The Royal Agricultural University

Programme Specification:

MSc Agricultural Technology and Innovation

2027-28

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION [ACADEMIC YEAR 2027/28]

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 they take 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

Criteria	Details
Validating body	The Royal Agricultural University
Teaching Institution	The Royal Agricultural University
Subject Area	Agriculture, Food and Environment
Entry Award(s)	MSc Agricultural Technology and Innovation Postgraduate Diploma Agricultural Technology and Innovation Postgraduate Certificate Agricultural Technology
Final Award and exit route(s)	MSc Agricultural Technology and Innovation Postgraduate Diploma Agricultural Technology and Innovation Postgraduate Certificate Agricultural Technology
Programme title	MSc Agricultural Technology and Innovation
Location(s) of study	Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester with some visits or case study demonstrations off site
Full time study	1 year
Part-time study	2 years
Language of study	English
Programme start month	January
Period of validation	September 2021 to August 2028
Name of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body	Not applicable
Type of Accreditation	Not applicable
Accreditation due for renewal	Not applicable
Non-standard application	We welcome applications from applicants with non-standard qualifications who are able to demonstrate knowledge, experience 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	ATSM ATSMD ATSMC
HECoS Code	101006 - Agricultural Technology

QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s) and other reference points	Agriculture, Rural Environmental Sciences, Animal Studies, Consumer Science, Forestry, Food, Horticulture and Human Nutrition (April 2024).
Academic level on Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)	Level 7
Approval at AQSC	Academic Board 02 June 2021
	V1 – July 2021: module codes updated V2 – July 2022 AQSC: add elective 4250, remove 4415 V3 – January 2024: replace 4724 and 4725 with 4755 (core); module code 4744 replaces 4278 V4 - September 2025 – accessibility changes

Entry requirements (this should be the standard University entry requirements unless otherwise approved by the Academic Board)	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

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 Agricultural Technology and Innovation (180 credits)_September Start

The accumulation of 180 credits through the assessment of programme elements as detailed below:

Level 7

Module code	Module title	Level	Credit value	Core/ Elective	Semester
7A014	Integrated Agricultural Systems	7	15	Core	1
7B007	Entrepreneurship and Business Planning	7	15	Core	1
7M001	Research Skills	7	15	Core	1
7A012	Environmental Science and Technology in Agriculture	7	15	Core	1
7A004	International Rural Development	7	15	Elective	1
7A009	Organic and Regenerative Systems	7	15	Elective	1
7A003	Computing and IT In Precision Agriculture	7	15	Core	2
7A007	Livestock Production Technology and Innovation	7	15	Core	2
7A006	Crop Production Technology and Innovation	7	15	Core	2
7M002B Summer	Dissertation	7	45	Core	2
7A008	Managing Global Soils in a Changing Climate	7	15	Elective	2
7A005	Climate Change and Sustainability	7	15	Elective	2
7A002	Small Scale Farming and Local Food Supply	7	15	Elective	2
7B005	Leadership and Personal development	7	15	Elective	2
7A015	Facing the Global Challenges in Food and Agriculture	7	15	Elective	2
	Total credits: MSc Agricultural Technology and Innovation		**180**		

PG Diploma in Agricultural Technology and Innovation (120 credits)

The accumulation of 120 credits (or more) at level 7 through the assessment of programme elements as detailed below:

Level 7

Module code	Module title	Level	Credit value	Core/ Elective	Semester
7A014	Integrated Agricultural Systems	7	15	Core	1
7B007	Entrepreneurship and Business Planning	7	15	Core	1
7A012	Environmental Science and Technology in Agriculture	7	15	Core	1
7A004	International Rural Development	7	15	Elective	1
7A009	Organic and Regenerative Systems	7	15	Elective	1

7A003	Computing and IT In Precision Agriculture	7	15	Core	2
7A007	Livestock Production Technology and Innovation	7	15	Core	2
7A006	Crop Production Technology and Innovation	7	15	Core	2
7A008	Managing Global Soils in a Changing Climate	7	15	Elective	2
7A005	Climate Change and Sustainability	7	15	Elective	2
7A002	Small Scale Farming and Local Food Supply	7	15	Elective	2
7B005	Leadership and Personal development	7	15	Elective	2
7A015	Facing the Global Challenges in Food and Agriculture	7	15	Elective	2
	Total Credits: PG Diploma in Agricultural Technology and Innovation		**120**		

