



## **Program Description**

### **"Quality and Standards Management in Agri-Food Systems "**

#### **1. Why a Master in "Quality and Standards Management in Agri-Food Systems "**

The agri-food sector is experiencing a significant transformation, where quality, standards and compliance with international requirements have become key factors for success in the market. In this context, this Executive Master program is designed to prepare professionals capable of managing quality systems in an integrated manner throughout the agri-food chain – from primary production to the final consumer.

The program does not treat quality only as a technical aspect, but as a strategic management function, closely linked to auditing, certification, data-based decision-making and compliance with European Union standards. This makes it a unique program in the Albanian context, addressing a clear gap in the academic offer and in the labor market requirements.

At the same time, the program directly responds to the developments in the agri-food sector, the growth of exports and the need for certified and safe products, contributing to increasing the competitiveness of Albanian products in international markets. Through an interdisciplinary and practice-oriented approach, students are prepared to take on key roles in industries, institutions and organizations operating in the field of quality and standards.

This program:

- Prepares specialists in demand in the domestic and international market
- Supports European integration and EU standards

#### **2. Graduate competencies**

Graduates in this program benefit from an advanced combination of theoretical knowledge and practical skills in quality and standards management in agri-food systems. They are prepared to operate in complex environments, integrating market requirements, international standards and the regulatory framework in decision-making and management.

The program aims to develop professional profiles that link the technical with the managerial aspects, making graduates capable of contributing directly to improving the performance and competitiveness of the agri-food sector.

The graduate:

- Implements and manages quality management systems (ISO, HACCP, GLOBAL G.A.P etc.) in agri-food systems
- Manages risk in the supply chain and production processes
- Implements traceability and quality control systems
- Performs internal audits and supports certification processes
- Uses statistical methods and data analysis for quality control
- Implements the legal framework and standards in agri-food systems
- Contributes to the continuous improvement of processes and performance
- Operates at the interface between business, regulatory institutions and certification bodies

### **3. Potential employers and/or career paths**

This program prepares graduates who can easily integrate into a wide range of sectors, reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of quality management and standards in agri-food systems. The profile created is in demand both in the private sector and in public institutions and international organizations.

Graduates can develop careers in managerial, technical and consulting roles, positioning themselves at the interface between production, quality control and regulatory requirements.

Main employment sectors:

- Agri-food enterprises and processing companies
- Export companies and structures oriented towards EU markets
- Producer organizations and agricultural cooperatives
- Quality control, testing and analysis laboratories
- Certification, auditing and inspection bodies
- Public institutions and regulatory authorities
- Consulting companies and professional services

Main career paths:

- Quality manager
- Standards and certification specialist
- Internal / external auditor
- Traceability and quality control specialist
- Inspector in agri-food systems
- Consultant for the implementation of quality systems

4. Alumni who can serve as an example

### **5. How is the interdisciplinarity of the program implemented?**

The program is built on a clear interdisciplinary approach, integrating knowledge and methods from several key areas related to the functioning of agri-food systems. This approach reflects the real complexity of the sector, where quality management is not only a technical issue, but also includes managerial, regulatory, economic and environmental dimensions.

Interdisciplinarity is achieved at the level of structure, content and practical application, enabling students to develop an integrated understanding of the agri-food chain – from production and processing, to certification, marketing and compliance with international standards.

The program combines elements from quality management, standardization, auditing, statistics, techniques laboratory, marketing and sustainable development, creating professional profiles capable of operating at the interface between several disciplines.

Interdisciplinary structure of the program:

- 5% Core courses (methodology and quantitative analysis)
- 50% Characterizing courses (quality, standards, auditing, HACCP, ISO, GLOBAP G.A.P., )
- 20% Interdisciplinary/integrative courses (legislation, environment, risk, products)
- 10% Supplementary courses (ethics, sustainable development, laboratory techniques)
- 25% Final obligations (master's thesis with an applied character)

### **6. Which Bachelor programs are suggested for this Master**

This program is open to graduates from Bachelor programs related to agri-food systems, life sciences and management. Due to its interdisciplinary nature, it welcomes candidates with different academic backgrounds, who aim to specialize in quality and standards management.

Suggested Bachelor Programs:

- Food Technology
- Food and Nutritional Sciences
- Agricultural Sciences and Food Security
- Veterinary Medicine
- Environmental and Water Engineering
- Business Management

- Economics
- Information Technology in Agriculture and Environment