

# MASTERS IN EUROPEAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT



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**“I think the course looks highly relevant to the work I and colleagues are doing (in the European Commission)”**

*European Commission employee*

## STUDY

- MSc Full-time 18 months
- MSc Part-time 3 years

You may also study for a postgraduate Diploma or Certificate over a shorter period of time

## MODE OF STUDY

### Distance Learning (plus residential event and Summer School)

Distance Learning uses computer-based technology and the internet for education so that the student does not have to physically be in the place where the teaching is taking place.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A good honours degree, or equivalent, or a relevant professional qualification and/or work experience.

The course is taught in English, and you must have proficiency in English to an appropriate level (normally a minimum IELTS score of 6).

## FEES (HOME AND EU STUDENTS)

- Full fee for postgraduate Certificate: £1200
- Full fee for Postgraduate Diploma: £1200
- Full MSc course fee: £3250

*(fees correct as at 1 September 2006)*

Payment of tuition fees can be made by cheque, cash, debit or credit card, and in instalments by direct debit. Fees are normally due on or before you register for the course. There is no premium for direct debit payments, but we expect that fees be fully paid before completion of your course.

## COURSE LEADER

Dr Anne Miller BSc PhD AIEEMA  
Email: [amiller@glos.ac.uk](mailto:amiller@glos.ac.uk)

## APPLICATION AND PROSPECTUS REQUESTS

Student Recruitment Office  
Hardwick Administration Centre  
St Paul's Road Cheltenham  
Gloucestershire GL50 4BS  
Tel: +44 (0)1242 714509  
Fax: +44 (0) 1242 714200  
Email: [postgraduate@glos.ac.uk](mailto:postgraduate@glos.ac.uk)

## DO YOU WANT TO...

- Increase your understanding of European rural development?
- Enhance your career prospects?
- Study from work or home at Masters level?
- Network with other people studying rural development in Europe online and in pre-sessional and summer schools?
- Obtain a Masters degree for a fraction of the cost of a residential masters?
- Be connected with an exciting partnership of leading academic institutions?
- Interact and discuss with lecturers who have up to date and recognised practical experience of European rural development?

*...then enrol for our MSc in European Rural Development.*

The sustainable development of Europe's rural areas is a pressing challenge at a time of globalisation, CAP reform and changing societal expectations and demands. Within the reformed CAP, rural development is of growing importance and the recent expansion of the European Community creates an even greater demand for effective rural development practitioners.

**“The course is very relevant for students interested in rural development, rural development managers and technicians and decision takers and rural development practitioners working at local level”**

*Senior Spanish academic*



The MSc in European Rural Development has been designed for those working in the private, public and voluntary sectors, or in partnerships such as LEADER-type groups, who wish to develop understanding of the social and economic theory of rural change and be capable of acting in key roles in guiding and shaping development opportunities in rural Europe.

#### HOW WILL I LEARN?

The course lasts 18 months full-time and 3 years part-time. Full-time students study 6 modules over one year with the dissertation taking a further six months. The part-time option extends over 2 years for the taught modules, but is flexible to accommodate those in work. The programme will be distance taught by WebCT, which is an on-line learning system which will enable anyone from anywhere in the world to study from his/her home or place of work if they have access to the internet.

Course design and delivery has four elements, which emphasise the opportunities for shared learning amongst students:

The course material includes home study course books containing information, written discussion and activities.

The assessment programme is more than a check on what you have learned; it provides additional opportunities for learning. There are one or two assignments for each module and they include written reports, problem

solving projects and local investigations. Residential schools are a vital element of the course and the opportunity for students and staff from all over the EU to get together, to share ideas and experiences, and to make new contacts. One is a pre-session induction event and the other a summer school.

#### WHO WILL SUPPORT ME?

Tutorial support is provided by international partner institutions and through online or web-based communication with tutors at Cheltenham.

Students are also strongly encouraged to make arrangements to meet together (face to face or as 'virtual' meetings) to form self-help groups and local networks.

As a student you will receive:

- Full tutorial support eg by WebCT/email
- Remote access to a wide range of academic journals

- Opportunities for on-line discussion with fellow students
- Invitations to pre-session schools and summer schools

#### COMPUTER SKILLS

You will need only a standard PC, basic word processing skills, experience of email, and access to the internet to be able to participate in the course. A password will give you access to the on-line learning environment.

