

International program: Food History



Multidisciplinary programme

Food Studies have received increasing attention in research and education at universities world-wide. The MA in history at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) offers a multidisciplinary programme within the Humanities and Social Sciences on issues related to food and eating culture from antiquity to the present. The courses approach consumption, marketing and production of food from an economic, historical, sociological, political and anthropological angle.

Food Culture and Food Systems

What and how we eat defines who we are. Next to social and economic conditions, psychological and cultural factors have determined attitudes and traditions in food production and consumption. Environment, economy, and beliefs caused the emergence of geographically and socially diverse systems in the production, distribution and consumption of food. Understanding food cultures and food systems contributes to the understanding of human societies in past and present.

Scholarly networks

The international master is the only programme in Europe devoted to food cultures and systems. It offers access to various networks of European scholars, in the first place primarily in Bologna, Brussels, Ghent, Leiden and Tours, and beyond these at institutions in Paris, Exeter, Parma, Padova, Valencia, Leuven, Copenhagen, Trondheim, Amsterdam, Munich and Darmstadt. The programme offers courses on the latest methodologies and developments in a wide range of disciplines by the best European experts.

Mobility and language skills

The international programme will stimulate your mobility and contribute to your experience with university education in various European traditions. Most courses are taught in English, in Tours and Bologna also in French and Italian. Attending classes in several countries and languages offers the opportunity to practice your skills in foreign languages.

Career opportunities

Policy and governmental institutions; business and social enterprise; social and cultural analysis; academia and research; media and communication; education and museums.



PRACTICALITIES

Degree: Master in History

The international 'Food History' programme is, at VUB, part of the curriculum of the MA in history. If you enter the international programme as a student at VUB, you will earn a master of arts degree in history from VUB. If you enter the programme from one of the other participating universities you will earn a master degree from that university. The programme is one year in Brussels, Ghent and Leiden (60 ECTS) and in Bologna (70 ECTS), two years in Tours (120 ECTS).

Admission and eligibility

The International programme in food history in Brussels is meant chiefly for students having a BA in history. Apart from Bachelors in History, the programme is open to some other diplomas, which are determined by the rules applying at each participating university. If you do not have a BA in History, it is also possible to enter the Master of Arts in History at VUB after attending a special preparatory programme.

Exchange programme

In Brussels the regular programme provides you with courses during the 2nd semester of your MA year. You can also attend courses taught in Ghent during the second term. During the first term, you may choose between Leiden (i.e. courses in English) or Tours (courses mostly in French). You can attend courses in Bologna if your individual study programme allows deviation from the regular programme.

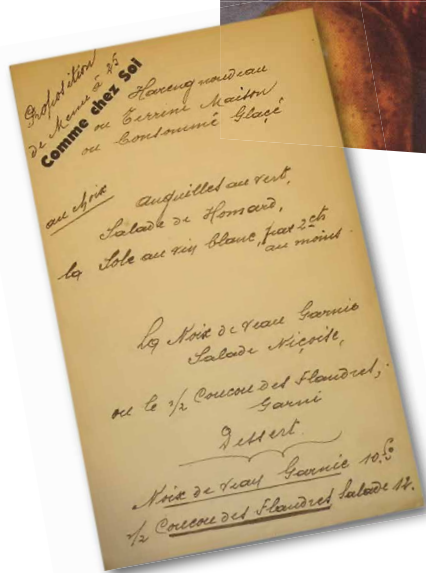
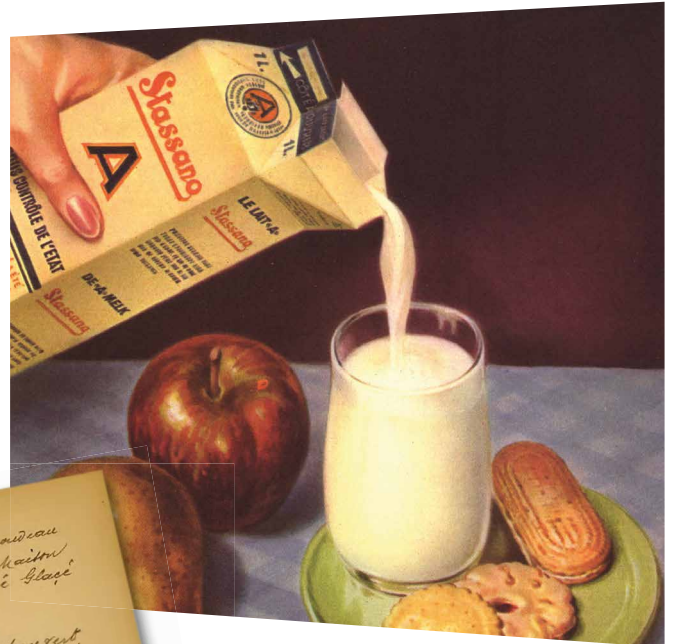
Participating universities

If you are enrolled as a student in one of the following universities you can select the Food History programme:

- Vrije Universiteit Brussel
- Universiteit Gent
- Università di Bologna
- Universiteit Leiden
- Université François Rabelais (Tours)

Languages

Courses are taught in English in Brussels, Leiden and Ghent. Apart from English, courses in Tours and Bologna can be taught in French and Italian respectively. When teaching in French or Italian, lecturers in Tours and Bologna will take care of providing sufficient information in English to students (e.g., bibliography, clear course outline). You can hand in essays and other written assignments in English at all participating universities.





CURRICULUM*

If you enrol at VUB you will earn a MA in History from VUB and thus you will have to complete a MA thesis according to the requirements of the History Department at VUB.

In order to acquire the additional ECTS you can select courses taught in Brussels, Ghent, Leiden and/or Tours. The courses that are part of the 'Food History' programme encompass those mentioned below, but you may also attend courses outside the 'Food History' programme at each of the universities.

Leiden (1st term):

- You are what you eat: gender, class, ethnicity and food culture
- Asia through consumption
- The Material Culture of Food and Drink Interaction and Exchange Between Asia and Europe

Tours (1st term):

- Initiation au 'Food Studies'
- Histoire et cultures Européennes
- Questions transversales
- Enjeux européens

Brussels (2nd term):

- Themes in Cultural History
- Food and Society in Classical Antiquity
- Food Traditions and Innovations

Ghent (2nd term):

- Seminar Food History



HOW TO ENTER THE 'FOOD HISTORY' PROGRAMME?

As a VUB or University of Ghent student you will have to start the 'Food History' programme abroad. Therefore it is essential to enrol and start preparations as early as possible. To enter the 'Food History' programme in Brussels, you simply have to enrol in the MA in History at VUB.

**The curriculum can change so please check the webpages for the latest information*



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITATIS DI BOLOGNA



Universiteit
Leiden

General information:

www.vub.ac.be/en/

Information about Brussels:

www.vub.ac.be/english/infofor/prospectivestudents/studyinginbrussels.html

General information about the faculty Arts and Philosophy:

www.vub.ac.be/LW/

Specific information about the History department:

<http://research.vub.ac.be/history/hist-english>

About research on food history:

<http://research.vub.ac.be/food-history>

Contact

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