



**Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier
(CIHEAM-IAMM)**

ACADEMIC REGULATIONS



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ACADEMIC REGULATIONS OF THE CIHEAM-IAMM

Three types of training are provided by the CIHEAM-IAMM for the upgrading of the technical and scientific executives concerned with the thematic fields covered by the CIHEAM-IAMM.

1. The programme of Master 2 (60 credits)

This one-year cycle is designed to acquire theoretical and practical specialised knowledge in the fields of agricultural, agri-food and rural development. It is intended for working professionals and students who achieved an academic education and want to complete their training or reorient in the thematic fields covered by the CIHEAM-IAMM.

The specialisation programme leads to a Master's degree (M2).

2. The Master of Science programme (60 credits)

This cycle lasts around 9 months, and the objective is to promote the acquisition of theoretical and practical knowledge, and to deepen the critical understanding of students and implementation through an original research or professional thesis work in the thematic fields.

• Master of Science

The objective of this specialisation is:

- Either to provide the participants with technical and practical courses that will make them experience professional situations and practice more closely the application fields. In addition to the specialised technical course, this training comprises a field internship that leads to the elaboration of a professional thesis awarded by the *Master of Science* diploma.
- Or to train the participants through theoretical courses and seminars on methodology, to enable them to achieve a research thesis awarded by the *Master of Science* diploma.

3. Advanced specialised courses programme

These courses last less than one academic year. They aim at providing the participants with an advanced knowledge in specific areas of Development.

Two types of short-duration courses are provided:

- Courses corresponding to some units of the long-duration training
- Specific courses organised in Montpellier or in different Mediterranean countries in partnership with the national training and research

A certificate of attendance is released to the participants at the end of the short-duration courses.

4. Specific training

In relation to its research and educational activities, the CIHEAM-IAMM can welcome for a variable duration, several students interested by the subjects developed within the framework of specific trainings. A certificate of attendance is released to the participants at the end of the session.

I. The programme of Master 2

1. Enrolment procedures

The applicants to the M2 programme must have an academic level allowing them to attend a post-graduate education in their country of origin, or a level equivalent to a minimum of 4 years of academic studies. Their last diploma must also be achieved in a discipline that is related to the specialisation for which they apply; additional conditions can be required for some Masters.

Exceptionally, the applicants whose diplomas are of an inferior level to what is required can be allowed to apply if they have prior authorisation from their government to pursue these studies and if they demonstrate at least five years of professional experience. In that particular case, the admission can be subject to additional examinations during the training session.

❖ **Submission of applications:** enrolment and scholarship applications (form available on the website) must be sent to the IAMM before **1st May, final deadline**.

❖ **Selection of the applicants:** selection is based on the application documents and priority is given to the applicants who come from member countries of the CIHEAM, depending on their academic results, their motivation and their professional experience in the specialisation they chose to apply to.

❖ **Admission:** the admissions are announced by the Director of the CIHEAM-IAMM on behalf of the Governing Board, before the beginning of each session. The results of the applications are given to the applicants before **the end of May**.

The applications received after the closing date, are reviewed by the selection committee in September and admissions are announced depending on available places. The letters of admission specify the conditions of admission.

❖ **Enrolment procedures:** the applicants proceed to their enrolment at the registrars' office of the IAMM as they arrive at the beginning of the training session. In order to comply with the enrolment requirements, the applicants must subscribe a health insurance (medical, hospital and liability insurances), pay the registration fees, and complete the administrative formalities. The students will then receive a student card and a registration certificate.

All enrolment procedures in Master 2 are closed in mid-October.

2. Organisation of the programme

a. The educational activities

The specialisation includes an educational programme (courses, conferences, seminars, and applied works) and individual works (in a documentation centre, a research laboratory, a firm, field internships, etc...)

Instruction is given by permanent, associate or visiting teachers, or by lecturers. The students are mentored by teacher-researchers throughout the educational programme and for their individual works.

A full-time presence is required: students must attend all lectures, seminars, conferences, applied and supervised work. No other academic or professional activity can be exercised at the same time without special authorisation from the Director.

b. The credit system

Specialisation programmes are organised in units (or seminars) of several weeks duration and for which a certain number of credits are given on the following basis:

- a standard week for a regular course corresponds to 1,5 credit for it will comprise a minimum of 45 hours of personal work, seminars and conferences, applied work, tutorials, lab and field work, etc.

For each unit, the student earns the corresponding credits if he/she meets the following conditions:

- he/she has attended all the educational activities of the unit
- he/she passed the examinations and achieved a grade of 10/20

c. The examination system

Each unit concludes with either a written examination or a continuous assessment that enables the student to validate the credits granted to the unit.