#### THE MODULES

In general, the modules are delivered on the basis of 24 hours of contact time, including web-based tutorial support, and 176 hours of independent study, including work-based learning, desk based study, assignment research and writing and web-based discussion. Assessment of each module is normally based on 2 or 3 assignments, one essay style and the others more practically based with reports and presentations.



“I would certainly see people from my team being interested in (the course).” *Senior Government Officer UK*

**The compulsory modules are:**

**European Rural Policy:** provides a comprehensive overview of the development and rationale for EU rural policies including EU regional and cohesion policy, and the evolving role of the CAP.

**Europe’s ‘Rural Mosaic’:** provides a critical overview of the changing nature of rural Europe, including its economic, social, environmental, political and cultural characteristics. It will also examine the emergence of ‘rural development’ as a concept and theory linked to that changing rural landscape.

**Project Planning and Management:** assesses the challenges involved in project planning, processes of implementation, and evaluation against criteria for sustainable development and theories of project management.

**Perspectives and Investigative Methods in Research and Consultancy:** examines the principles of sustainable development and evaluates their application in European rural development. The module provides a ‘hands-on’ practical induction into learning and investigative skills for postgraduate study. Opportunities will occur to draw on students own experiences in these assignments. A range of training is provided in specific methods and/or techniques as preparation for research or professional practice.

**The optional modules comprise:**

**Rural Economic Development:** identifies and assesses economic change in the rural economy. It examines the impact of market forces and economic performance on the rural economy, including businesses, communities and regions, and identifies the policies employed to manage significant change.

**Rural Social and Community Development:** develops a student’s critical awareness of social issues within rural Europe, and processes and methods of intervention in local communities to achieve social, cultural and economic consequences. The contested meanings of ‘community’ and ‘development’ and ‘social inclusion’ are explored, as well as alternative methods of empowerment.

**Environmental Policy, Planning and Legislation:** develops understanding of how environmental policy is made and implemented within the European Union and internationally, and evaluates agreements, legislation, policies and practices. Students have the opportunity to focus on national and local contexts.

**Overseas Project Work:** provides students with an opportunity to benefit from working in a European country other than their own. It is an independent study module where students plan their own learning on a theme relevant to European rural development and can be undertaken in connection with field visits to Hungary, Poland, Finland and Spain, or alternatively could arise from contacts with partner institutions.

**Vocational Placement:** also based on independent study, this enables the student to undertake a period of vocational or ‘work experience’. The student develops a ‘learning contract’ clarifying the professional skills and knowledge to develop through the work experience, and designing appropriate assessment. The nature and length of the work experience will be different for every student and may include work over short or long periods, full or part-time.

**Dissertation:** provides students with the opportunity to carry out a sustained and intensive investigation into the ways knowledge of European rural development informs our understanding of issues such as social well being, the nature of rural change and the relations between society, political systems and environment. The findings are presented in a formal manner in accordance with academic conventions. Total study time is estimated at 600 hours, with up to 10 hours of supervision.

**STAFF**

The Masters in European Rural Development brings together staff from a range of disciplines including geography, sociology and economics in the Department of Natural and Social Sciences (DNSS) and the Countryside and Community Research Unit (CCRU), a leading European research centre into socio-economic aspects of rural change, as well as universities in Sweden, Spain and Poland.

The DNSS hosts a UK Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning in environment, community development, landscape and heritage management and geography, and offers a broad portfolio of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in these areas.

The CCRU undertakes academic research across a wide range of rural issues, and currently has programmes in agriculture, food and land use, community and society, and rural economy and rural policy. It is well placed to offer a stimulating and supportive environment for students. Staff are also active members of Euracademy, a network of academic and practitioners interested in rural development.

**KEY STAFF PROFILES**



**Dr Anne Miller (Course Leader)** is a natural scientist with expertise in environmental management and assessment, with extensive experience in leading cross-disciplinary MSc programmes in the UK and overseas.



**Professor Malcolm Moseley** is a geographer and leading European expert on rural partnerships and the author of many books and papers on rural community development.



**Dr Janet Dwyer** is a natural scientist and economist, a leading researcher and expert on rural development policy and environmental aspects of rural development.



**James Derounian** is an experienced lecturer in rural community development with wide-ranging practical and consultancy experience in European community economic development.



**Elisabeth Skinner** has long experience in lecturing and consultancy on local policy and community development and is a leading UK expert on web-based and distance learning.



**Professor Bill Slee** is a rural economist who has worked extensively in economies in transition and has wide-ranging research experience in rural development.