

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.

uoguelph.ph/gradstudiesfare

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 program requires coursework and the completion of a thesis, while the PhD program includes coursework, a qualifying exam, and the defense of a research-based thesis.

Program Duration

The MSc program can typically be completed within 5 to 6 semesters, while the PhD program generally requires around 12 semesters for completion.

Admission Requirements MSc

- MSc: 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)



- 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).

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

Application Deadlines:

International – March 31, 2026
Domestic – June 30, 2026

Entry: Fall 2026

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:

Dr. Alfons Weersink
519-824-4120 ext 52766
aweersin@uoguelph.ca

Graduate Program Assistant:

Abiran Sritharan
519-824-4120 ext 52771
faregrad@uoguelph.ca

Food, Agricultural & Resource Economics: MSc, PhD

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.



"I had a great experience working with my advisor who not only mentored me academically, he was someone you could 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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Graduate Program Coordinator:

Dr. Alfons Weersink
519-824-4120 ext 52766
aweersin@uoguelph.ca

Graduate Program Assistant:

Abiran Sritharan
519-824-4120 ext 52771
faregrad@uoguelph.ca

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.

uoguelph.ca/MFARE

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 can apply their skills to a major research paper, or complete an internship with a private or public sector employer engaging in a consultancy project for a real-world client. Students can choose to specialize their studies in two applied areas: agri-food sector and policy analysis or management analysis.

Program Duration

Typically completed in three to four semesters, with most students finishing within one year.

Program Strengths

The MFARE program is offered by one of Canada's foremost university departments in food, agricultural and natural resource economics. Faculty members are recognized internationally for their expertise and experience, and frequently called to advise government, private sector and civil society, both in Canada and globally. A major strength of the program is the experiential opportunities it provides that prepare graduates for employment in Canada or internationally. These opportunities enable students to apply their skills in the real-world and 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. 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 Deadlines:

International – March 31, 2026

Domestic – June 30, 2026

Entry: Fall 2026

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

Students develop the analytical skills to address these issues, and 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

Graduate Program Coordinator:

Professor Spencer Henson
519-824-4120 ext 53134
shenson@uoguelph.ca

Graduate Program Assistant:

Abiran Sritharan
519-824-4120 ext 52771
faregrad@uoguelph.ca