PG Certificate in Agricultural Technology and Innovation (60 credits)

The accumulation of 60 credits (or more) at level 7 through the assessment of programme elements as detailed below:

Module code	Module title	Level	Credit value	Core/ Elective	Semester
7A014	Integrated Agricultural Systems	7	15	Core	1
7A012	Environmental Science and Technology in Agriculture	7	15	Core	1
7A007	Livestock Production Technology and Innovation	7	15	Core	2
7A006	Crop Production Technology and Innovation	7	15	Core	2
	Total Credits: PG Certificate in Agricultural Technology and Innovation		**60**		

Students studying the programme part-time will study modules in the following order:

Year 1 – Semester 1 (September)

Module code	Module title	Level	Credit value	Core/ Elective	Semester
7A014	Integrated Agricultural Systems	7	15	Core	1
7B007	Entrepreneurship and Business Planning	7	15	Core	1
7A004	International Rural Development	7	15	Elective	1
7A009	Organic and Regenerative Systems	7	15	Elective	1

Year 1 – Semester 2 (January)

Module code	Module title	Level	Credit value	Core/ Elective	Semester
7A003	Computing and IT in Precision Agriculture	7	15	Core	2
7A006	Crop Production Technology and Innovation	7	15	Core	2
7A008	Managing Global Soils in a Changing Climate	7	15	Elective	2
7A015	Facing the Global Challenges in Food and Agriculture	7	15	Elective	2
7A005	Climate Change and Sustainability	7	15	Elective	2
7A002	Small-scale Farming and Local Food Supply	7	15	Elective	2
7B005	Leadership and Personal Development	7	15	Elective	2

Year 2 – Semester 1 (September)

Module code	Module title	Level	Credit value	Core/ Elective	Semester
7M001A	Research Skills	7	15	Core	1
7A012	Environmental Science and Technology in Agriculture	7	15	Core	1
7A004	International Rural Development	7	15	Elective	1
7A009	Organic and Regenerative Systems	7	15	Elective	1

Year 2 – Semester 2 (January)

Module code	Module title	Level	Credit value	Core/ Elective	Semester
7M002 (Summer)	Dissertation	7	45	Core	2
7A007	Livestock Production Technology and Innovation	7	15	Core	2
7A015	Facing the Global Challenges in Food and Agriculture	7	15	Elective	2
7A008	Managing Global Soils in a Changing Climate	7	15	Elective	2
7A005	Climate Change and Sustainability	7	15	Elective	2
7A002	Small-scale Farming and Local Food Supply	7	15	Elective	2
7B005	Leadership and Personal Development	7	15	Elective	2
	Total credits: MSc Agricultural Technology and Innovation		**180**		

MSc Agricultural Technology and Innovation (180 credits)_January Start

The accumulation of 180 credits through the assessment of programme elements as detailed below:

Level 7

Module code	Module title	Level	Credit value	Core/ Elective	Semester
7A014	Integrated Agricultural Systems	7	15	Core	Autumn (semester 1)
7A002	Small Scale Farming and Local Food Supply	7	15	Elective	Spring (semester 2)

7A003	Computing and IT In Precision Agriculture	7	15	Core	Spring (semester 2)
7A004	International Rural Development	7	15	Elective	Autumn (semester 1)
7B005	Leadership and Personal development	7	15	Elective	Spring (semester 2)
7B007	Entrepreneurship and Business Planning	7	15	Core	Autumn (semester 1)
7A015	Facing the Global Challenges in Food and Agriculture	7	15	Elective	Spring (semester 2)
7M001A	Research Skills	7	15	Core	Spring (semester 2)
7M002A Winter	Dissertation	7	45	Core	Autumn (semester 1)
7A005	Climate Change and Sustainability	7	15	Elective	Spring (semester 2)
7A006	Crop Production Technology and Innovation	7	15	Core	Spring (semester 2)
7A007	Livestock Production Technology and Innovation	7	15	Core	Spring (semester 2)
7A008	Managing Global Soils in a Changing Climate	7	15	Elective	Spring (semester 2)
7A009	Organic and Regenerative Systems	7	15	Elective	Autumn (semester 1)
7A012	Environmental Science and Technology in Agriculture	7	15	Core	Autumn (semester 1)
	Total credits: MSc Agricultural Technology and Innovation		**180**		

