

The Royal Agricultural University

Programme Specification:

MSc Rural Estate Management

2023-24

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION [ACADEMIC YEAR 2023/24]

This Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes and content of each module can be found in the Module descriptors.

Section 1 – Material Programme Information

Validating body	The Royal Agricultural University			
Teaching Institution	The Royal Agricultural University			
School	Real Estate and Land Management			
Entry Award(s)	MSc Rural Estate Management			
Final Award and exit route(s)	Postgraduate Certificate in Rural Estate Management Postgraduate Diploma in Rural Estate Management MSc Rural Estate Management			
Programme title	MSc Rural Estate Management			
Location(s) of study	Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester			
Mode of study	Full time	1 year	Part-time	2 years
Language of study	English			
Programme start month	September/October			
Period of validation	September 2021 – August 2028			
Name of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)			
Type of Accreditation				
Accreditation due for renewal	2021 – this was extended to 2023			
Entry requirements (this should be the standard University entry requirements unless otherwise approved by the Academic Board, and include UCAS entry profile for UG programmes and IELTS)	An Undergraduate Honours Degree (2:2 or above) from a UK university or overseas equivalent, or a professional qualification and/or experience considered to be equivalent to the above. For information on international qualifications, please, see our country specific pages. For countries not listed please contact admissions@rau.ac.uk			
Non-standard applications	We welcome applications from applicants with non-standard qualifications who are able to demonstrate knowledge, experience (in real estate practice) and skills developed in the workplace or elsewhere and which are relevant to the programme of study. Applicants will need to use their personal statement to provide further details supported by a CV. All non-standard applications will be considered by the Programme Manager on a case-by-case basis and applicants can expect that an interview may be required as part of the admissions process.			
English language	If English is not your first language, you will need to reach the requirements outlined in our English language requirements for the level of study. For postgraduate taught programmes this is IELTS Academic min. overall 6.5 with no element below 5.5(or equivalent). English language tests usually have a validity of 2 years from the date the test is taken.			
Interviews	Interviews are usually required for non-standard applications.			
UCAS Code	N/A			

Quercus code	P1F, P1P
HECoS Code	100977 - Rural Estate Management; 100517 - Agriculture
QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s) and other reference points	QAA Subject Benchmark Statements Master's Degree (February 2020) Land, Construction, Real Estate & Surveying (October 2019) <u>Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors:</u> Requirements and Competencies Guide (August 2018) Rural Pathway Guide (August 2018) Land and Resources Pathway Guide (August 2018)
Academic level on Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)	Level 7
Approval at AQSC	Academic Board 30 July 2021
Version	V1 V2 – Aug 2022: replace 4002 with 4038A V3 – May 2023: replace 4016 with 4742

Section 2 – Programme structure

The structure of all University awards complies with the University's [Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes](#) which includes information about the:

- Rules for progression between the stages of a programme;
- Consequences of failure for referrals, compensation and exist awards;
- Calculation and classification of awards.

MSc Rural Estate Management (180 credits)

Completion of all 9 modules (9 x 15 credits) and a dissertation (45 credits) results in the awarding of an RICS accredited MSc in Real Estate (180 credits); completion of 8 modules (120 credits) results in the award of Post Graduate Diploma and the completion of 4 modules results in the award of Post Graduate Certificate.

Module code	Module title	Level	Credit value	Core/ Elective	Semester
Level 7					
4038A	Integrated Agricultural Systems	7	15	Core	1
4750	Land and Estate Management Strategy and Professional Practice	7	15	Core	1
4742	Planning and Development	7	15	Core	1
4748	Rural Land and Property in Society	7	15	Core	1
4413	Research Skills	7	15	Core	1
4015	Farm Business and Enterprise Management	7	15	Core	2
4019	Rural Property Law	7	15	Core	2
4747	Management of Woodlands and the Natural Environment	7	15	Core	2
4749	Rural Valuation Practice	7	15	Core	2
4414	Dissertation	7	45	Core	1+2

	Total credits: MSc Rural Estate Management		180		
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Section 3 – Programme overview and Programme Aims

