

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN



UCD SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCE

**Taught Postgraduate Programmes in Sustainable Agriculture & Rural Development
(SARD)**

(Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma and Masters Programme)

Information Booklet

2012/2013

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1. OVERVIEW OF SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCE

The Taught Postgraduate Programmes (Certificate, Diploma and Masters) in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) are offered by the School of Agriculture and Food Science at University College Dublin. The School is the only academic institution in Ireland that delivers education and research on the complete food chain from initial on farm production through processing to final consumption by the consumer.

For more details on the School, see <http://www.ucd.ie/agfood/abouttheschool/>

2. STAFF ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROGRAMMES

Staff involved in the management and delivery of the Programmes are drawn principally from the School of Agriculture and Food Science. These include:

Dr. Pat Gibbons: Director of UCD's Postgraduate Programme in Humanitarian Action. Teaching interests include Local Development in all contexts; Sociology of Societies in transition; Management in Humanitarian Contexts; Applied Research Design; Sociology of Development and Qualitative Research Methods. Research Interests include Humanitarian Action; Local Development and Local Governance. Email: p.gibbons@ucd.ie

Dr. Jim Kinsella (Head of Agribusiness and Rural Development Section). Teaching interests include Communications; Rural Development Strategies and Policies; Project Planning and Management; Food Policy and Sustainable Development. Research interests include Sustainable Rural Livelihoods; Rural Poverty: Analysis of Rural Development Policy; Role of Institutions in Rural Development; Social Capital and Rural Communications and Multifunctional agriculture in the EU and Ireland. Email: jim.kinsella@ucd.ie

Ms. Anne Markey: Teaching interests include Information Skills and Computer Applications; Communications; Social Research Theory, Methods and Data Collection and Rural Development. Research interests include Communications and Rural Development. Email: anne.markey@ucd.ie

Ms. Aideen McGloin: Lecturer in Rural Development and Co-ordinator of the Distance Learning Programmes in Rural Development in UCD. Teaching interests include Rural Enterprise and Marketing. Research interests include Green Care/Social Farming and Policy Analysis. Email: aideen.mcgloin@ucd.ie

Dr. Deirdre O Connor: Co-ordinator for Taught Postgraduate Programmes in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD). Teaching interests include agricultural economics; development economics; resource economics and food policy. Research interests include agricultural and rural policy analysis; food policy and social farming. Email: deirdre.oconnor@ucd.ie

Dr. Dermot Ruane: Teaching interests include Agribusiness Management and Organisation; Computer Applications and Farm Business. Research interests include health,

safety and disability in Irish agriculture; analysis of agricultural productivity and agribusiness management. Email: Dermot.ruane@ucd.ie

Dr. Padraig Wims: Teaching interests include Communications; Programme Planning; Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and E-Business. Research interests include the Application of (ICT) to rural business and rural communities; E-Business in Irish agribusiness and Development and Evaluation of Rural Development Training Programmes. Email: Padraig.wims@ucd.ie

Ms. Henna Kinsella: Section Administrator for Agribusiness and Rural Development, Email: henna.kinsella@ucd.ie

3. FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

Unless otherwise stated, all lectures associated with the Programmes will take place in **Room G 01, Agriculture and Food Science Centre**, UCD, Belfield. Computer facilities and wireless internet access for students are available throughout the Agriculture and Food Science Centre and in many locations on the University campus.

The James Joyce Library at UCD is a key resource for students and a library tour will be arranged at the beginning of term. Please contact the Programme Co-Ordinator for details.

The facilities in the wider university are all that you would expect of Ireland's largest university. There are over 100 student clubs and societies in UCD catering for every conceivable recreational and academic interest. The new Student Centre opened in June 2012 and incorporates a 50 metre swimming pool, a sauna, a jacuzzi and gymnasium as well as a 90-seat cinema, a theatre and a debating chamber. Outdoors, there are 17 natural grass pitches (for rugby, soccer, Gaelic football and hurling), 4 natural grass floodlit training area, 2 synthetic grass floodlit pitches including the National Hockey Stadium and 11 tennis courts.