PG Diploma in Agricultural Technology and Innovation (120 credits)

The accumulation of 120 credits (or more) at level 7 through the assessment of programme elements as detailed below:

Level 7

Module code	Module title	Level	Credit value	Core/ Elective	Semester
7A003	Computing and IT In Precision Agriculture	7	15	Core	Spring (semester 2)
7A007	Livestock Production Technology and Innovation	7	15	Core	Spring (semester 2)
7A006	Crop Production Technology and Innovation	7	15	Core	Spring (semester 2)
7A008	Managing Global Soils in a Changing Climate	7	15	Elective	Spring (semester 2)
7A005	Climate Change and Sustainability	7	15	Elective	Spring (semester 2)
7A002	Small Scale Farming and Local Food Supply	7	15	Elective	Spring (semester 2)
7B005	Leadership and Personal development	7	15	Elective	Spring (semester 2)

7A015	Facing the Global Challenges in Food and Agriculture	7	15	Elective	Spring (semester 2)
7A014	Integrated Agricultural Systems	7	15	Core	Autumn (semester 1)
7B007	Entrepreneurship and Business Planning	7	15	Core	Autumn (semester 1)
7A012	Environmental Science and Technology in Agriculture	7	15	Core	Autumn (semester 1)
7A004	International Rural Development	7	15	Elective	Autumn (semester 1)
7A009	Organic and Regenerative Systems	7	15	Elective	Autumn (semester 1)
	Total Credits: PG Diploma in Agricultural Technology and Innovation		**120**		

PG Certificate in Agricultural Technology and Innovation (60 credits)

The accumulation of 60 credits (or more) at level 7 through the assessment of programme elements as detailed below:

Level 7

Module code	Module title	Level	Credit value	Core/ Elective	Semester
7A007	Livestock Production Technology and Innovation	7	15	Core	Spring (semester 2)
7A006	Crop Production Technology and Innovation	7	15	Core	Spring (semester 2)
7A014	Integrated Agricultural Systems	7	15	Core	Autumn (semester 1)
7A012	Environmental Science and Technology in Agriculture	7	15	Core	Autumn (semester 1)
	Total Credits: PG Certificate in Agricultural Technology and Innovation		**60**		

Students studying the programme part-time will study modules in the following order:

Year 1 – Semester 1 (September)

Module code	Module title	Level	Credit value	Core/ Elective	Semester
7A003	Computing and IT in Precision Agriculture	7	15	Core	Spring (semester 2)
7A006	Crop Production Technology and Innovation	7	15	Core	Spring (semester 2)
7A008	Managing Global Soils in a Changing Climate	7	15	Elective	Spring (semester 2)
7A005	Climate Change and Sustainability	7	15	Elective	Spring (semester 2)
7A002	Small-scale Farming and Local Food Supply	7	15	Elective	Spring (semester 2)
7B005	Leadership and Personal development	7	15	Elective	Spring (semester 2)
7A015	Facing the Global Challenges in Food and Agriculture	7	15	Elective	Spring (semester 2)

Year 1 – Semester 2 (January)

Year 2 – Semester 3 (September)