This programme is aimed at those people who want to qualify as a Chartered Surveyor specialising in the management of rural land and property. As well as agricultural land and woodland, farms and rural estates will often include other types of property; for example, residential dwellings and non-agricultural buildings let to other businesses in addition to, perhaps, areas of woodland, water or wilderness. They often, therefore, support a diverse range of rural businesses and enterprises including farming, food production, tourism and energy generation. In addition, the way in which rural land and property is managed also plays a vital role in the health of the natural environment in rural areas, and also in the life of the communities within it. Land and rural property managers are therefore required to provide a wide range of advice to not only estate owners, but also farmers, tenants and rural business owners. This diversity is reflected in the programme and makes for a varied and interesting study experience as well as subsequent career.

This programme covers a diverse range of subject areas including rural property law, farm and rural estate business management, and the management of the natural environment. Furthermore, this course, has been developed in partnership with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and most of the graduates from it will go on to complete the RICS 'Assessment of Professional Competence' to qualify as a Chartered Surveyor.

The MSc Programme is taught in Cirencester and can be studied full-time or part-time. If studied full-time, the programme is studied over 12 months, from September to September, with the dissertation handed in at the end of the 12 months. If studied part-time, it is typically completed in 24 months, but there is the option to study it over 4 years.

Professional accreditation

This Programme is one of a suite of programmes provided by the RAU that are within a partnership agreement with the RICS, which recognises the University as one of the accredited providers of surveying education in the UK.

Consequently, the programme has been designed to follow the RICS Requirements and Competencies Guide linked to the RICS Pathway Guides for both "Rural and Land and Resources". As graduates of the programme, students will then be able to register for the Assessment of Professional Competence (APC), which culminates in the award of MRICS, following a minimum of two years of relevant professional experience. In addition, the Programme is also recognised and supported by the Central Association of Agricultural Valuers (CAAV) and many of the graduates from this Programme also become qualified members of the CAAV.

The Programme aims to:

- provide graduates with a significant understanding of the nature, theory and practice of rural land and property management;
- prepare graduates for a career in rural land and property management and to meet the professional requirements of the RICS;

- ensure graduates have a clear understanding of the application of professional and business ethics to land and property;
- provide graduates with opportunities to develop their academic knowledge and practical professional competence associated with the subjects within the MSc programme;
- develop graduates' intellectual, professional, business and interpersonal skills;
- encourage originality and creative thinking.

Section 4 – Programme intended learning outcomes and learning, teaching and assessment methods

This MSc Programme uses a wide range of teaching and learning methods to enable students to apply theory, professional knowledge and appropriate skills and techniques. Assessments are diverse and blend theory with practice.

In particular, the MSc Programme develops:

- the professional knowledge needed for employment in rural land management including for those graduates who want to train and qualify as a member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS);
- industry-focused technical skills to operate in the land and rural property sector;
- critical thinking and research capabilities to challenge assumptions and undertake systematic and impartial investigations;
- personal and inter-personal transferrable skills such as the ability to work independently considering ethical considerations and the need for personal responsibility.

Knowledge and Understanding

LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
1.	Articulate critical awareness of the range of factors influencing land and rural property, including the purchase, sale, letting, management, investment, planning and development of rural property;	4749, 4750
2.	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of industry professional standards, responsibilities and ethics and their impact on professional practice;	4749, 4750
3.	Apply knowledge of property and land management institutional frameworks, mechanisms and constraints;	4749, 4750 4748, 4019
4.	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the needs and perspectives of individuals and organisations that currently occupy rural land and property and be able to assist in identifying and articulating future requirements;	4038A, 4747, 4015, 4750 4748, 4016 4749
5.	Articulate critical awareness of the key concepts, principles and practice influencing activities in land and rural property management.	4015, 4750, 4748, 4016