4. PROGRAMMES OVERVIEW

The Taught Postgraduate Programmes in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) are offered by UCD in response to the new agenda for agriculture and rural area development. They represent a return to core values in the development of rural areas which are rooted in agricultural change as well as responding to new societal demands such as safe and ethically produced food, a healthier environment and sustainable and affordable energy. These issues are as relevant not just in Ireland, the EU and other industrialised countries but also in poorer countries in the developing world. The SARD Programmes draw on thirty years' experience of UCD's past M Sc programmes in Rural Development and Agricultural Extension, incorporating elements of both in these new taught postgraduate programmes. Expertise from UCD's Schools of *Agriculture and Food Science* as well as *Biology & Environmental Science* will be used in delivering the programmes while optional modules will be available from other Schools across the University.

The programmes are designed and delivered in a way that builds capabilities in core analytical, conceptual, communications and research skills as well as providing the knowledge base required to develop careers in the broad arena of sustainable agriculture and rural development. Typically, career opportunities will be found within government, agricultural and rural development agencies, local development agencies, NGOs involved in rural development as well as donor agencies and international development organisations.

The **Masters Programme** in SARD is a one-year full-time course, with the option to pursue it on a part-time basis over two years. The programme comprises 90 ECTS credits in total - 60 credits of taught modules and 30 credits allocated to a dissertation. It is delivered over three semesters with the first two devoted to taught modules and project work. These are delivered using a combination of lectures, small group work, field visits, computer laboratory-based activities and private study. Students who progress satisfactorily through Semesters 1 and 2 proceed to the third semester, which involves the completion of a research project and submission of a thesis. Typically, the thesis component is based on the collection and analysis of primary data on a topic directly related to the study programme (in an Irish/EU or overseas-based context).

The **Graduate Diploma** in SARD consists of 60 credits of taught modules only.

The **Graduate Certificate** in SARD consists of 30 credits of taught modules only.

5. PROGRAMMES STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

Students taking the **Masters Programme** take 40 credits of taught core modules, 20 credits of taught optional modules as well as a 30-credit dissertation, while those taking the **Graduate Diploma** take 60 credits of taught modules only. Students taking the **Graduate Certificate** Programme take 30 credits of taught core modules. Course syllabi and reading lists will be distributed by the lecturers.

Core Modules

For both the *Masters and the Graduate Diploma Programmes*, the core modules are as follows:

- Sustainable Agriculture (10 credits)
- Strategic Communications for Development (10 credits)
- Policies and Strategies for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (10 credits)
- Research Methods Parts 1& 2 (5 credits each)

For the *Graduate Certificate Programme*, the core modules are as follows:

- Sustainable Agriculture (10 credits)
- Strategic Communications for Development (10 credits)
- Rural Enterprise and Marketing (10 credits)

Module Descriptors for the core modules are provided in Appendix 1.

Optional Modules

Optional (or elective) modules are available to Graduate Diploma and Masters students both from within the SARD Programme and from outside the Programme (i.e. offered by other Schools or Colleges within UCD). It is important to note that availability of places on optional modules from both within and outside the Programme is subject to a range of factors, including a sufficient level of demand; availability of staff resources; capacity constraints or timetabling clashes. The following optional modules are available from *within* the SARD Programme.

- RDEV 30170 Humanitarian Responses to Disaster (5 credits)

- RDEV 40050 Economics and Sociology in Rural Development (5 credits)
- RDEV 40180 Management and Finance (5 credits)
- RDEV 40300 Rural Enterprise and Marketing (10 credits)
- RDEV 40470 Planning for Development (10 credits)

Module Descriptors for those optional modules offered within the SARD Programme *only* are provided in Appendix 1.

The following optional modules from *outside* our own Programme are available to SARD students (*again assuming there are no capacity/timetabling constraints and there is a sufficient level of demand*). Please contact the Programme Co-ordinator if you are interested in any of these modules and you will be directed to the relevant co-ordinator.

(i) The following come from the Masters in Equality Studies Programme, School of Social Justice.