A compensatory session is organised by the end of the training for those who were absent and excused, for those who arrived late for administrative reasons (under prior acceptance of the CIHEAM-IAMM) and for those whose grades are below 10/20 in one or two units maximum. In that case, the final grade when calculating the overall average is that obtained in the compensatory session. There is no compensatory examination once the results have been proclaimed at the end of the programme.

3. Graduation

The Master 2 diploma is issued upon the successful completion of the CIHEAM-IAMM training programme.

At the beginning of the training, the CIHEAM-IAMM students must submit their training plan for approval of the admission and educational monitoring board. Once approved, the plan sets all the courses they need to attend, as well as the internships and the individual works that need to be done.

To achieve a Master 2 degree, the student must have:

- fulfilled all the requirements of the training programme,
- completed 60 credits for the whole session,
- achieved a weighted overall average equal to or above 10/20 ; the mark to each module or individual work is weighted by the corresponding number of credits.

Distinctions are granted under the following conditions:

- ↳ **Cum Laude** : overall average between 14/20 and 16/20
- ↳ **Cum Maxima Laude** : overall average equal to or above 17/20

The diploma awarded by the CIHEAM-IAMM carries the name of the Master programme followed by the student. It is signed by the Director of the CIHEAM-IAMM. Regarding the Masters co-accredited with higher education institutions, the attribution of distinctions is achieved in compliance with the regulation of the partners.

II. Advanced training programme : the Master of Science

1. Enrolment procedures

The conditions of enrolment to an advanced training programme are as follows:

- ↳ To hold a Master 2 diploma with a *Cum Laude* distinction, that is with a weighted overall average of 14/20.
- ↳ To have defended a research or internship project which received the approval of the jury and a grade of at least 10/20

Regarding the co-accredited programmes with the university, the conditions are as follows:

- ↳ To hold a Master 2 diploma co-accredited with the university at the end of the academic year during which the student enrolled
- ↳ To achieve an overall average of 12/20 (60 credits)

2. Educational organisation

The advanced training programme can include educational activities (courses, conferences, seminars, and practical works) and individual works (in a documentation centre, a research laboratory, a company, field trainings, etc.). But the individual works, the field trainings and the research seminars figure prominently in the Master of Science programme.

The students benefit from the guidance of teacher-researchers during their training and for their individual works. They are subject to three phase-to-phase evaluations.

3. Defence jury

The defence jury must consist of teachers from the IAMM and visiting professors/professionals from diverse nationalities whenever possible.

The jury is composed of at least three persons: the thesis director, a permanent teacher of the IAMM, a higher education teacher or a researcher, and/or an expert in the field. The thesis director must be a teacher or a researcher qualified in the chosen specialty.

The jury is convened by the Director of the IAMM on the proposal of the thesis director based on a report which certifies that the thesis can be defended and which is written by an external personality qualified in the chosen specialty and member of the jury.

After deliberation, the panel can decide on the publication of the thesis. It will accordingly precise the nature of the publication distribution (broad or narrow) and possibly the amendments and additions that needed in the defended document.

The theses must be provided to the Education Secretariat at least 5 days before the defence.

4. Graduation

To obtain the Master of Science diploma, the student must have:

- satisfied all the requirements of the training programme,
- completed 60 credits for the whole session,
- achieved a weighted overall average equal to or above 50/100

Distinctions are granted under the following conditions:

- ↳ ***Cum Laude*** : weighted overall average between 70/100 and 84/100
- ↳ ***Cum Maxima Laude*** : weighted overall average, equal to or above 85/100

The results are weighted by the number of credits (60 the M2, 60 for the Master of Science).

The Master of Science diploma is awarded by the IAMM and carries the name of the chosen specialisation. It is signed by the CIHEAM's Chairman of the Board and Secretary General. A Diploma Supplement is attached to the diploma: it gives a detailed description of the student's training plan, the name and function of the teachers, the specificities of the individual works, the name of the personalities who constituted the defence jury, and the results achieved.

5. Duration of studies in the advanced training programme

An interruption between the Master 2 and the Master of Science can be granted for professional or personal reasons (health, military service, lengthy training, etc...). In any case, the duration between the date of enrolment in a specialisation programme and the achievement of the Master of Science must not exceed 4 years, unless special derogation is granted by the Secretary General of the CIHEAM on proposal of the IAMM Director.

6. Direct admission to the Master of Science

By way of derogation, direct admissions can be decided by the Board on proposal of the Directors of the IAM. The candidates must meet the following conditions:

- ↳ to comply with the requirements in terms of qualifications and diplomas for admission on a specialisation cycle,
- ↳ to have completed studies and reached a level equivalent to the CIHEAM specialisation cycle,
- ↳ to hold a diploma for studies equivalent to the Master 2 with a Cum Laude distinction
- ↳ to succeed in the direct admission tests for the Master of Science (interview with a jury on a project of thesis, research or professional internship).