Knowledge and Understanding		
Intellectual, Professional, Key skills		
LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
1.	Critically evaluate data, analysis or research;	4750, 4749 4007
2.	Design research, collect data and apply appropriate techniques in the context of land and rural property management;	4007
3.	Evaluate and synthesize multidisciplinary considerations to make sound judgements or solve new or unfamiliar problems in diverse and evolving contexts;	4038A, 4747, 4015, 4750 4748, 4016 4749, 4007
4.	Effectively use electronic information handling and data processing and analysis software and applications to inform decision making.	4748, 4019 4007
5.	Reason critically to evaluate and synthesise relevant, reliable and timely data.	4750, 4748 4749, 4007
6.	Communicate effectively and consider, appreciate, evaluate and respect the views of others;	All modules
7.	Demonstrate initiative and the ability to work effectively both individually and as part of a team;	4038A, 4747, 4015, 4750 4748, 4019 4749
8.	Reflect on learning to continuously develop new skills;	4038A, 4747, 4015, 4750 4748, 4019 4007
9.	Recognise the importance of acting with regard to equality and inclusion, ethics, integrity, trust and professional standards.	All modules
Programme specific skills		
LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
1.	Offer advice in relation to the purchase, sale, letting, management, investment, planning and development of rural property at strategic, operational and tactical levels, and in doing so, be able to visually and critically appraise and value rural property for operational, investment, development and statutory purposes;	4750, 4016 4749
2.	Interpret and analyse complex and dynamic rural property markets and be able to understand the physical, legal, business and socio-economic context in which the rural property markets exist;	4750, 4748 4749
3.	Be able to visually survey, analyse and report on the constructional, natural and aesthetic, and financial aspects of land and buildings;	4038A, 4747, 4015, 4750 4748, 4016 4749

Knowledge and Understanding

4.	Articulate and interpret the implications of sustainability for the rural land management sector, including in relation to agriculture, forestry, planning and the development of rural property;	4038A, 4747, 4015, 4750, 4748, 4016, 4749
5.	Apply problem solving and decision-making techniques, including establishing criteria, identifying, formulating and solving land and rural property problems, identifying and evaluating options and implementing and judging the effectiveness of solutions;	All modules
6.	Interpret and analyse financial and other management information and use it in decision making.	4015, 4750, 4749

Section 5 – Learning and Teaching Approach

The Programme can be completed within a one-year duration of full-time taught study. The Programme can also be completed on a part-time basis over two or more years, by gaining credits for the modules taken and achieved year-by-year. The time limits appropriate to part-time study are indicated in the [University Academic Regulations](#) available from the RAU website. Study is undertaken at Level 7 of the FHEQ.

Each 15 credit unit represents approximately 150 hours of student learning, endeavour and assessment and includes up to a maximum of 48 hours of teaching.

Module Route for Part-time MSc Rural Estate Management Students

Students studying the MSc Rural Estate Management on a part-time basis are required to follow a specified module route. Most students studying the MSc Rural Estate Management on a part-time basis do so over a two year period and therefore the table below sets out the route for part-time students studying over this period.

It may also be possible (subject to the RAU's Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes) to study the programme part-time over a longer period than two years. Students wishing to do so are advised to speak to the programme manager before applying for the programme and will be required to follow a module route agreed with the programme manager.

Table Showing Module Route For Students Studying the MSc Rural Estate Management Programme On A Part-Time Basis Over Two Years

Year 1	Semester 1	<i>Agriculture</i>
		<i>Rural Property Law</i>
	Semester 2	<i>Farm Business and Enterprise Management</i>
		<i>Rural Planning and Buildings</i>
Year 2	Semester 1	<i>Rural Land and Property In Society</i>
		<i>Management of Woodlands and the Natural Environment</i>
		<i>Land and Estate Management Strategy and Practice*</i>
	Semester 2	<i>Rural Valuation Practice</i>

		<i>Land and Estate Management Strategy and Practice*</i>
	+ Dissertation	

** The 'Land and Estate Management Strategy and Practice' is a 'long and thin' module which is delivered across both semesters.*

Section 6 – Assessment Approach

The Assessments are designed to appraise individual capabilities fairly and consistently. We use clear, descriptive assessment guidelines (made available to students) to grade coursework and examinations and to aid classification. Lecturers communicate their expectations clearly to students and use explicit marking schemes to facilitate consistency of marking within and between modules and to ensure good feedback on individual performance. All examinations and coursework assessments that contribute to degree classifications are subject to scrutiny by the External Examiners.

