



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

SCHOOL OF
BIOLOGICAL
SCIENCES

CREATING A MORE SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

MSc
**LEADERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**



Summary Entrance Requirements

Normally a 2.2 Honours degree or above or an equivalent qualification acceptable to the University.

International Qualifications

For information on international qualification equivalents, please see: go.qub.ac.uk/YourCountry

English Language

Evidence of an IELTS* score of 6.0, with not less than 5.5 in any component, or an equivalent qualification acceptable to the University is required.

*Taken within the last 2 years.

For more information on English Language requirements for EEA and non-EEA nationals see: go.qub.ac.uk/EnglishLanguageReqs

Teaching

Morning/Afternoon

10–15 hours per week

We provide a range of learning experiences which enable our students to engage with subject experts, develop attributes and perspectives that will equip them for life and work in an advanced society and make use of innovative technologies and a world-class library that enhances their development as independent, lifelong learners.

Across a combination of morning and afternoon classes, examples of the opportunities provided for learning on this course are lectures, practical experiences, e-learning technologies, self-directed study and added value qualifications to enhance employability.

Assessment

A range of assessment methods are used including research projects, group work, presentations, reports and essays.

Contact Us

askmhls@qub.ac.uk

Further Information

www.qub.ac.uk

MSc LEADERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Overview

This Masters is for those who want to help turn the vision of a just and ecologically sustainable society into a practical reality.

With increasing recognition of the impact of a world living beyond its means, the commitment to sustainable development in order to meet the needs of present generations without jeopardising those of future generations, has never been more apparent.

Sustainable rural development is seen as critical to the survival of rural areas at both local and global levels. Central to the success of any rural development programme is a skilled team of experts to think strategically about rural development and ensure its delivery. This graduate programme will be of direct relevance to those interested in becoming leaders in rural development and promoting sustainability in the rural sector.

What's Involved?

This innovative programme has been designed in consultation with employers and academics to provide students with:

- In-depth understanding of the theory and practice of leadership in the context of sustainable rural development and an ability to identify and critically evaluate the role of leadership for sustainable development
- Knowledge of the principles and core themes associated with sustainable rural development and an ability to critically evaluate best practice within a range of organisational sectors
- An ability to apply knowledge and skills gained from the programme in order to positively contribute to the sustainable development agenda
- Competence in employability skills that will facilitate a professional approach to the work environment

Content

This innovative programme embraces action based learning, facilitated through a series of work placements and group project to foster critical thinking and promote the use of initiative for problem solving and decision making. The course is a full time programme comprising six modules over twelve months.

The course structure is as follows:

Autumn Semester:

- Leadership for Sustainable Development
- Sustainable Rural Economics and Policy
- Policies and Strategies for Sustainable Development

Spring and Summer Semesters:

- **Work Placement in the Rural Sector**
This triple module is a sixteen-week carefully planned, monitored and assessed period of placement in the rural/sustainable development sector or with an organisation that has a rural/sustainability interest. The work placement usually runs for 16 weeks beginning in the fourth week in January until the end of May.
- **Rural Development Thesis**
Students must submit a satisfactory research proposal and complete a dissertation (10-12,000 words). This element of the programme involves original research including a literature review, data gathering and analysis.
- **Effective Leadership: Group Project**
To engage in a project to promote sustainable development through 'experiential learning'.

Careers

Graduates from this programme have developed successful careers upon completion of this MSc.

For example, past students have gone on to gain relevant employment with political parties, local and regional government departments, environmental and energy businesses, farming, food production and processing businesses, agri- and eco-tourism, rural community development organisations.

Gibson Institute for Land, Food and Environment

This Masters programme is delivered as part of the Gibson Institute for Land, Food and Environment at Queen's University Belfast.

Set up in 1999 in Queen's University Belfast, the mission of the Institute is to work to ensure the sustainability of agriculture in Northern Ireland, particularly the sustainability of the small farming sector, and to work towards the improvement of rural life and civic society more generally.