Course Specification Part A

MSc Agroecology, Water and Food Sovereignty
ECT008

Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience
Academic Year: 2018-2019

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

We regularly review our course content, to make it relevant and current for the benefit of our students. For these reasons, course modules may be updated.

More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the Module Information Directory (MID), student module guide(s) and the course handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.
1. Introduction

The Course

The MSc Agroecology, Water and Food Sovereignty is a transdisciplinary course addressing current issues related to food production, access and management of natural resources, climate change and land degradation, and the environmental, socio-economic and institutional implications in the building of resilient societies. It is designed with a strong focus on resilient food and water systems, critically analysed under environmental, socio-economic and political lenses. This reflects the broad range of issues that relate to food and water sovereignty and how agroecology can contribute to alleviate them.

The course includes modules which address key themes in:
- resilient food and water systems
- agroecological processes and practices
- fundamental process in relation to soil and water management
- climate change
- governance and institutional frameworks
- communities self-organisation for resilience
- knowledge integration
- gender studies
- economics of sustainable food and water systems
- ecological management of freshwater systems
- stabilisation agriculture.

Why Agroecology, Water and Food Sovereignty?

Agroecology is the discipline that addresses practical aspects of resilient food production and natural resources management, their environmental impact as well as the governance and socio-economic challenges facing current food and farming systems.

Water and Food Sovereignty widen the focus of the course, closely linking agroecological approaches that reflect the need to address pressing global issues (i.e. access to adequate nutrition), our right to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods; and people’s right to define their own food, agriculture, livestock and fisheries systems.

The concept of food sovereignty also promotes the formulation of trade policies and practices that serve the rights of people to safe, healthy and ecologically sustainable food production.

This is a unique approach to the design and management of socio-ecologically resilient water and food systems in that it goes beyond the issue of access to natural resources, food and water, and addresses their governance locally, nationally and at global scale.

Who is the course for?

This course is designed for students from a wide range of disciplines (e.g. biology, political science, international development, geography, economics, ecology) converging on agriculture, water and food systems from complementary angles that include physical and natural sciences, geography, social sciences and humanities, economics, and political sciences.

The Centre and Research Led Teaching

The Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience (CAWR) is one of Coventry University's Flagship Research Centres and the largest centre in the world doing transdisciplinary research on the links between agroecology and sustainable food systems, water management, and community and socio-ecological resilience. CAWR brings together a large and growing international team of researchers with expertise in fundamental, applied and interdisciplinary research resulting in a course built on teaching excellence, research and professional inspired
This fosters academic and professional development, innovation and digital fluency, whilst enabling students to contribute to communities and civic engagement by creating national and global impact beyond the duration of the course, thereby increasing the students’ employability and enterprise at national and international level.

CAWR is based at the prestigious site of Garden Organic, Ryton Gardens, famous for its Heritage Seed Library and patronised by HRH the Prince of Wales. The site boasts extensive gardens and farm lands which are cultivated in line with the principles of organic growing of the Centre and the Course and form part of the student learning experience. The Centre houses state-of-the-art technology in the World-first ‘Pollution Dynamics’ lab with ICP-MS and GC-MS, in the computational modelling lab and video editing suite, as well as the sustainable drainage field lab.

There is a diverse and active range of research activities carried out at CAWR and a growing team of PhD students who contribute to a vibrant and thriving research environment. CAWR have staff who are nationally and internationally recognised in their research field. Members of the course team are members of the Higher Education Academy, Fellows of the Royal Geographical Society, and members of the British Society for Geomorphology. The School includes a Member of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS), the coordinator of the Disasters and Development Study Group, the Editor-in-Chief of African Journal of Range and Forage Science; Editorial Board members of the Right to Food and Nutrition Watch, Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems, and International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health; Advisory Board member for The Agroecology Fund; members of the International Union for Conservation of Nature – Commission on Ecosystem Management (IUCN-CEM), the Latin American and European Agroecology Societies (SOCLA and Agroecology Europe), the European Agroforestry Federation (EURAF), and the International Farming Systems Association (IFSA).

This course is distinctively based on CAWR’s structural pillars of agroecology, resilience, as well as water and food sovereignty. It is unique in integrating both the natural and social sciences, providing students with a flexible yet comprehensive learning experience. Students will gain knowledge and experience in the fields of food sovereignty, agroecology, as well as individual and collective human security and well-being that goes beyond the usual research fields of food systems and food security. It will equip students with the knowledge, skills and critical understanding necessary to make a strong positive impact on communities and shaping future resilient societies.