EQUL 40200	Disability Issues and Equality	<i>10 Credits</i>
WS 40150	Women, Inequality and Policy	<i>10 Credits</i>
EQUL 40050	Political Theory of Equality	<i>10 Credits</i>
EQUL 40130	Equality and the Media	<i>10 Credits</i>
EQUL 40240	International Human Rights Law	<i>10 Credits</i>
EQUL 40310	Masculinities & Equality	<i>10 Credits</i>
EQUL 40330	Equality in Higher Ed Access	<i>10 Credits</i>
SOC 40280	Political Ecol and Environment	<i>10 Credits</i>
EQUL 40190	Education and Equality	<i>10 Credits</i>
EQUL 40150	Discrimination Law	<i>10 Credits</i>
EQUL 40010	Racism and Anti-Racism	<i>10 Credits</i>

(ii) The following modules come from Masters in Environmental Resource Management Programme, School of Agriculture, Food and Veterinary Medicine.

- ERM 40230 Environmental Management Science (5 credits (incorporating Wildlife Management and Landscape Ecology))

- ERM 40240 Environmental Resource Management I (5 credits) (incorporating Human Impact on Environment & Waste Management)
- ERM 40250 Environmental Resource Management 2 (10 credits)

(iii) The following come from the Masters in World Heritage Management Programme, School of Biology and Environmental Science

- ZOOL40110 Heritage & Environmental Interpretation (5 credits)
- ZOOL40110 Heritage & Environmental Interpretation (5 credits)
- ZOOL40090 Cultural Heritage (5 credits)
- ZOOL40170 Project Development, Management & Marketing (5 credits)
- ZOOL40190 Sustainable Development (5 credits)
- ZOOL40240 Conflict Resolution & Conservation (5 credits)
- ZOOL40130 Global Biodiversity & Heritage (5 credits)
- ZOOL40080 Conservation Biology (5 credits)
- ZOOL40270 Wildlife Management (5 credits)
- ZOOL40260 Cultural Heritage Conservation Practice (5 credits)
- ZOOL40160 Climate Change & the Environment (5 credits)
- ARCH 40270 Landscape Management & Characterisation (10 credits)

On-line registration for modules associated with the Programme is open until **21st September 2012**. Please register for your core options and any optional modules you are fully decided upon at the earliest opportunity. You may need further information or you may need to contact the module co-ordinator regarding other optional modules. Your final choice of optional modules must be agreed with the Programme Co-ordinator.

Minor Thesis (for Masters students only)

The minor thesis provides students with the opportunity to undertake research in areas that reflect their own specific interests. Relevant topics, therefore, can encompass a very broad range of subject areas – from an examination of the impact of environmental protection measures on farming communities in Ireland through to an analysis of the effectiveness of extension services and community development projects in developing countries.

Please note that it is a requirement of the Programme that you achieve a minimum of a pass mark in the thesis component (40%) in order to pass the Masters Programme overall. In other words, no matter how well you do in your exams, if you fail the thesis component, you cannot be awarded the degree. Also, if you do have to resubmit your thesis in order to meet the degree requirements, the mark you receive for the thesis is "capped" at 40%.

As noted above, the thesis is a 30 credit component of the overall course. We usually say that a five-credit component of the Programme equates to about 100 hours of "student effort". So, using this guideline, the thesis should equate to about 600 hours of student effort in total. While this is not in any way set in stone, it should be an indicator that the thesis is a

substantial piece of work, requiring a significant investment of your time and effort in activities such as identifying your research topic; reading/researching relevant literature; deciding on appropriate research methodologies; having discussions with relevant "stakeholders"; drafting presentations, research proposals and thesis chapters; submitting drafts for review to your supervisor(s) and incorporating feedback etc.

6. KEY DATES FOR THE PROGRAMMES

The dates for the semesters in 2012-2013 are below. Please note that a *field trip* will be scheduled during the mid-term break period in Semester 2 (March 2013). Further details will be provided subsequently.

