



Food Security: Assessment and Action (Specialization)

Edition: 2nd
Start date: 21/03/2012
Duration: 4 months
No. credits: 15 ECTS
Virtual Campus language: English and Spanish
Language of teaching: English and Spanish

Through the International Graduate Institute, the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Open University of Catalonia, UOC) is taking another step in leading the way in quality online continuous education, offering people, organisations and companies a range of programmes of recognised academic rigour, geared towards the needs of professionals and with a clearly international vision and orientation.

The intensive use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the programmes offered by the UOC's International Graduate Institute ensures that participants gain knowledge of the tools needed for communicating and creating the social relation networks required by today's society and the people and organisations comprising it.

The International Graduate Institute offers a wide range of Graduate Training programmes in modular and progressive format (Masters, graduate diplomas and specialisations) accredited by quality agencies and with official and the university's own degrees, depending on the case. In addition, each of the International Graduate Institute's areas of knowledge makes available to you a wide range of open programmes of recognised quality, accessible to all, as well as a specific bespoke training offer for companies.

Innovation is the lynchpin of an educational offer, the aim of which is to stimulate entrepreneurship and which places particular emphasis on training people in the skills that today's society demands.

The satisfaction of thousands of students and graduates backs us up. If you wish, come and join our university community. We are looking forward to receiving you and welcome your contributions to help us all continue building this valid and effective training offer for all related people and institutions.

Josep M. Duart

Vice President, Postgraduate Studies and Lifelong Learning

A university open to the world

Internet use and the asynchronous model facilitate worldwide student participation in Graduate Training programmes. The international dimension to the university emerges through inter-university agreements that facilitate the mobility and presence of students in the classrooms from different geographical backgrounds, with a series of common characteristics that enable them to share interests and enrich learning.

The profile of Graduate Training participants is characterised by the following features:

- Advanced knowledge and users of new technologies
- 12% with international origins
- 81% aged between 25 and 45
- 83% have a job

Over 20,000 professionals have completed different activities on the frequent Graduate Training teaching programme.

Specialisation in Food Security: Assessment and Action

The **Specialisation in Food Security: Assessment and Action** is an extension of the FAO's Distance Learning course in Food Security Information for Decision Making. In this Specialisation students are introduced to the concepts and tools used in food security analysis.

As a starting point, students will consider food security and its relationship to vulnerability, hunger, malnutrition and poverty. Guidelines on how to interpret and use conceptual frameworks for analysing food security are then reviewed. Other topics include: guidance in assessing different kinds of information systems related to food security analysis; designing, writing and increasing the impact of food security reports in different contexts; and commonly used methods to assess food availability at regional, national and local levels.

The **Specialisation in Food Security: Assessment and Action** is taught by an international team of individuals with extensive field experience. With this training, students will understand food security and be better prepared to undertake and support food security work in their communities.

This **Specialisation in Food Security: Assessment and Action** is an elective in the Master's in Food, Society and International Food Governance.

Who it's for

The target audience of this course includes anyone interested in food security and/or working on community-level food security projects.

With this training, students will understand food security and be better prepared to undertake and support food security work in their communities.

Providing students with the necessary tools for improving their employability, giving them the right to knowledge and education to be successful in the different occupations they will have during their lives, is a fundamental purpose of our postgraduate programmes.

Academic aims

Andbull; Define food security as a broad concept used to determine people's general well-being;

Andbull; Understand the concept of vulnerability and how it is applied to food security;

Andbull; Appreciate the importance of food security analysis to trigger appropriate action to address food insecurity;

Andbull; Understand the need for identifying the underlying causes and characteristics of food insecurity;

Andbull; Understand the basic measures to monitor and evaluate targeting activities;

Andbull; Acknowledge food security as a policy issue cutting across different sectors.

Aplicació professional

These courses were developed to support capacity building and on-the-job training and workshops in national and local food security information systems and networks.

The courses are open to everyone but were designed to target:

1. Mid-level managers, technical staff and field personnel who are involved in the collection, management, analysis, and reporting of food security information.

2. Planners, policy formulators and programme managers who are involved in monitoring progress in poverty reduction, and meeting food security goals and targets.

Providing students with the necessary tools for improving their employability, giving them the right to knowledge and education to be successful in the different occupations they will have during their lives, is a fundamental purpose of our postgraduate programmes.

Methodology

The UOC pedagogical model is based on the participant, who works independently, managing their time and building their own learning itinerary through interaction and cooperative work.

Through the Virtual Campus, they achieve in-depth and flexible learning, without barriers of space or time, anywhere and at any time.

This model provides personalised attention from professionals, teachers and highly regarded specialists, who accompany each participant on an individual basis and the group as a whole in the construction of their new knowledge.

The teaching materials and resources include and integrate contents, practical applications and tools that are directly related to the environment and specific work activities. This programme uses a varied combination of methodologies, since the participants are active professionals and the exchange of their own professional experiences will play a very relevant part in achieving the academic aims.

Participants entering the virtual campus environment for the first time will complete parallel training at the start of the teaching programme based on a short introductory course where they will learn to browse the environment, learn how it works and how to use the communication and teaching spaces.

Materials

UOC graduate courses have digital format materials. Students receive the materials as the course progresses.

The Specialization in Food Security: Assessment and Action is an extension of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Distance Learning courses in Food Security Information for Decision Making, developed with funding from the European Union. In this Specialization students are introduced to the concepts and tools used in food security analysis.