Module code	Module title	Level	Credit value	Core/ Elective	Semester
7A014	Integrated Agricultural Systems	7	15	Core	Autumn (semester 1)
7B007	Entrepreneurship and Business Planning	7	15	Core	Autumn (semester 1)
7A004	International Rural Development	7	15	Elective	Autumn (semester 1)
7A009	Organic and Regenerative Systems	7	15	Elective	Autumn (semester 1)
Module code	**Module title**	**Level**	**Credit value**	**Core/ Elective**	**Semester**
7M001A	Research Skills	7	15	Core	Spring (semester 2)
7A007	Livestock Production Technology and Innovation	7	15	Core	Spring (semester 2)
7A008	Managing Global Soils in a Changing Climate	7	15	Elective	Spring (semester 2)
7A005	Climate Change and Sustainability	7	15	Elective	Spring (semester 2)
7A002	Small-scale Farming and Local Food Supply	7	15	Elective	Spring (semester 2)
7B005	Leadership and Personal development	7	15	Elective	Spring (semester 2)
7A015	Facing the Global Challenges in Food and Agriculture	7	15	Elective	Spring (semester 2)

Year 2 – Semester 4 (January)

Module code	Module title	Level	Credit value	Core/ Elective	Semester
7M002 Winter	Dissertation	7	45	Core	Autumn (semester 1)
7A012	Environmental Science and Technology in Agriculture	7	15	Core	Autumn (semester 1)

7A004	International Rural Development	7	15	Elective	Autumn (semester 1)
7A009	Organic and Regenerative Systems	7	15	Elective	Autumn (semester 1)
	Total credits: MSc Agricultural Technology and Innovation		**180**		

Section 3 – Programme overview and Programme Aims

Advances in the agricultural sector, and the way in which growers are now changing their mentality to crops growth, has created a growing demand for new intellectual and technological skill set. Developments in sensors, robotics, automation, analytics and telematics are enabling new and sophisticated ways of managing agricultural practices.

Precision agriculture technology and the "Digital Ag age" is swiftly gaining popularity among UK farmers as well as the world's farming community and its primary producers; due to the increasing need of optimum production with the given resources. The need for adoption of these new and innovative systems have been developed over the recent decades to help mitigate the changing weather patterns due to increasing global warming, and so, have necessitated the adoption of advanced technologies to enhance the productivity and crop yield.

These technologies such as real-time farm monitoring, weather forecasting, optimal field requirements and other innovative technologies enable growers to increase the yield with minimum human efforts and wastage. Moreover, the technology enables the farmers to manage their resources as well as access real time information through their smartphones, thereby offering greater mobility and ease of operation. However, major restraints of the market are affordability and accessibility of the technology, and lack of awareness about the benefits of precision agriculture among farmers, particularly in the developing countries.

There are escalating issues over the sustainable supply of production resources such as water, soil and fertilisers. Increased precision and more adaptable management of these has the potential to make a positive contribution in conserving such essential inputs, whilst minimising the expenditure of carbon The capture of environmental data and its rapid and accurate interpretation may also provide opportunities for more effective and timely management of natural land, wild and undeveloped area.

The combination of scale and precision will reduce the requirements of unskilled labour and will increase the demand for highly skilled specialists in the field of digital agriculture. Forward looking businesses will need talented, well-educated and skilful recruits capable of making effective contributions to business projects from the outset of their careers.

This course is suitable for students from a variety of academic and professional backgrounds, including agriculture, business management, engineering/agricultural engineering or software development.

The aims of this programme are to produce graduates that

- Have a comprehensive understanding of the new and innovative technologies being applied in sustainable agriculture and for the sustainable management of the natural environment.
- Have the ability to use their knowledge and skills to develop innovative solutions to novel problems, generate new ideas, and develop innovative new technologies and adapt and update established methods, techniques and procedures.
- Are technically adept, accomplished, and fluent with technical aspects of the capture, processing, interpretation and application of digital data.
- Understand the principles and practice of agricultural and horticultural production and a full awareness of the potential applications and benefits of new technologies.
- Have an applied management, enterprise and entrepreneur skill set in a range of agricultural technology systems contexts
- Are able to communicate in appropriate ways at all levels, and to clearly and effectively present concepts and research findings to interested individuals, groups, businesses and other commercial organisations, and government agencies and institutions.
- Are committed to the improvement of agriculture, horticulture, and the care of the natural environment.
- Are responsible and considerate of the ethical issues in their work.
- Are competent researchers with the ability of research planning and design, synthesis and critical analysis
- Are lifelong learners, with motivation to sustain their personal, professional and career development

Section 4 – Programme Sustainability

To align with Sustainable Development Goals, the industry must adopt sustainable farming practices, reduce food waste, promote fair trade, and leverage technology.