Semester 1 (Sep-Dec 2012)

Teaching Term	Monday 10 Sept. - Friday 30 Nov.	12 Weeks
Revision	Monday 3 Dec. – Friday 7 Dec.	1 Week
Examinations	Monday 10 Dec. - Friday 21 Dec	11 Working Days

Semester 2 (Jan-May 2013)

Teaching Term	Monday 21 Jan. - Friday 8 Mar.	7 Weeks
Study Period (including 2-day fieldtrip)	Monday 11 Mar. – Sunday 24 Mar.	2 weeks
Teaching Term	Monday 25 March - Friday 26 April	5 Weeks
Revision	Monday 29 April - Sunday 5 May	1 Week
Examinations	Tuesday 7 May – Saturday 18 May	11 Working Days

October Bank Holiday: Monday 29 October 2012

St. Patrick's Day: Sunday 17 March 2013

Good Friday: 29 March 2013

Easter Monday: 1 April 2013

May Bank Holiday: Monday 6 May 2013

Semester 3 (May-Aug 2013)

Research Project and completion/submission of thesis*	Monday 20 May - Friday 6 September	16 Weeks
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* The date for submission of the thesis is *Friday, 6th September 2013*. This date applies to Irish-based students only. For overseas students, a later date applies (*30th November 2013*). See Programmes Co-ordinator for details.

7. PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT ISSUES

The overall management of the Masters/Graduate Diploma/Certificate Programmes in SARD is the responsibility of the Programmes Co-ordinator in conjunction with the Head of Section and other staff. For students who have queries relating to the Programmes the following system should be followed:

Queries relating to an individual module should be addressed to the Module Lecturer. Individual module lecturers are named in the module descriptors. General queries relating to the SARD Programmes should be addressed to the Programmes Co-ordinator (Dr. Deirdre O Connor, email: Deirdre.oconnor@ucd.ie)

The Programmes timetable is being issued to you separately and will be also placed on notice boards. It is subject to change so please check the noticeboards and your UCD Connect email account regularly (see below)

In order to address the need for timely and efficient communication, and to provide a better service to its students, **University College Dublin has instituted a policy establishing an official means of communicating with students which will be by e-mail addressed to their UCD Connect email address.** Upon registration at UCD, each student is assigned to a UCD Connect email account. The addresses are all of the same form:

firstname.lastname@ucdconnect.ie.

The official email address will be maintained in each student's record, from which distribution lists are compiled. Students can arrange to have their UCD Connect account redirected to another address or service provider but students should note that it is the student's responsibility to ensure that this alternative mailbox is viable. It is recommended that students use their UCD Connect mail box. **Any official UCD e-mail sent to students will be addressed to their UCD Connect address. It is student's responsibility to ensure time-critical e-mail is accessed, read and acted upon in a timely fashion.**

8. STUDENT CONDUCT AND STUDENT SUPPORT

- The UCD student code of conduct is outlined in http://www.ucd.ie/registry/academicsecretariat/docs/student_code.pdf
In accepting a place on the Programme you are also agreeing to abide by the student code of conduct. Please familiarise yourself with it.
- Extenuating circumstances are unforeseen circumstances beyond your control that either prevented you from attending an examination, or submitting all or any part of any continuous assessments by the due date. Typically such unforeseen circumstances could include events like an accident, a crime, family bereavement, serious illness or other serious personal or emotional circumstances. In some instances you may have attended an examination or submitted continuous assessment, but your performance may have been affected by your extenuating circumstances. The University has a procedure to consider such extenuating circumstances. Please contact the Programmes Co-ordinator if such situations arise.

- Mobile phones must be switched off in all lectures.
- It is not permitted to have food or drink in any of the lecture rooms.
- It is important that you keep all personal items secure, as the School cannot bear any responsibility for loss of such items.

There are a number of different sources of help and advice on various aspects of postgraduate study. Your first point of contact should normally be the Programmes Co-ordinator, who should be able to answer many of your queries or to direct you to another source of help.

