WINTER SEMESTER
2025/26

CURRICULUM

Agricultural Economics

Master of Science

Faculty of Agricultural Sciences | As of August 2025

Preamble

This curriculum provides applicants and students as well as teaching and administrative staff with comprehensive information about the M.Sc. program "Agricultural Economics" It contains information on the program structure and summarizes the most important exam regulations (issued the 13th May 2025).

The information presented reflects the current situation. Titles and contents of compulsory and optional modules are sometimes subject to change. For administrative reasons, such changes can only be included in printed materials with a delay. For this reason, we do not accept liability for the correctness of the information provided.

If in doubt, please contact the coordinator of the program (agecon@uni-hohenheim.de) to obtain up-to-date information. For up-to-date module descriptions please refer to the website at uni-hohenheim.de/en/module-catalogue. Time schedules and lecture halls for all courses are displayed in the Course Catalog of the University of Hohenheim, available at the beginning of each semester online on the University's homepage: uni-hohenheim.de/en/course-catalog

Imprint

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The Master's Program Agricultural Economics (AgEcon)

1 PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Agriculture is a major driving force in the world economy. Especially as the earth's population grows and rising standards of living are sought across the globe, the production, trade, financing, processing, regulation, marketing, and consumption of agricultural food, feed, and fiber are crucial areas of research. Agricultural Economics examines the use of available resources from farm to fork to meet the needs and desires of present and future generations. Sustainability, food security, food safety, environmental quality, agricultural policy reform, and rural community development are typical issues that agricultural economists study in an international context. The M.Sc. program is designed to prepare qualified people of all nationalities for these and other challenging tasks.

The full program has a scope of 120 ECTS credits. The language of instruction is English, and the program can be started in October (winter semester) each year.

2 DEGREE AND CAREER PERSPECTIVES

After successful completion of all modules as well as the thesis, the student is awarded the degree "Master of Science" (M.Sc.). This degree entitles to continuing with a Ph.D./doctoral program if the total grade is above average.

As the agri-food sector becomes more diverse, global, and highly technical, a growing variety of career opportunities are opening for well-trained agricultural economists. At Hohenheim, students acquire analytical skills and the necessary understanding of political contexts to be able to work in governmental and non-governmental organizations, international organizations, and the private sector. The program also opens excellent opportunities to complete a doctorate and pursue an academic career.

Typical areas of work for agricultural economists are found in:

- Companies in the upstream and downstream sectors of the food and agricultural industries
- Regulatory bodies along the value-added chain
- Governmental and non-governmental organizations
- National and international organizations
- Teaching and research institutions

Examples of AgEcon graduates can be found here: uni-hohenheim.de/agecon-alumni

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In the "**Study Compass**" you will find a comprehensive compilation of important information for your studies.

Information about modules, examinations, master's thesis, plan of blocked modules, AIDAHO program, additional offers, and much more is available there.

Make sure to consult the Study Compass and get familiar with the regulations!

3 PROGRAM DESIGN

The two-year M.Sc. program "Agricultural Economics" comprises four semesters, during which 15 thematic modules (5 compulsory, 5 semi-elective from a list of 13 modules, and 5 elective modules) and the master's thesis must be completed

The program follows a modular course structure. A typical semester consists of five modules. In the first two semesters, students complete five compulsory, and five semi-elective or elective modules. In the third semester, they complete the remaining semi-elective or elective modules from a broad list of subjects, and in the fourth semester they work on their thesis. Upon application, examinations taken at other universities can be recognized if the request is submitted within the first three months of the first semester in Hohenheim (deadlines: 31 December or 30 June).

This program structure ensures a solid agricultural economics education but also allows students to get trained according to their own career aspirations.

	1. Semester	2. Semester	3. Semester	4. Semester
6 Credits	**4904-460** (Berger) Farm System Modelling	**4201-410** (Wieck) Agricultural and Food Policy	(Semi-)elective module	
6 Credits	**4103-420** (Hirsch) Applied Econometrics	**4101-410** (Lippert) Environmental and Re-source Economics	(Semi-)elective module	
6 Credits	**4202-450** (Hess) Microeconomics	(Semi-)elective module	(Semi-)elective module	**Master's Thesis** (30 credits)
6 Credits	(Semi-)elective module	(Semi-)elective module	(Semi-)elective module	
6 Credits	(Semi-)elective module	(Semi-)elective module	(Semi-)elective module	

3.1 Compulsory Modules

These are the modules providing the core knowledge of the study program. Those modules must be completed to obtain the M.Sc. degree.

The **compulsory modules** are:

Sem	Code	Name of Module	Duration	Credits	Professor
1	4904-460	Farm System Modeling	First half of semester	6	Berger
1	4103-420	Applied Econometrics *(AIDAHO Methods)	1 semester	6	Hirsch
1	4202-450	Microeconomics	1 semester	6	Hess
2	4201-410	Agricultural and Food Policy	1 semester	6	Wieck
2	4101-410	Environmental and Resource Economics	1 semester	6	Lippert

3.2 Semi-elective modules

These are modules covering a wider range of content related to the aim of the study program.

