

Food, Agricultural & Resource Economics: MSc, PhD

The Department of Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics is a research intensive department that takes great pride in providing outstanding educational experiences and research and outreach activities. Our graduate programs emphasize the application of contemporary theories and state-of-the-art tools to problems related to food and agriculture, resource use and economic development. Our aim in these graduate programs is to train future research and policy leaders. This training emphasizes the importance of policy relevant and issues oriented research, communicated with clarity, purpose and meaning.

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Program

We offer two thesis-based graduate programs: a (MSc) Master degree and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree.

The MSc and PhD degree programs strive to develop appropriate analytical, methodological, and communication skills to enable students to analyze agriculture and resource problems effectively and explain their findings. The MSc requires both course work and a thesis. This program can be completed in approximately 5 to 6 semesters. The PhD program requires course work, successful completion of a qualifying exam and the defense of a research-based thesis with completion in approximately 12 semesters.

Admission Requirements MSc

- the MSc program requires a (B-) average over the past two years in a four-year honours degree in Food, Agriculture or Resource Economics (or in a field of economics)
- Expected to have already taken the following basic courses as part of their undergraduate studies:
 - Intermediate level micro-economic theory (ECON*2310 or equivalent)
 - Calculus and matrix algebra with applications to economics (ECON*2770 or equivalent)
 - Intermediate level statistics (ECON*3740 or equivalent)



"I had a great experience working with my advisor who not only mentored me academically but he was someone you can always talk to. The faculty are really invested in you and want you to succeed. New graduate students should expect to be challenged. They should also be excited about that challenge because it's a constant learning."

- Natalia Piedrahita (2016 MSc FARE, 2021 PhD FARE) with her advisor, Dr. Getu Hailu. Natalia's current employer is the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, Italy.

- Advanced microeconomic theory (ECON*3710 or equivalent) course at the undergraduate level is strongly recommended as preparation for the MSc program.
- Applicants are not required to write the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

Admission Requirements PhD

- PhD - minimum of 73% (B) in your Master's program equivalent to the MSc in FARE (Note: most successful applicants have an average of 80%, A-, or higher.)
- PhD applicants are required to write the General Graduate Record Examination (GRE-General only).

Application Deadline:

August 31, 2025

Entry: Fall

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- Economic principles and solving problems related to food, agriculture and natural resources
- Developing skills needed to analyze agriculture and resource problems effectively

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada / Health Canada / Forestry Canada
- Private firms / consulting
- NGOs
- Academia

CONTACT INFORMATION

Graduate Program Coordinator:

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About FARE

Established in 1907, the department has gone through various incarnations. Throughout, our research focus has been on agricultural economics and agribusiness, food economics, resource economics, and the economics of agricultural development. Our research excellence has been recognized with numerous quality of research discovery and outstanding thesis awards. Through our Institute for the Advanced Study of Food and Agricultural Policy, we take great pride in bringing our research discoveries to bear on relevant policy issues.

We also devote considerable attention to outreach and engagement with a broad community of stakeholders. Our FAREShare newsletter provides commentary and analysis informed by faculty and graduate student research. Our FARETalk podcasts provide in-depth discussion and insight from leading economic and policy thinkers on issues related to food, agriculture, resource use, and development. Through media interaction and various public forums, many FARE faculty comment actively on contemporary agri-food, resource and development issues.

Research Fields

- Food and agricultural economics
- Natural resource and environmental economics

Research Areas

- Consumer perceptions regarding food safety and new food products
- Impacts of agri-food policy on healthy food choices of consumers
- Impacts of regional and global trade agreements
- Effects of legal institutions on resource use and the environment
- Impact of climate on agricultural production and risk management

Learning Environment

Graduate students in the department are treated as colleagues. We recognize that you are placing your trust in us to deliver a superior learning experience - a learning experience that will largely determine the path of your career and your ability to make a difference in the world. We want your path to be filled with challenging and rewarding opportunities. The department is extremely collegial and faculty welcome student interaction in and out of the classroom. Students receive significant one-on-one attention and many students publish with their faculty.

Funding

Many of our graduate students are employed as Graduate Research or Teaching Assistants, and many compete successfully for University scholarships.

- MSc: students are funded upwards of \$22,000 per year
- PhD: students are funded upwards of \$30,000 per year



Kate Jones, MSc FARE 2018,
Current employer: Agriculture and Agri-Food
Canada (AAFC) in Ottawa

"I was drawn to this program given the wide range of important issues and perspectives it covers within the agricultural and environmental sectors along with the opportunities to participate in outstanding and applicable research. The applied economic tools that I have learnt will provide me with problem solving skills that will prove valuable as I complete my degree and seek a rewarding career within the agricultural industry."

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Masters in Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics: MFARE

The MFARE is a professional graduate program focused on economic, policy and business analysis for a complex world. Students develop skills in economic and quantitative analysis of policy and business problems, and then have the opportunity to apply these skills to real-world problems impacting the agri-food and/or natural resource sectors.

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Program

The MFARE program consists of core courses in economic and quantitative analysis and a series of applied courses that enable students to tailor their studies to their own interests. Students have the choice of completing a major research paper or engaging in a consultancy project for a real-world client. Students can choose to specialize in two key applied areas of agri-food sector and policy analysis or management analysis. The program typically takes four semesters to complete.

Program Strengths

The MFARE program is offered by one of Canada's foremost university departments in the area of food, agricultural and natural resource economics. Faculty members are recognized internationally for their expertise and experience, and frequently called on to provide advice to government, private sector and civil society, both in Canada and globally. Through its strong links with organizations outside of the university, the department is able to offer MFARE students the opportunity to complete a consultancy project for an external client. This opportunity not only enables students to apply the skills they have developed through the coursework they complete, but also to establish links with potential employers.



Admission Requirements

Applicants should have a minimum 70% (B-) average over the past two years in a four-year honours degree in Food, Agriculture or Resource Economics, or another program with a significant economics content. In addition, applicants should have successfully completed, at a minimum, courses in:

- Intermediate microeconomic theory (equivalent to ECON*2310 at the University of Guelph).
- Mathematics (especially calculus and matrix algebra with applications to economics (equivalent to ECON*2770 at the University of Guelph).
- Intermediate statistics (equivalent to ECON*3740 at the University of Guelph).

Further, it is strongly recommended that applicants have completed a course in advanced microeconomic theory (equivalent to ECON*3710 at the University of Guelph).

Application Deadline:

Domestic - April 30, 2025

International - May 1, 2025, early application strongly encouraged.

Entry: Fall

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- Food safety balanced with trade and business competitiveness.
- Consumer concerns about food and agri-food business performance.
- Climate change and agri-food /natural resource sectors.
- Impact of government policies on the structure, conduct and performance of agri-food markets

MFARE students not only develop the analytical skills to address these issues, but also the ability to communicate such complicated issues to diverse audiences.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

- Policy analyst or consultant in government, private sector, civil society and/or within an international organization.
- Business analyst in the private sector.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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