Other sources of advice include:

Nature of Query	Sources of Advice
Disability	Disability Support Services http://www.ucd.ie/openingworlds/ucdaccesscentre/supportsforstudentswithadisability/
Enrolment and registration	Registrar's Office http://www.ucd.ie/registry/adminservices/regrecords/teamcontacts.html
Examination arrangements	Lecturers, Programmes Co-ordinator
Financial Difficulties	Financial Information Services, contacted through the Senior Student Advisor, Students' Union http://www.ucd.ie/advisers/financial.html
Graduation	UCD Conferring Unit http://www.ucd.ie/confer/
Student Health	http://www.ucd.ie/stuhealth/
Personal Difficulties	Programmes Co-ordinator Registrar's Office: www.ucd.ie/registrar Student Advisors http://www.ucd.ie/advisers/ University Chaplaincy http://www.ucd.ie/chaplain/ Student Health Service http://www.ucd.ie/stuhealth/ Welfare Office, Students' Union www.ucdsu.net/officers/welfare Niteline 1800-793-793 www.ucd.ie/niteline
Tuition fees	Fees and Grants Office http://www.ucd.ie/registry/adminservices/fees/index.html
International Students	International Office http://www.ucd.ie/international

Appendix 1

**Module Descriptors for Core and Optional Modules offered within the
Masters/Graduate Diploma/Certificate Programmes in SARD**

2012/2013

RDEV 30170: Humanitarian Response to Disasters

General Information

Subject Area:	Humanitarian Action	Short title:	Humanitarian Response
Semester:	SEM_1	Long Title:	Humanitarian Response to Disasters
Module Coordinator:	Dr. Pat Gibbons	Credits:	5
Level:	3	Passing Grade:	40%
Module Status:	Submitted for review		
Available on Blackboard:	Not yet		

Module Places

Overall Places	80	Core/ options	0	General Elective	80
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Module Descriptor

This is a level three module that aims to provide students with an appreciation of the challenges we face to support the most vulnerable populations in global societies; those affected by man-made and natural disasters. The module contents include: (1) an appreciation of the scale and scope of contemporary crises (2) the moral foundations providing the rationale for humanitarian action (3) an overview of the international humanitarian system – policies and practices of key stakeholders (4) contemporary issues and challenges in humanitarian action (5) the Irish humanitarian stakeholder mix; their policies and practices.

Learning Outcomes:

The module aims to give the students the competences to critically analyse contemporary approaches to humanitarian intervention in global disasters. On successful completion of the module students should be able to: describe the origins, values, guiding principles governing humanitarian intervention; comprehend and differentiate between the laws and norms regulating humanitarian intervention; appreciate the challenges facing humanitarian organisations and differentiate the roles and responsibilities of key actors; critically analyse the humanitarian intervention in a contemporary disaster; describe the roles of Irish agencies and organisations in contemporary disasters; and describe and analyse the key characteristics of humanitarian interventions that make them uniquely humanitarian.

Workload:

Method	Workload (hours)
Lectures	24
Workshop/ case study	6
Project Work/ assignment	20
Autonomous Student Learning	50

Assessment Strategy

Description	Timing	Score-by	% of Final Grade	In Blackboard
Quiz	varies	grade	20	
project	End of 1 st SEM	grade	40	
Written exam	End of 1 st SEM	grade	40	

Prior Learning – Recommended

There is no prior learning required. This module aims to get a good mix of students from across all disciplines in UCD – that mirror the competences required of the humanitarian stakeholders mix. These include: Medicine, Law, Engineering, Management, the Social and Natural Sciences etc. It is envisaged that this mix will greatly enhance shared learning and active participation of the students.

Module Title:	Economics and Sociology in Rural Development			
Module Code:	RDEV 40050			
Module Coordinator:	<i>Dr. Deirdre O Connor</i>			
Credits:	5	Level:	4	Semester: 1
Module Places	25			
Module Dependencies: none				
Indicative Module Description: This module introduces students to the fundamental social and economic dimensions of the development process in both an Irish and a global context, with particular reference to the inter-linkages between the different components of development. It critically examines the conceptualisation and measurement of economic and social development and reviews the theoretical underpinnings of a range of development paradigms. The disciplines of sociology and economics are used to address issues such as sustainable development, globalisation, poverty, trade and debt, culture and community organization.				
Indicative Learning Outcomes: On completion of this module, students should be able to: Critically assess the concept of development from an economic and social perspective; Evaluate the key paradigms and schools of thought on development and how they differ from one another; Apply insights from the disciplines of sociology and economics to the key issues impacting on the economy and society of contemporary developing economies; Assess the role of developed countries' policies and institutions on the economy and society of the developing world in order to understand the phenomenon of development/underdevelopment				
Indicative Student Workload:			Indicative Hours	
Class Contact: Lectures			24	
Class Contact: Small Group			12	
Class Contact: Practical				
Specified learning activities			24	
Autonomous student learning			65	
Total Hours			125	