### 2 Available Award(s) and Modes of Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of Award</th>
<th>Mode of attendance</th>
<th>UCAS Code</th>
<th>FHEQ Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MSc in Agroecology, Water and Food Sovereignty</td>
<td>12 months Full-Time 24 months Part-Time</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fallback Awards</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Diploma (PgD) in Agroecology, Water and Food Sovereignty</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Certificate (PgC) in Agroecology, Water and Food Sovereignty</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3 Awarding Institution/ Body
- Coventry University

### 4 Collaboration
- None

### 5 Teaching Institution and Location of delivery
- Coventry University

### 6 Internal Approval/ Review Dates
- Date of approval:
- Date for next review:

### 7 Course Accredited by
- Not applicable

### 8 Accreditation Date and Duration
- Not applicable
9 QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external factors

There are no applicable benchmark statements for this subject area. The QAA Qualifications Framework and the QAA guide to Master's degree characteristics have been considered in developing this Course Specification.

10 Date of Course Specification

September 2018

11 Course Director

Dr. Sara Burbi

12 Outline and Educational Aims of the Course

This course aims to:

- equip students with cutting edge knowledge in the field of sustainable and equitable food and water systems, with a central focus upon agroecology and food sovereignty;
- enable students to critically assess the complex interactions between social and natural systems, between scientific and non-scientific knowledge, and between politics and food- and water-system outcomes;
- enable students to choose and apply appropriate methods of enquiry and analysis that facilitate different ways of knowing (e.g. transdisciplinary, participatory, peer-to-peer, intercultural dialogue) and effective engagement with the major debates on the dynamics of food and water systems, including their wider impacts on the environment and society; and
- enable students to gain both theoretical and practical knowledge and skills in the fields of agroecology, resilience and food and water systems that will allow them to further their careers in an academic or professional environment.

The QAA’s Framework for Higher Education Qualifications Qualification Descriptors and the QAA’s guide to Master's degree characteristics have been considered in developing this Course Specification. The course focuses on developing a systematic understanding of knowledge, analytical techniques and research skills related to an MSc in Agroecology, Water and Food Sovereignty. It delivers descriptors as specified for a Higher Education Qualification at level 7.

13 Course Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the course, a student will be able to:

1. critically appraise how agroecology, food security, and water and food sovereignty are defined, conceptualized and practiced, including a focus on contested meanings of key concepts used in the course (agroecology, resilience, gender, environmental change etc.);
2. undertake an in-depth analysis of contemporary food and water systems and assess their relation to individual and collective human security and wellbeing, and the environment;
3. critically evaluate the concept of resilience and its fundamental underlying processes, emphasizing community resilience and social ecological resilience at different scales;
4. critically assess the roles of policies and institutions in the governance and management of food and water systems at scales (local, national, global);
5. formulate appropriate methods of enquiry and analysis that facilitate different ways of knowing (e.g. transdisciplinary, participatory, peer-to-peer, intercultural dialogue) and effective engagement with the major debates on the dynamics of food and water systems;
6. carry out enhanced research for differentiated analysis (e.g. by class, gender, ethnicity, intersectionality, and other axis of difference) of knowledge(s), access to resources and decision-making within communities and actor networks influencing the dynamics of food and water systems;
7. manage their own independent learning and self-reflective practice and to engage in continuing learning and professional development in the food and water sectors especially in relation to food and water sovereignty; and
8. work towards and achieve both individual and group goals within the course and subsequent professional practice.
### 14 Course Structure and Requirements, Levels, Modules, Credits and Awards

Modules within the courses, the level at which they are studied, and their credit value are identified in the table below. There are no pre/co-requisites to any of the modules, and all modules are at a credit level of 7.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module code</th>
<th>Delivery</th>
<th>Module title</th>
<th>Credit value</th>
<th>PgC</th>
<th>PgD</th>
<th>MSc</th>
<th>Course Learning Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7056EXQ</td>
<td>Semester 1</td>
<td>Policies and Institutions for Food and Water Sovereignty</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>M**</td>
<td>M*</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>3,5,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7055EXQ</td>
<td></td>
<td>Global Processes for Water Sustainability and Resilience</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>M**</td>
<td>M*</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>2,4,6,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7057EXQ</td>
<td></td>
<td>Community Self-Organisation and Resilience</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>M**</td>
<td>M*</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1,2,3,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7063EXQ</td>
<td></td>
<td>Resilient Food and Water Systems in Practice</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>M**</td>
<td>M*</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>2,4,5,6,7,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7062EXQ</td>
<td>Semester 2</td>
<td>Participation, Power, and People’s Knowledge</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>M**</td>
<td>M*</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>2,4,5,6,7,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7060EXQ</td>
<td></td>
<td>Agroecological Techniques and Practices</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>M**</td>
<td>M*</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>2,3,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7059EXQ</td>
<td></td>
<td>Gender, Food Systems and Natural Resources</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,2,4,6,7,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7058EXQ</td>
<td></td>
<td>Stabilisation Agriculture</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2,5,6,7,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7002CRB</td>
<td>Semester 3</td>
<td>Global Professional Development - Consultancy (Chartered Management Institute (CMI) Module)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7061EXQ</td>
<td></td>
<td>Project <em>(Introduced in Semester 1)</em></td>
<td>50</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,2,4,5,6,7,8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key**

