

Master of Food and Resource Economics Graduating Project 2017

Program Profile

The Master of Food and Resource Economics (MFRE) degree offered by the University of British Columbia (UBC), is responding to the demand in Canada and around the world, for professionals capable of solving real problems in the food and resource sectors by combining the business and management elements of an MBA, with the economic and analytical rigour of a M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics.

The MFRE degree uniquely combines applied economics with policy analysis and agribusiness management. The program is geared towards graduates and professionals looking to sharpen their skill-sets with more advanced economics, business analysis tools, and real world applications. MFRE courses are offered by faculty members and executives from industry and government, working in the food and resource sectors.

Graduating Project

After two terms of intensive coursework focused on developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills, MFRE candidates spend the summer on a crucial component of the program – they undertake a work/research experience (Graduating Project), applying their recently acquired and/or enhanced concepts and skills to solving real world problems.

MFRE Candidate Profile

There are more than 160 MFRE alumni and candidates from 29 countries across the globe. Many enter the program with several years of work experience, and come from a broad range of backgrounds including economics, commodity trading, agricultural production/processing, corporate finance, management consulting, marketing, public relations, and span the corporate, non-profit, and government worlds.

Benefits for Partner Organizations

MFRE candidates add significant value by bringing valuable resources to our Partner Organizations:

- Portfolio of practical problem-solving skills
 - Applied economics
 - Policy analysis
 - Agribusiness management
 - Quantitative skills
- Valuable networks, experience and expertise
- Access to research and analytics powerhouse

Research and analytics powerhouse

MFRE candidates bring to partner organizations access to the research and analytic capabilities of the entire program. MFRE faculty, instructors and alumni have collectively produced several hundred publications across media print, academic and business journals. In addition, MFRE candidates bring direct access to:

- UBC library resources: more than 200,000 business and academic journals, and 7 million titles
- Bloomberg professional terminals, worth \$24,000/year or \$8,000 for a 4-month summer engagement – Bloomberg terminals offer valuable market data, peer comparisons, industry overviews, street research and valuation models
- Program support in data analytics tools, including Powerpivot, Access, ArcGIS and Stata

Portfolio of practical problem-solving skills

MFRE candidates enter the program with their unique portfolio of skills, which are then further enhanced and developed through the program, in the following areas:

Applied Economics:

- Agricultural commodity prices, including the economic determinants of commodity pricing relationships over space, time and form
- Global markets for food and resources with emphasis on trade and competitiveness
- Foundations to conduct sound empirical research related to trade, consumer demand and food markets, through data and regression analysis in Stata, R and advanced spreadsheets
- Develop an ability to review critically articles and studies concerning food and resource markets

Policy Analysis:

- Performing cost-benefit analysis through rigorous modelling
- Evaluating and quantifying greenhouse gas emissions and carbon offsets
- Analyzing a matrix of policy options with likely economic, environmental and efficiency vs. equity outcomes, and institutional constraints to implementation
- Evaluating project effectiveness utilizing UNDP principles of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Agribusiness Management:

- Analyzing financials to support interpretation, and strategic planning for an agribusiness firm
- Identifying growth opportunities and developing business plans based on in-depth market research
- Assessing business practices and making recommendations for improvements
- Hedging commodity price risks for varying production profiles (e.g. annual and perennial crops)
- Simulated commodity trading game and access to the CBOT Futures trading competition and the Bloomberg and Capital IQ platforms

Valuable Networks, Experience and Expertise

MFRE candidates offer Partner Organizations direct access to sector experts and professionals:

- MFRE Instructors and lecturers include:
 - Faculty from Land & Food Systems, Forestry, Fisheries, Sauder Business School and SFU,
 - Private and public sector Executives.
- More than 190 MFRE alumni and current candidates
 - From 29 countries across the globe, with up to ten years of industry experience
 - Broad range of backgrounds and sectors, including food production and processing, commodities trading, corporate finance, accounting, management consulting, public relations.

Graduating Projects Details

Location: Canada or abroad

Full/Part time: Full-time or Part-time

Period: May 2017 to mid-August 2017

Advisory: Each Project is overseen by a Site Advisor (Partner Organization) and a Faculty Advisor (UBC).

Approach: We strive for win-win outcomes – proper alignment of candidate and Partner Organization goals.

Confidentiality: Faculty Advisors and candidates are generally agreeable to signing standard non-disclosure agreements to protect partner organizations' confidentiality.

For further information, please contact:

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