



MA in Philosophy of Social Innovation

Researching Holistic Agroecology



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Researching Holistic

Agroecology

Growing the future

- Is our agriculture healthy? Is our culture healthy?
- Are you concerned about either of these?
- Do you want to develop research alongside your work?

Join a growing, international community of individuals committed to developing transformative research in a diverse range of holistic approaches to agroecology.

Make a difference

The MA in Philosophy of Social Innovation with a specialisation in Researching Holistic Agroecology is designed to foster and support research in the practical and social dimensions of agroecology (organics, permaculture, biodynamics, urban agriculture, etc.).

This course invites research and social innovation in the furthering of a culture that supports good food and food that supports a healthy culture. Whether you are an urban gardener with a few plants in pots or a farmer with a sizeable acreage, a chef or a consumer, this course could be for you. Whether you deal with finance or policy, preparation or preserving you could contribute to a global food revolution by undertaking research as transformative practice.

The course is delivered in blended learning mode through a virtual learning environment and one residential block per year. It can be taken from anywhere in the world.

This Alanus University Masters is offered in cooperation with Crossfields Institute.

"The true measure of agriculture is not the sophistication of its equipment, the size of its income or even the statistics of its productivity, but the good health of the land."

Wendell Berry

The modules

The course can be taken as a post-graduate certificate over two years, or as a Master's degree over three years. The programme modules are: Holistic Science, Research Methods, Sustainable Practice 1 and 2, Communicating Holistic Approaches, Research Design, Social Research Methods, Ethics and Professional Practice, Consciousness Studies, Agroecology Specialisation Project, Dissertation.

Why Research in Agroecology?

The Researching Holistic Agroecology course arises out of an awareness of critical issues in agriculture, the environment and the social dimensions of these which are arising and unfolding at this time. We recognise that these issues cannot easily be separated out into neat categories or separate domains and that new approaches to research, dialogue and social innovation are required to contribute positively to the complex and dynamic times that we are experiencing.

Joining the course allows you to:

- Broaden your understanding of different food production systems (biodynamics, permaculture, organics, urban agriculture, etc.)
- Challenge yourself to become flexible, intuitive and independent in your inquiry
- Develop the knowledge, confidence and skills to critically interrogate the results of research into sustainable agriculture and to design and carry out research yourself using theoretical and reflective frameworks appropriate for a holistic view of nature and the human being

Apply now!

If you are interested in undertaking research in...

- Holistic science and interdisciplinary approaches to science
- Human development in the context of land stewardship – education, care, individual and community empowerment
- Community supported agricultural initiatives
- Social financing of food production, distribution, access to land
- New approaches to understanding living organisms and living systems

Entry Requirements

For the Postgraduate Certificate:

- A Bachelor's degree. (Any equivalent undergraduate study must be assessed and approved by admissions)
- English language proficiency

For the Masters:

- A bachelor's degree
- English language proficiency
- Enrolment on the PG Certificate (or a previous relevant postgraduate qualification (Must be at least 240 ECTS)

Dates and Locations

The programme starts in October each year, though in certain instances it is possible to start at any time of year. The course is delivered online via the Crossfields Institute Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). Optional intensives are held each year at Emerson College (UK).

Students are awarded the post-graduate certificate on completion of the first 6 modules of the course (taken over two years). Students who successfully complete the certificate may then continue with one further year of research and dissertation work to obtain a full Master's degree (MA).

Further information

For all further information including programme fees please contact Jane Tyler at the Crossfields Institute office.

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