Assessment Strategies:

Assessment Type	Assessment Description	% of Final Grade	Timing
Assignment	Literature Review	10%	Week 4
Project	Group Project Work	30%	Week 8
Exam	Terminal Examination	60%	End Semester

Module Title:	Policies and Strategies for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD)			
Module Code:	RDEV40150			
Module Coordinator:	<i>Dr. Jim Kinsella</i>			
Credits:	10	Level:	4	Semester: 2
Module Places	25			
Module Dependencies: none				
<p>Indicative Module Description: Module is designed to provide participants with an understanding of the national and international context within which policies relevant to sustainable agriculture and rural development (SARD) are framed; to identify the key institutions and actors at various levels of governance that are relevant to the development and implementation of SARD-related policies; to identify the main strategies used to enable SARD and critique these strategies in terms of delivering balanced and sustainable development in Irish, EU and developing country scenarios.</p>				
<p>Indicative Learning Outcomes: <i>On completion of this module students should be able to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Critically analyse key definitions, concepts, measures and indicators related to SARD</i> - <i>Map the identity and role of key actors and institutions (at various levels of governance) influencing the formulation and implementation of SARD</i> - <i>Critically assess the national and international context within which SARD related policies are devised</i> - <i>Critically assess the range of strategies applied in achieving the objectives of SARD in Irish, EU and developing country contexts.</i> 				
Indicative Student Workload:			Indicative Hours	
Class Contact: Lectures			36	
Class Contact: Small Group			24	
Class Contact: Practical				
Specified learning activities			36	
Autonomous student learning			104	
Total Hours			200	
Assessment Strategies:				
Assessment Type	Assessment Description	% of Final Grade	Timing	
Examination	Written examination	50%	End Semester	
3 Projects	Literature Review Project Mid-Semester Essay Small Group Presentation /Project	50%	Early, Mid and Late Semester	

Module Title:	Management and Finance			
Module Code:	RDEV 40180			
Module Coordinator:	<i>Dr. Deirdre O Connor</i>			
Credits:	5	Level:	4	Semester: 2
Module Places	25			
Module Dependencies: none				
Indicative Module Description: The module will examine the key management processes of: planning, organising leading and controlling in general as well as functional management for enterprise and business. It will explore strategic and operational decision-making and how to select and evaluate suitable business locations. The module will also will focus on both business and project financial management and assist students to a better understanding of the main financial accounts of a business, income statement, balance sheet and cash flow statements. It will, through class exercises, apply financial management tools to assess the financial performance of the business/project and to budget and monitor the project/business cashflow				
Indicative Learning Outcomes: On completion of this module students should: be able to describe the nature of management, corporate structures and management processes within a business or firm and its role in achieving objectives; have a strong appreciation of management and leadership roles within the business and the significance of well developed decision-making processes in order to achieve business and enterprise objectives in a rural environment. In terms of financial management the students should have developed: an understanding of basic financial analysis tools including balance sheet and cashflows; the ability to plan and apply a cash flow budget; the ability to monitor a cash flow budget; and the ability to prepare a project/business budget.				
Indicative Student Workload:			Indicative Hours	
Class Contact: Lectures			24	
Class Contact: Small Group				
Class Contact: Practical				
Specified learning activities			30	
Autonomous student learning			60	
Total Hours			114	

Assessment Strategies:

Assessment Type	Assessment Description	% of Final Grade	Timing
Examination	In-class examination	10	Week 8
Project	Finance project	30	Week 11
Examination	End of semester exam	60	End semester