Our program covers how Artificial Intelligence, blockchain, cloud computing, and IoT are make an impact in and revolutionizing food and agricultural systems globally. Precision agriculture, which is covered in our program covers how AI can increases farming's resource efficiency and productivity. Blockchain systems combined with IoT can improves supply chain traceability. Alternative proteins can lessen conventional meat production's environmental impact. All this addresses various SDGs including, Zero Hunger, Zero Poverty, Improved Infrastructure, Good Health and Well Being.

Section 5 – Programme intended learning outcomes and learning, teaching and assessment methods

The aims and objectives of the programme are to support the RAU's: **Vision**, *A world where all communities thrive in harmony with nature*; **Mission**, *equipping a new generation to thrive through change*; and **Purpose**, *to cultivate care for the land and all who depend on it*. The MSc Agricultural Technology and Innovation programme benefits from research-led teaching from key members of the following RAU's research groups: S*ustainable and regenerative agriculture, Livestock health and welfare, Food safety, quality and security, Environment and soil health.*

Knowledge and understanding

LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	**Module Code/s**
1.	Understand and differentiate between types of agricultural production systems (both large- and small-scale) and critically evaluate their contribution to sustainable agriculture.	7A014, 7A015 7A008, 7A012
2.	Explain, appraise and critically evaluate a range of technical systems, devices and innovations used in digital agriculture related to livestock and crop production.	7A007, 7A006 7A002
3.	Explain, appraise and critically evaluate a range of environmental technologies and innovative practices used for the sustainable management of the environment and natural resources and understand the impact of climate change on natural resources	7A012, 7A006 7A015, 7A008 7A005
4.	Explain, appraise and critically evaluate a range of environmental technologies and innovative practices used for the sustainable management of the environment and natural resources and understand the impact of climate change on natural resources	7A007, 7A012 7A002, 7B005
5.	Understand the role of entrepreneurs in the creation of business ventures and recognise, assess and articulate start up opportunities using a business plan and pitch.	7B007
6.	Critically evaluate and analyse agricultural technology products and systems with respect to a range of management requirements	7A007, 7A012 7A006, 7A002
7.	Create and assess hardware and software and obtain an understanding how IT professionals design and build technology	7A003

Intellectual, Professional, Key Skills

LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
1.	Develop lifelong skills which enable the synthesis and critical analysis of data and information from a wide range of sources to support and evaluate solutions to practical and real world problems	7A014, 7A015 7A008, 7A012
2.	Show creativity and manage the creative process	7A014, 7A012 7A006, 7B007 7M001, 7M002 7A002, 7A015 7A008, 7A005 7A012, 7A004
3.	Identify and solve complex problems holistically by evaluating issues and options, and implementing and reviewing decisions	7A014, 7A003 7A006, 7B007 7M002, 7B005
4.	Devise and sustain an argument supported by valid and significant evidence.	7A003, 7B007 7M002, 7B005 7A008, 7A005 7A012, 7A004
5.	Manage time and resources appropriately in both individual and team situations to enable successful project delivery	7A007, 7A012 7A006, 7M003 7M002, 7A002 7B005, 7A015 7A008, 7A005 7A004
6.	Citing and referencing sources of data and information with academic integrity in an appropriate manner whilst ensuring the avoidance of plagiarism.	All modules

Programme Specific Skills

LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
1.	Undertake project management for agricultural technology and innovation assessments, analyse and report results effectively and appropriately	7A006, 7M002 7B002, 7A008 7A004
2.	Communicate through a variety of mediums on topics relating to agricultural technology and innovation to wide range of audiences	7A014, 7A012 7A006, 7B007 7B005, 7A004
3.	Conduct research into digital agriculture and agricultural technology systems and management issues either individually or as part of a team through research design, hypothesis creation, data collection, analysis, synthesis and reporting	7M001, 7M002
4.	Understand the role of self-reflection and critical analysis in one's own personal attributes for a range of situations including resilience, open-mindedness, reflection, motivation, professional behaviours, and employability.	7B007, 7M001 7B005, 7A015 7A004

Section 6 – Approach to Learning and Teaching delivery

This programme is primarily delivered face-to-face on the RAU Cirencester campus and will also incorporate some elements of online learning. Teaching approaches are supported by a range of learning materials and activities presented on the RAU VLE. The programme is available over 1-year full time or 2 years part-time.