In the AgEcon program at least five modules must be chosen of the list of **semi-elective modules**:

Sem	Code	Name of Module	Duration	Credits	Professor
1	4301-410	Knowledge and Innovation Management	1 semester	6	Knierim
1	4901-420	Poverty and Development Strategies	1 semester	6	Zeller
1	4904-430	Land Use Economics (can be combined with 4904-460 Farm System Modelling)	Second half of semester	6	Berger
1	3080-440	Agricultural Production and Residues**	1 semester	6	Gallmann
1	4903-520	Governance of Sustainable Agri-Food Systems	1 semester	6	Birner
2	4904-470	Farm System Modelling - Applications *	1 semester	6	Berger
2	4902-420	International Food and Agricultural Trade	1 semester	6	Boysen-Urban
2	4903-470	Qualitative Research Methods in Rural Development Studies	1 semester	6	Birner
2/3	4904-410	Agricultural Economics Seminar * (offered in summer and winter semester)	1 semester	6	Berger
2	4901-480	Monitoring and Evaluation of Rural Development Projects	1 semester	6	Zeller
2	4904-480	Farm Risk Analysis *(AIDAHO application)	1 semester	6	Berger
3	4204-420	Advanced Policy Analysis Modeling *(AIDAHO Methods)	1 semester	6	Feuerbacher
3	4902-430	Food and Nutrition Security	1 semester	6	Boysen-Urban
3	4903-500	Policy Processes in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management	1 semester	6	Birner
3	4901-470*	Quantitative Methods in Economics* *(AIDAHO Methods)	1 semester	6	Zeller

* Limited number of participants. Please register for participation on ILIAS

** Students who have no or only a weak background knowledge of practical agriculture are encouraged to attend the modules 4402-440 Agricultural Production and Residues (semi-elective) and/or 4903-510 Innovations for Sustainable Agri-Food Systems (elective).

3.3   Elective Modules

Further **elective modules** must be chosen to complete the required 90 credits of course work. Elective modules can be chosen from the list below or from the modules of other master's programs offered by the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences at the University of Hohenheim. On request to the examination board and with the approval of an academic counsellor or the program coordinator, modules can be also chosen from other programs of the University of Hohenheim or other universities.

Suggestions for elective modules:

Sem	Code	Name of Module	Duration	Credits	Professor
1-4	3000-410	Portfolio-Module (Master)	open	1 - 7.5	Kruse, M.
1-4	3000-420	UNIcert® III English for Scientific Purposes	open	7.5	Kruse, M.
1-4	3000-560	Deutsch als Fremdsprache UNIcert® II (B2)	open	7.5	Hölzle
1	4902-440	Economics and Environmental Policy**	1 semester	6	Boysen-Urban
1	5107-4X0	Principles of Data Science *(AIDAHO-Basic)	1 semester	6	Dimpfl
1/3	4301-470	Agricultural Knowledge Systems and Advisory Services	1 semester	6	Knierim
2	4101-450	Farm and Agribusiness Economics	1 semester	6	Lippert
2	4101-460	Farm Farm Economics and Value Chain Development	1 semester	6	Lippert
2	4209-460	Sustainability Marketing & Marketing Consulting	1 semester	6	Weinrich
2	4901-430	Rural Development Policies and Institutions *	1 semester	6	Zeller
2	4903-510	Innovations for Sustainable Agri-Food Systems **	1 semester	6	Birner
2	4301-460	Fit for Innovation Support – Concepts, Methods, and Skills	1 semester	6	Knierim
2	4303-430	Exploring Regional Transformations through Utopias	1 semester	7.5	Seufert
2	4407-480	Introduction to Machine Learning in Python *(AIDAHO-Basic)	1 semester e-learning	7.5	Stein/ Krupitzer
2	5202-530	Microeconometrics *(AIDAHO Methods)	1 semester	6	Osikominu
2	5210-440	Globalization and History	1 semester	6	Lehmann-Hasemeyer
2	5200-510	Statistical Learning *(AIDAHO Methods) (the module 5107-410 Introduction to Applied Data Science must be completed before choosing this module)	1 semester	6	Osikominu/ R. Jung
2	5211-520	Applied Financial Econometrics (offered every other year)	1 semester	6	R. Jung
2	5211-740	Time Series Econometrics *(AIDAHO Methods)	1 semester	6	R. Jung
2	5703-510	Entrepreneurship	1 semester	6	Kuckertz
3	5207-430	Advanced Macroeconomics	1 semester	6	Beißinger
3	4103-410	Applied Agribusiness, Productivity & Trade Analysis	1 semester	6	Hirsch

Sem	Code	Name of Module	Duration	Credits	Professor
3	4201-470	Policies for Sustainability Transitions	1 semester	6	Wieck
3	4302-420	Ethical Reflection on Food and Agriculture *	1 semester	6	Bieling
3	4302-500	Transformation Studies in Agri-Food Systems	1 semester	6	Bieling
3	4407-510	Intelligent Robotics for Agriculture	1 semester	6	Stein
3	5202-630	Topics in Microeconometrics *(AIDAHO application)	1 semester	6	Osikominu
3	5202-510	Schwerpunktseminar Econometrics *(AIDAHO application)	1 semester	6	R. Jung
3	5211-620	Schwerpunkt-Seminar Financial Econometrics	1 semester	6	R. Jung

* Limited number of participants. Please register for participation on ILIAS

** Students who have no or only a weak background knowledge of practical agriculture are encouraged to attend the modules 4402-440 Agricultural Production and Residues (semi-elective) and/or 4903-510 Innovations for Sustainable Agri-Food Systems (elective). Students who lack knowledge about the agricultural policy of the European Union are advised to attend the elective module 4902-440 Economics and Environmental Policy (elective). This module is also recommended to students who need a refresher of the basics of microeconomics and environmental policy.