Module Title:	Minor Thesis			
Module Code:	RDEV 40230			
Module Coordinator:	<i>Anne Markey</i>			
Credits:	30	Level:	4	Semester: 3
Module Places	25			
Module Dependencies: none				
Indicative Module Description:				
This component is based primarily on field research and analysis, while in exceptional cases desk research may replace field research. In this module the student develops and pursues a set of research questions related to a topic of interest within the broad field of rural development and will be guided by an assigned academic supervisor				
Indicative Learning Outcomes:				
On completion, students should be able to - Demonstrate an ability to present a research proposal related to a rural development issue.- Demonstrate an ability to plan and undertake field and desk research.- Demonstrate an ability to review and present literature underpinning the research topic.- Demonstrate an ability to present and analyse data.				
Indicative Student Workload:			Indicative Hours	
Class Contact: Lectures				
Class Contact: Small Group				
Class Contact: Practical				
Specified learning activities				
Autonomous student learning			675	
Total Hours			675	

Module Title:	Rural Enterprise and Marketing			
Module Code:	RDEV 40300			
Module Coordinator:	<i>Aideen McGloin</i>			
Credits:	10	Level:	4	Semester: 2
Module Places	25			
Module Dependencies: none				
Indicative Module Description: :The aim of this module is to introduce the student to the theories and principles associated with stimulating rural enterprise and marketing for rural enterprise initiatives. Topics such as marketing principles, rural entrepreneurship and farm entrepreneurship will be explored. The practice of rural and farm diversification will also be examined				
Indicative Learning Outcomes:				
On completion of this module students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Analyse both the European and Irish policy context for the growth and development of rural enterprise. · Assess the mechanisms with which the State intends implementing and fostering the development of an enterprise culture in rural areas. · Specify the principles and limitations of marketing for rural enterprise 				
Indicative Student Workload:			Indicative Hours	
Class Contact: Lectures			50	
Class Contact: Small Group			25	
Class Contact: Field Trip			25	
Specified learning activities			25	
Autonomous student learning			75	
Total Hours			200	

Assessment Strategies:

Assessment Type	Assessment Description	% of Final Grade	Timing
Examination	Written examination	70%	End Semester
Project	Project work	30%	Late Semester Submission

Module Title:	Research Methods Part I			
Module Code:	RDEV40450			
Module Coordinator:	<i>Anne Markey</i>			
Credits:	5	Level:	4	Semester: 1
Module Places	<i>25 (Core for Masters in SARD)</i>			
Module Dependencies: none				
<p>Indicative Module Description: Masters level module which focuses on developing the socio-economic research capacity of students on the Graduate Programme in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development. Topics include: role of research in SARD; principles, theories and methodologies; qualitative and quantitative research designs; sampling; methods and techniques of data collection; research proposal development.</p>				
<p>Indicative Learning Outcomes: <i>On completion of this module students should be able to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Understand and discriminate between quantitative and qualitative research approaches, methods, techniques and research designs</i> - <i>Develop and present a research proposal</i> - <i>Design, develop, deliver and justify appropriate research designs</i> - <i>Appraise research articles</i> 				
Indicative Student Workload:			Indicative Hours	
Class Contact: Lectures			30	
Class Contact: Small Group			10	
Class Contact: Practical				
Specified learning activities			30	
Autonomous student learning			30	
Total Hours			110	

Assessment Strategies:

Assessment Type	Assessment Description	% of Final Grade	Timing
Examination	Written examination	50%	End Sem I
Projects	4 specific individual and group projects including research proposal; analysis of a research method; review of research papers; design and implementation of methods	50%	Throughout Sem I

Module Title:	Research Methods Part II			
Module Code:	RDEV40460			
Module Coordinator:	<i>Anne Markey</i>			
Credits:	5	Level:	4	Semester: 2
Module Places	<i>25 (Core for Masters in SARD)</i>			
Module Dependencies: completion of Research Methods Part I RDEV40450				
<p>Indicative Module Description: Masters level module which focuses on developing the socio-economic research capacity of students on the Graduate Programme in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development. Topics focus on the preparation of data for analysis; data analysis, (including the use of MS Excel, MS Access and SPSS); interpretation and reporting. Students will work on quantitative and qualitative data.</p>				
<p>Indicative Learning Outcomes: <i>On completion of this module students should be able to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Prepare data for analysis</i> - <i>Analyse data using appropriate software and analytical techniques</i> - <i>Present the results of research in a publishable format s</i> - <i>Appraise research articles</i> 				
Indicative Student Workload:			Indicative Hours	
Class Contact: Lectures			20	
Class Contact: Small Group			10	
Class Contact: Practical			20	
Specified learning activities			30	
Autonomous student learning			30	
Total Hours			110	

Assessment Strategies:

Assessment Type	Assessment Description	% of Final Grade	Timing
Examination	Written examination	50%	End Sem II
Projects	4 specific individual and group data preparation , analysis and presentation projects	50%	Throughout SemII

RDEV 40470 –Planning for Development

Module Co-ordinator: Dr. Pdraig Wims

Module description:

Masters level module which help participants to work with rural groups to plan and organise programmes of activities that implement sustainable agriculture and rural development projects and to evaluate these programmes.