Assessments are designed to test analytical and other cognitive capabilities in relation to particular module aims and content. Coursework assignments such as individual essays, reports, a literature review, case study analyses, individual and group-based reports and presentations are used to test a wide range of skills.

For those students who elect to undertake the Dissertation, students are required to conceive, justify, design in detail and execute a substantial piece of academic research. For the most able postgraduate students, the Dissertation can generate work of a standard appropriate for submission to practitioner and academic journals in business and management.

In every module we place high value on students being able to demonstrate effective communication in its various forms. This priority is reflected not only in how assignments are specified, but also in how they are marked.

RICS Accreditation

This MSc programme is also accredited by the RICS, a requirement for all those aiming to become Chartered Surveyors. Without an accredited degree, or significant employment-based experience, a would-be surveyor cannot register for and undertake the RICS Assessment of Professional Competence (APC), the successful completion of which confers Member status upon the candidate and the right to use the letters MRICS after one's name. This Assessment requires the keeping of a diary of professional experience, the adoption of professional reflective practice and the ability to demonstrate technical knowledge, understanding and skill (i.e. the ability to advise on complex issues). There are various subject routes to qualification and the RICS publish 'Pathways' with detailed descriptions of the Mandatory, Core and Optional "Competencies" a Chartered Surveyor must demonstrate for qualification. The programme syllabus, module content and means of assessment reflect these competencies whilst not losing sight of the need for academic rigour, a good research capability and a willingness to challenge current and emerging theory.

This Programme has been mapped to the RICS competencies for the Rural, and Land and Resources, pathways.

	Level 7
Coursework	100%
Exam	0%
Practical	0%

Section 7 - Course work grading and Feedback

Assessment is an integral part of the learning experience of students. All University programmes are assessed by a range of assessment activities, each developed to provide the most appropriate means of demonstrating the student's achievement of a specified learning outcome. An assessment may assess more than one learning outcome.

The University operates standard pass criteria which can be found in the RAU Academic Regulations; (paragraphs 137 – 153).

The normal basis for awards will be the overall average score in the final assessment, graded as follows:

Distinction weighted average of	70%
Merit weighted average of	60% - 69%
Pass weighted average of	40% - 59%
Fail average	0% - 39%

In addition to assigning a percentage mark to the work, the tutor adds comments; usually about the strengths and weaknesses of the piece as well as advice about improving the work. All assessment decisions are subject to internal moderation and external scrutiny by the programme's External Examiners. Students must ensure they retain all coursework in case the External Examiner(s) wishes to see it.

Section 8 – Employability

Graduates of the Programme are equipped to undertake the wide range of work that characterises the rural land management profession.

The University has an excellent employment record supported by its enviable contacts with the land and rural property management profession. In recent years the vast majority of those seeking graduate employment in the profession have been successful. Students will have the opportunity to attend regular employer presentations and careers events at University during their period of study. Graduates from the Programme secure a diverse range of employment roles in the land and rural property sector, such as with national, regional and local firms of chartered surveyors, auctioneering firms, private estates and other large landowners such as the National Trust most of which are suitable for registration for the APC.

If graduates from the Programme choose not to follow a career in land and rural property management, they have many other career options open to them, for example, in real estate or the agri-business sector, as well as the normal graduate opportunities in industry and business; options which are again supported by the University's excellent networks in related employment fields.

Section 9 – Enhancing the Quality of Learning and Teaching

The programme is subject to the University's rigorous quality assurance procedures which involve subject specialist and internal peer review of the course at periodic intervals, normally of 6 years. This process ensures that the programme engages with the applicable national Subject Benchmarks and references the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

All programmes are monitored on an annual basis where consideration is given to:

- External Examiner's Reports
- Key statistics including data on retention and achievement
- Results of the Student Satisfaction Surveys
- Feedback from Student Course Representatives
- Annual Programme Monitoring