Materials will be in English and will include written course materials, relevant websites, academic articles, books and magazine articles, among others.

Programme structure and contents

Note that the **Specialisation in Food Security: Assessment and Action** can be taken as a stand-alone certificate or can be applied to the UOC's Master's in Food, Society and International Food Governance.

Module 1. Food Security: The Basics

1. Food Security Concepts and Frameworks

- 1.1. What is Food Security?
- 1.2. Concepts Related to Food Security
- 1.3. Food Security Analysis

2. Food Security Information Systems and Networks

- 2.1. Food Security Information Systems
- 2.2. The Institutional Context
- 2.3. Improving Food Security Information Systems

3. Reporting Food Security Information

- 3.1. Understanding the User's Information Needs
- 3.2. Reporting for Results
- 3.3. Writing Effective Reports
- 3.4. Reporting Formats for Food Security

Module 2: Assessment and Analysis

1. Baseline Food Security Assessments

- 1.1. Introduction to Baseline and Action-oriented Assessments
- 1.2. Selecting a Baseline Assessment Method
- 1.3. Monitoring Changes in Food Security

2. Livelihoods Assessment and Analysis

- 2.1. Introduction to Livelihoods
- 2.2. Assessing Livelihoods
- 2.3. Livelihoods Indicators

3. Nutritional Status Assessment and Analysis

- 3.1. Nutritional Status and Food Security
- 3.2. Assessing Nutritional Status
- 3.3. Nutritional Status Indicators

4. Markets Assessment and Analysis

- 4.1. Markets and Food Security
- 4.2. Assessing the Market
- 4.3. Market Indicators

5. Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis

5.1. What is Vulnerability?

5.2. Vulnerability Assessment

5.3. Vulnerability Indicators

6. Availability Assessment and Analysis

6.1. Assessing Availability

6.2. Availability Indicators

Module 3: Advocacy and Action

1. Targeting

1.1. Introduction to Targeting

1.2. Monitoring and Evaluation of Targeting

1.3. Targeting in Emergencies

2. Food Security Policies- Formulation and Implementation

2.1. Establishment of a Food Security Policy Framework

2.2. Institutional Framework for Food Security Policies

2.3. Policy Monitoring and Evaluation

2.4. Policy Formulation and Implementation

3. Collaboration and Advocacy Techniques

3.1. Techniques for Improving Collaborative Work

3.2. Deciding on a Collaborative Assessment

3.3. Advocacy

Entry requirements

The **Specialisation in Food Security: Assessment and Action** is open to everyone with a good grasp of English.

The UOC is an **open university** which means that even if you do not have a high school diploma or university degree you can still take our courses.

Regardless of your prior education, the certificate is transferable to the Master's in Food, Society and International Food Governance.

Prior Knowledge

The course materials and teaching language is English. A strong grasp of English is required for this programme.

Qualifications

Once the overall assessment process has been completed successfully, the UOC will issue an **Specialisation in Food Security: Assessment and Action** Diploma to those participants with an accredited university qualification that is valid in Spain.

Should you not have such a qualification, an **Food Security: Assessment and Action** Certificate will be issued.

Assessment system

Assessment of the learning process is continuous and focuses mainly on work that facilitates the integration of knowledge and the acquisition of skills for the professional practice of each student.

If you would like more information about the assessment system, do not hesitate to contact our training advisors on +34 93 326 30 00 or send an e-mail to queries@uoc.edu.

Funded by the European Union



Enrolment

The cost of this programme should be confirmed when registration is formalised.

Other advantages

The UOC Graduates and Former Students Club represents the continuity of the concept of the university community with voluntary membership when not currently enrolled.

The UOC Club focuses on offering services, resources and activities in the field of personal and professional development. The main axes of action are professional projection, informal or post-training learning, culture, leisure, relationships and the exchange of experiences and knowledge.

Virtual Library, connection with the world's leading libraries and availability of extensive consultation services. Virtual Cooperative, being a member of the cooperative allows students to enjoy its library services and IT material. Virtual communication spaces, which facilitate relations with other participants and professionals through Campus forums and chat rooms.

Information and enrolment

If you would like more details about the graduate programmes, please contact our training advisors:

- Telephone: +34 93 326 30 00
- Email: queries@uoc.edu
- In person at any of the UOC's centres.

Madrid
Plaza de las Cortes, 4
28014 Madrid

Seville
C/ Virgen de Luján, 12
41011 Seville

Valencia
C/ Paz, 3
46003 Valencia

Barcelona
Rambla de Catalunya, 6, planta 1
08907 Barcelona

Mexico, D.F.
Paseo de la Reforma, 265, Piso 1
Col. Cuauhtémoc
06500 México, D.F.
Opening times: Monday to Friday, 9 am to 7 pm
Telephone: + (52 55) 55 11 42 25

The UOC also offers companies, institutions and groups direct and flexible communication and preferential conditions when enrolling their professionals.

For more information:

[*matriculacorporativa@uoc.edu*](mailto:matriculacorporativa@uoc.edu)

The programmes included in this document are available as in-company training.

For more information:

[*incompany@uoc.edu*](mailto:incompany@uoc.edu)

Note: The information contained in this PDF is for information purposes. Its validity should be checked when formalising enrolment.