3.4 Suggestions for Thematic Foci in Agricultural Economics

The following lists of semi-elective (SE) and elective (E) modules should give some orientation for possible thematic profiles aiming at certain career goals for AgEcon graduates.

3.4.1 Profile for a Career in Agribusiness

4101-450 Farm and Agribusiness Economics (E)
4101-460 Farm Economics and Value Chain Development (E)
4103-410 Applied Agribusiness, Productivity & Trade Analysis (E)
4209-460 Sustainability Marketing & Marketing Consulting (E)
4402-440 Agricultural Production and Residues (SE)
4902-420 International Food and Agricultural Trade (SE)
4903-510 Innovations for Sustainable Agri-Food Systems (E)
4904-470 Farm System Modelling - Applications (SE)
4904-480 Farm Risk Analysis (E)
5202-530 Microeconometrics (E)
5703-510 Entrepreneurship (E)

3.4.2 Profile for a Career in Agricultural and Rural Development

4204-420 Advanced Policy Analysis Modeling (SE)
4901-420 Poverty and Development Strategies (SE)
4901-480 Monitoring and Evaluation of Rural Development Projects (SE)
4904-430 Land Use Economics (SE)
4901-430 Rural Development Policies and Institutions (E)
4903-520 Governance of Sustainable Agri-Food Systems (SE)
4301-410 Knowledge and Innovation Management (SE)
4301-470 Agricultural Knowledge Systems and Advisory Services (E)
3080-440 Agricultural Production and Residues (SE)

Elective modules: Select from crop or livestock production and agricultural engineering if you have limited background in these fields.

3.4.3 Profile for a Career in Research / Academics

Emphasize modules on theory and research methods among semi-electives and electives:

4204-420 Advanced Policy Analysis Modeling (SE)
4901-470 Quantitative Methods in Economics (SE)
4903-470 Qualitative Research Methods in Rural Development Studies (SE)
4904-410 Agricultural Economics Seminar (SE)
Select a challenging M.Sc. Thesis, either with primary data collection or substantive quantitative modelling. Make sure you have very good grades, go for a PhD!

4 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND DATA SCIENCE IN HOHENHEIM (AIDAHO)

The program is designed for students of all faculties. The aim of AIDAHO is to increase the expertise of its participants in the fields of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Data Science and Scientific Computing. Students can enroll in the certificate in addition to their main course of study: **aidaho.uni-hohenheim.de/en**.

How to achieve the certificate

To successfully complete the program, students must pass at least five AIDAHO modules (30 ECTS).

- There are **three mandatory basic modules** that all participants must complete. The courses of these modules teach basic programming skills and statistical methods.

- In the **two semi-elective specialization modules** students can deepen their _methodological skills_ and choose to work on data projects in _application_ seminars.

For better planning, modules which are part of the AIDAHO program, are marked across the curriculum with an asterisk and a note whether it is a basic, an application or a methodological module.

5 KEY CONTACTS FOR THE AGECON PROGRAM

5.1 AgEcon Program Director

Prof. Dr. Arndt Feuerbacher, University of Hohenheim
Chair of Ecological-Economic Policy Modelling (420d)
E-mail: a.feuerbacher@uni-hohenheim.de
Web: https://eep.uni-hohenheim.de/feuerbacher

5.2 Academic Counselling

Academic counsellors advise students on their choice of modules to design their individual study profile and to support smooth and focused study progress. If a student wants to select modules offered by a faculty other than the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, they must be approved by the academic counsellor or the program coordinator beforehand. Students can contact these counsellors at any time and ask for an appointment.

Academic counsellors for AgEcon and their respective research focus:

- **Prof. Dr. Manfred Zeller**, Rural Development Theory and Policy, manfred.zeller@uni-hohenheim.de
- **Prof. Dr. Thomas Berger**, Land Use Economics in the Tropics and Subtropics, thomas.berger@uni-hohenheim.de
- **Prof. Dr. Christine Wieck**, Agricultural and Food Policy, christine.wieck@uni-hohenheim.de
- **Prof. Dr. Lippert**, Production Theory and Resource Economics, christian.lippert@uni-hohenheim.de
- **Prof. Dr. Sebastian Hess**, Agricultural Markets, s.hess@uni-hohenheim.de

5.3 Head of the Examination and Admission Committee M.Sc. Agricultural Sciences

Prof. Dr. Amélia Camarinha da Silva
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5.4 AgEcon Program Coordinator

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