*
- *KNUST (Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology) is our partner in the North-South-South student and teacher exchange programme*
- *KNUST teachers are participating in MDP teaching (paid on an hourly basis)*
- *FORIG has built new facilities for the Graduate School*
- *Financing is based on students' tuition fees*
- *Apart from Ghana, we have got applications from Congo Rep., Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Turkey and USA*
- *CSIR-FORIG has taken care of curriculum accreditation in Ghana and all the permits needed (being a new actor in higher education sector)*

CSIR-FORIG – UEF Graduate School: PhD-studies (no monographs)

- *This far piloted three kind of PhD-studies with Ghanaian partners*
 - *1) **Students from Ghana:** all studies and writing done in Finland with a topic dealing or not dealing with Ghana (funding for living and research?)*
 - *2) **Students from Ghana:** data collection done in Ghana by the student; writing and studies done in Finland (cheaper for the student)*
 - *3) **Finnish students** visit in Ghana, stay at FORIG campus and do the data collection within the field activities and come back to Finland to continue studies*
- ***Only article theses:** articles are done in a research group of the supervisor(s) and under his/her/their leadership; no motivation to supervise monographs*
- *Discussions for gathering a **PhD-student group** has been initiated by our partner in Ghana*



Thank you for your interest!