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of this course participants will be able to:

- Discuss the principles and assumptions underpinning programme planning;
- Explain the theory of community's needs and needs analysis and assess the steps involved in identifying and prioritising needs;
- Distinguish between vision statements, goals and objectives and be competent to formulate each clearly;
- Discuss how programmes are implemented;
- Analyse the theory underpinning programme implementation to ensure that programme objectives are achieved;
- Explain the theory of adult education in the context of rural development and identify how to plan an effective curriculum for adult learners;
- Assess the theory of monitoring and evaluating programmes and
- Manage programmes.

Methodology: Participatory Lectures/Discussions, Readings and Assignments

Allocation of Marks: (TOTAL OF 10 CREDITS)

Assignments 100%

(Four essays, distributed over Semester 2 reviewing the literature and analysing various aspects of development planning.)

No end of year examination

RDEV 40480: Strategic Communications for Development

Module Co-ordinator: Dr. Pdraig Wims

Course Purpose: This module ensures that participants are competent to plan and implement strategic communications campaigns and have the required communications skills to implement the elements of these communications campaigns.

Course Learning Objectives:

On completion of this course participants will be able to: explain the critical role of communications in development; formulate the theory of human communications processes; design a strategic communications campaign; plan, prepare and deliver effective presentations; plan, prepare and implement one-to-one communication/consultations; write effective project proposals and reports; lead group processes and facilitate meetings; analyse the role of the media in development; script and present items for radio.

Methodology: Participate in Lectures/Discussions with lecturers/

Assigned readings spread over Semester 1

Complete practical assignments

Allocation of Marks: (TOTAL OF 10 CREDITS)

Practical assignments 50%

(Lecture presentation, Writing assignment, Group work assignment)

End of semester 1 examination 50%

Total marks 100%

Practical/project	%
Lecture presentation	15
Writing assignment	20
Group	15
Exam	50
Total	100

Module Title:	Sustainable Agriculture			
Module Code:	RDEV 40490			
Module Coordinator:	<i>Dr. Jim Kinsella</i>			
Credits:	10	Level:	4	Semester: 1
Module Places	<i>25 (Core for Masters in SARD)</i>			
Module Dependencies: none				
Indicative Module Description:				
On completion of this module participants will understand the concepts of sustainability and sustainable agriculture; examine the principles and practices that make agriculture sustainable; analyse the sustainability of current and proposed animal and crop production practices.				
Indicative Learning Outcomes:				
On completion of this course participants will be able to explain the fundamentals of the following topics and analyse the critical role of each issue in contributing to sustainable agriculture and rural development: Key elements and concepts of sustainability (social, economic, environmental); Analysis of strengths and weaknesses of agricultural systems (traditional agriculture / industrial agriculture /organic agriculture/ biotechnology and GMOs); Soil management and nutrition in sustainable agriculture; Waste management in sustainable agriculture; Sustainable animal production; Sustainable crop (including biofuel) production; Water management in sustainable agriculture; Sustainable forest management; Role of biodiversity in sustainable agriculture; Role of extension systems in sustainable agriculture.				
Indicative Student Workload:			Indicative Hours	
Class Contact: Lectures			30	
Class Contact: Small Group			20	
Class Contact: Practical			0	
Specified learning activities			60	
Autonomous student learn			110	
Total Hours			220	

Assessment Strategies:

Assessment Type	Assessment Description	% of Final Grade	Timing
Written Projects	Four individual projects including critique of research articles, analysis of sustainable agriculture research and synthesis of current research articles	100%	Weeks 4, 6, 9, 12 of Semester 1