M = Mandatory - all modules must be studied and passed for the MSc  
M* = All modules must be studied and passed for Postgraduate Diploma  
M** = Any 4 of the 6 modules marked M** must be studied and passed for the named award

**Cascade of Awards:**

- MSc in Agroecology, Water and Food Sovereignty
- PgD in Agroecology, Water and Food Sovereignty
- PgC in Agroecology, Water and Food Sovereignty

**Fallback Awards**

- MSc in Agroecology, Water and Food Sovereignty
- PgD in Agroecology, Water and Food Sovereignty
- PgC in Agroecology, Water and Food Sovereignty
15 Criteria for Admission and Selection Procedure

UCAS entry profiles may be found by searching for the relevant course on the UCAS website, then clicking on ‘Entry profile’.

Normally, the entrance requirement is a second classification degree in a relevant discipline. Current requirements are specified on the course page of the university web page.

Applicants are normally invited to visit the University as part of the postgraduate open days in the Faculty of Engineering, Environment and Computing. This offers an opportunity for either party to evaluate each other and to ask questions. It also offers the applicant an opportunity to view the facilities on offer at the University.

International applicants with an equivalent of a second class honours degree or demonstrated experience at an appropriate level will be considered for admission. Applicants whose first language is not English or who have not completed a first degree in which English was the main language of tuition must provide evidence of English language ability. An IELTS score of 6.5 or higher (and at least 5.5 in each component) or equivalent qualification is the criterion for admission.

Accreditation for prior experiential learning

The course team encourages students to seek recognition of their prior experience and learning. There are opportunities for a student to demonstrate prior knowledge of Individual Learning Outcomes (ILOs) and where a student can demonstrate that their knowledge and skills meet all intended learning outcomes of a module that student may receive the credits for that module. Evidence may include some or all of the following as required:

- Transcript from previous level 7 study in addition to ILOs and mark
- 2 page analysis of professional experience and knowledge against module ILOs
- CPD non-assessed course (content detailed).

In calculations for an award these modules will be handled in accordance with University Academic Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Courses.

16 Academic Regulations and Regulations of Assessment

This Course conforms to the standard University Regulations for Postgraduate Assessment.

The Course is managed by the School of Energy, Construction and Environment Board of Study of the Faculty of Engineering, Environment and Computing.

The Programme Assessment Board (PAB) for the Faculty of Engineering, Environment and Computing is responsible for considering the progress of all students and making awards in accordance with both the university and course-specific regulations.

The assurance of the quality of modules is the responsibility of the Boards of Study which contribute modules to the Course.

External Examiners report annually on the Course and their views are considered as part of the Course Quality Enhancement Monitoring report (CQEM). Details of the CQEM process can be found on the Registry’s web site. https://share.coventry.ac.uk/staff/ps/Registry/ceu/Pages/Process%20Landing.aspx

Students are represented on the Student Forum, Boards of Study and Faculty Board, all of which normally meet two or three times per year.

Student views are also sought through module and course evaluation questionnaires.
17 Indicators of Quality Enhancement

The QAA’s Higher Education Review undertaken in February 2015 confirmed that Coventry University meets the UK expectations regarding the:

- setting and maintenance of the academic standards of awards;
- quality of student learning opportunities;
- quality of the information about learning opportunities; and
- enhancement of student learning opportunities.

There is a diverse and active range of research activities carried out at the Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience (CAWR) influencing the course.

Strong and regular industry input to the subject-base is achieved in many ways, for example through the long-stranding advisory boards, industry-focused collaborative research initiatives and use of guest speakers from industry. Career prospects can include scholarly research to strengthen the impact of academia on shaping resilient societies; employment by development organisations, local and national governing bodies, and international institutions (e.g. United Nations [UN], Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs [DEFRA], Natural England, Environment Agency, Department for International Development [DFID], Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers [CGIAR], International Livestock Research Institute [ILRI], International Centre for Research in Agroforestry [ICRAF], Oxfam); and entrepreneurship in several sectors, e.g. agriculture, environmental management, civil society, and policy.

18 Additional Information

Enrolled students have access to additional, key sources of information about the course and student support. These can be found in:

- The Student Handbook MSc Agroecology, Water and Food Sovereignty
- Module Guides
- Other module information in CUonline
- Course website (http://www.coventry.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate-full-time-a-z/a/1227)
- Postgraduate study (http://www.coventry.ac.uk/postgraduate/)
- Module Information Directory (http://mid.coventry.ac.uk)
- Library and Study Support (http://www.coventry.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/library-and-study-support)
- Graduate and CPD Centre (http://www.coventry.ac.uk/postgraduate#grad)
- Student Services Health and Wellbeing (http://www.coventry.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/health-and-welfare)
- Disability Support (http://www.coventry.ac.uk/study-at-coventry/student-support/health-and-wellbeing/disability/)