The delivery is through a combination of lectures, seminars, speakers, case studies, workshops and with activities presented through the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) which is also used to host other supporting material including videos, webinars, quizzes, podcasts and other relevant presentations.

Teaching will include group discussions, tutorials, facilitated discussions, workshops, guided independent study and a research project. Assessment will be a balance between individual and group work and will consist of a range of critical reports, written examinations, poster presentations, oral presentations, critical reflections and dissertation / applied project.

Each module is supported by a comprehensive resources list that is maintained through the RAU Library Talis system.

Here at the RAU, we are always looking for ways to better support our students. We recognise that a number of our students may be working or have caring responsibilities alongside studying which can sometimes make it difficult to attend every teaching session in person. As such we have the ability for you to join lectures and seminars through an alternative digital format in prior discussion with your programme leader. Please note that for international students on a student visa, you are expected to attend your classes in person. Remote delivery is not a UKVI authorised mode of attendance for the taught element of your course and therefore non-attendance would affect your student visa.

Section 7 – Approach to Assessment

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 schema 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, case study analyses, individual and group-based reports, presentations, and various technique- oriented assessments are used to test these skills.

The Dissertation is the capstone demonstration of postgraduate skills, requiring students 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 - good command of written and spoken English is vital for work-based projects and for graduate employment.

Some modules have a teamwork requirement and in some, there are group assignments, assessed via presentations and reports. All group assignments allow for an element of individual assessment, in order to recognise differences in individual performance where appropriate. Peer feedback can also play a significant part in team activities and is encouraged.

Overall, the programme is taught and assessed through*:

Year	Directed	Independent	Placement	Exam	Practical	Coursework
Year 1	19.00%	81.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.70%	92.30%

**based on 4744, 4261, 4250*

Section 8 – 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'sachievement 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:

Grade Title	Equivalent mark
Distinction weighted average of	70% and above
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, tutors provide written feedback for all assessments which normally includes the strengths and weaknesses of the piece as well as advice about improving the work. Individual feedback is provided within 20-working days of the deadline for submission. 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 9 – RAU Graduate Framework

At the RAU we have chosen five values to underpin our learning community. These are the values which we will all work by and for which we want the RAU to be known for. We aim for our graduates to be:

Collaborative

We believe in the power of working together. We are stronger as a community of practice - inspiring each other, identifying shared goals, and providing reciprocal support leads to greater success.

Open-minded

We are receptive to new ideas and we value the diversity of experiences and skills. We are committed to listening to everyone across the RAU community.

Resourceful

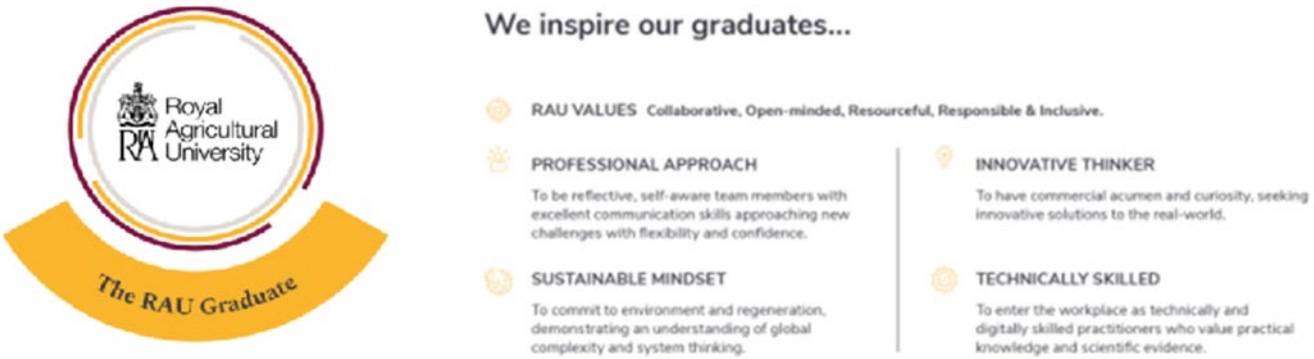
We adopt creative approaches to achieve our goals while setting higher standards, promoting professionalism and sustainability.

