E-LEARNING INTERNATIONAL MASTER

'BIOSAFETY IN PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY'

2015/2016

Link to MPU

e-Biosafety Home

An international academically accredited course based on a combination of distance-learning and on-campus training sessions. The training programme is of twelve months duration and leads to an academically accredited Diploma. It is distinctively interdisciplinary with students and faculty from natural & social sciences. The course is intended to provide specialised knowledge and skills with regard to environmental risk assessment and management of genetically modified (GM) crops as well as GM food and feed safety assessment. The training material and distance-learning platform have been developed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The programme is supported through a technical cooperation agreement with UNIDO and is specifically focused on crops and aspects of priority for different cultivation areas (mainly Balkan, Mediterranean and Central Africa).

The 2015/2016 course starts tentatively on 2 November 2015. Applications are accepted until the 5 of October 2015.

During the second On Campus of the 2015-2016 Edition, the E-Biosafety Master has included a Workshop in collaboration with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

Training Outcome

- University accredited second level **E-learning master in Biosafety in Plant Biotechnology**

At the end of the programme, successful trainees will be able to conduct risk assessments and apply risk management options for GM crops and biotechnology-derived food and feed. They will also have acquired skills to deal with public policy issues at the interface of science, government, industry and civil society.

Course Content

The course provide a unique academic curriculum equipping professionals engaged or interested in biosafety with:

- up-to-date information on current developments and future trends in biotechnology

- advanced skills to conduct risk assessment and risk management and risk communication in biotechnology
- skills to formulate applications for the environment release of GMOs
- information on and compliance requirements of national and international norms and regulations in biotechnology

Indirectly the course is aimed at building/strengthening capacities of government regulatory agencies and industries to comply to the requirements of national laws and international agreements and conventions (e.g. WTO agreements, Cartagena Protocol, Codex Alimentarius, etc) that deal with the development, trade and transfer of products from modern biotechnology.

There will be two on-campus meetings of approximately five days each.

The programme of this international course is designed to have minimal impact on students' on-going professional activities and and is given in a combination of distance-learning as well as short on-campus sessions. It will have a duration of 46 weeks (322 days) including two on-campus training sessions of one week each at the beginning and at the end of the course. The dates of which will be provided in due time.

Assessment

Trainees are assessed on the basis of:

- Participation in on-line discussion sessions (10% of total marks)
- Submission of seven (7) written assessments (30% of total marks)
- Submission of a dissertation (30% of total marks)
- Final examination (30% of total marks)

Target Group

The Diploma is targeted for individuals interested in or currently engaged as biosafety professionals in government agencies, academia and/or industry. It is also tailored for individuals with an interest in public policy, legal and ethical aspects of biotechnology.

Study Fees

The Marche Polytechnic University of Ancona charges a study fee. For further information on the course fee please inquire with Prof. Bruno Mezzetti before submitting you application!

Entry Requirements

1. The master admits the following students:
    - Italian students having the degree diploma in Agriculture and Food Science, Biology, Biotechnology and Veterinary, or other scientific discipline with an appropriate curricula.
    - Foreign students having a degree diploma in agriculture and food Science, Biology, Biotechnology and Veterinary or other scientific discipline with an appropriate curricula. Diplomas awarded by non-Italian universities have to be recognized by the Agriculture Faculty Council of the Marche Polytechnic University.
    - Differential fees are charged to students undergoing parallel studies, and employees of private enterprises or public institutions).
2. The Master is open to 20 students, selected for the following criteria:
    - Academic qualifications (diploma and appropriate curricula);

    - Motivation in the implementation of structures for international and local rules for GMO biosafety;
    - Sufficient command of the English language;
    - Evidence of computer literacy;
    - Interest on biosafety learning.
3. The selection will be carried out by the local coordinator in collaboration with a local commission and members of the International Faculty.
4. All teaching of the course is conducted in English and it is therefore essential that students have a sufficient command of the language to follow the programme. Candidates for whom English is not their first language will be required to provide proof that they possess an adequate level of English competence.
5. Computer and internet literacy. An essential requirement is access to the internet on a regular basis. See also specific IT requirements!
6. Able to provide evidence of financial support.

Preference will be given to: 1. Individuals who are directly involved in international or local regulatory processes in government, industry, academia or NGOs. 2. Individuals who are directly involved in biotechnology and/or biosafety education.

Note:

Candidates possessing alternative qualifications which do not conform with those normally prescribed for entry may be considered for registration if the candidate, by evidence of their background and experience or general education, scholarship or training satisfies the University and the Scientific advisory board as to their fitness to follow the programme and to profit by it.

Computer, Software and Internet Access Requirement

- **Hard- and software:**
    - MS Windows PC:
        - Computer: Intel Pentium Processor 500 Mhz, 256 MB RAM, or higher
        - Software: Windows 98 (better: XP), Acrobat Reader 5.0, browser: Internet Explorer 7, or higher, alternatively FireFox (version 3 or higher), Flash Plugin for browser, MS Word 6.0 or higher
    - Apple Macintosh PC:
        - Computer: G3 Processor 400 Mhz, 256 MB RAM, or higher
        - Software: MacOs 9.2 (better: MacOs X), Acrobat Reader 5.0, browser: FireFox (version 3 or higher) or Safari (version 3 or higher), Flash Plugin for browser, MS Word 6.0 or higher
- **Access to internet:**
    - minimum 256 kbs modem; preferably: broadband connection
    - access 3 times a week, preferably on a daily basis

Award Requirements

- Successful completion of all modules of the course, including participation in group discussions, discussion summaries, written assignments, final dissertation and examinations. Marks required to pass the course is 50% of total. Distinction is awarded for marks >70%.
- Payment of registration fee in full.

Further Information

Please visit **http://binas.unido.org/moodle**.

Furthermore, for information on issues specific to Marche Polytechnic University (such as registration, recognition of diplomas, scholarships etc.) please contact:

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