Responsible

Individually and collectively we take accountability for our actions working with integrity to achieve the highest ethical standards.

Inclusive

We acknowledge the fundamental value and dignity of all individuals and are committed to maintaining an environment that seeks to eliminate all forms of discrimination and respects diverse traditions, heritages, and experiences.



Section 10 – Progression

A combination of a comprehensive appreciation of the wide range of new and innovative technologies in digital agriculture together with an understanding of the demands of commerce and business will ensure graduates of this course are fully equipped to make effective contributions to the field of digital agriculture. Graduates are likely to be in demand as new companies form and established organisations and enterprises move into this new and dynamic sector.

This course is designed to allow graduates to develop their skills and abilities to a level commensurate with starting a career across a range of opportunities and obtain employment in:

- The high-tech agricultural and environmental sectors
- Industries allied to crop and animal production
- Technical consultancy
- Government and international agencies
- The development of new companies through entrepreneurial initiatives
- Research institutions

Potential employment opportunities include:

- Agricultural and horticultural engineering
- Information technology
- Resource appraisal
- Agronomy
- Farm management

The course has a strong academic foundation, including a period of independent study that provides an opportunity to engage with sector specialists in a professional capacity.

The course has a well-qualified team involved in its delivery, with academic excellence and strong industry contributions from experienced leaders from a variety of agri-technology based businesses.

Section 11 – Student support, wellbeing and counselling

The University is offering a wide range of support to all RAU students, including practical advice and guidance as well as emotional support.

Disability and Neurodivergent support

We support disabled & neurodivergent students and students with long-term health conditions. These disabilities include dyslexia, mental health diagnoses, ADHD, autism, mobility challenges, sensory impairments and many more. Students are encouraged to make contact with Student Services as early as possible by emailing: studentservices@rau.ac.uk . When you tell us about a disability, you will be offered support based on your specific needs, which can include:

· Alternative exam arrangements such as extra time, rest breaks, or a smaller room.

· Access to support workers such as study skills tutors, specialist mentors, readers and scribes.

· Access to assistive technology (AT), which helps remove barriers to learning, communication and participation. The AT can help students who face difficulties with taking notes, organisation and time management.

Mental Health Support

Student Services has a dedicated team who are here to support you with the emotional challenges that can crop up during university life. They take a wide-ranging approach to mental health support, and the team ensure they are available for informal chats as well as providing in-depth support for students with emerging or existing mental health conditions.

The team also offer mental health support in the form of daily drop-in sessions, weekly group Time to Talk sessions, mental health workshops, awareness and campaign days and 1:1 confidential meetings for when students face challenges to their wellbeing.

Student Services can also refer students for counselling sessions with an external agency if they are required. They can also signpost you to our Student Assistance Programme, providing 24/7 care, support and advice.

Academic Support Tutor Programme

All students have access to the Academic Support Tutor (AST) programme, which provides high-quality academic support for students. ATS provide timetabled group tutorials and individual support for students who are most at risk. Group tutorials focus on providing high-quality academic support at the appropriate academic level; advice and guidance in relation to the course; and advice about making study choices on the course (in line with the AST Handbook). Individual support focuses on continuation and may be in person or online.

Section 12 – 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 Reports
- Key statistics including data on retention and achievement
- Results of the Student Satisfaction Surveys
- Feedback from Student Delegates from programme committees
- Feedback from Student-Staff Liaison committees
- Annual Programme Monitoring