



### WHY A PROGRAMME IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE?

This MSc is an interdisciplinary programme of the theory and practice of sustainable agriculture aimed at recent graduates, early and mid-career specialists and generalist professionals in the public, private and non-profit sectors.

The **purpose** of the program is to train students in understanding the wide-ranging contextual, conceptual, and thematic issues related to sustainable agriculture at local, regional and global scales. Increasing environmental, economic and social challenges facing global agriculture requires a new generation of interdisciplinary professionals with appropriate skills to provide practical solutions across all dimensions of challenges.

This programme challenges students to view agriculture as a system through modules like Introduction to Systems Thinking and Systems Analysis and Simulation. Quantitative analysis of Land Use systems will help improve the student's quantitative and analytical skills. The programme is offered on a **full-time** in-person basis over a minimum period of two years with 11 modules taught in year 1 (see table below).

In the last module of year 1, work integrated learning, students use all the newly acquired skills when they assess an industry and gain experience in real-life perspectives. This will aid students in becoming more employable in the public, private and non-profit sectors.

Students conduct a research project under supervision in year 2.

Attendance of all activities, including excursions, field trips and research presentation seminars is compulsory.

	SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
<b>Year 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Systems thinking (6 credits)</li> <li>• Biodiversity and ecosystem services (6 credits)</li> <li>• Sustainable soil management (8 credits)</li> <li>• Sustainable plant production and protection (8 credits)</li> <li>• Sustainable animal production (8 credits)</li> <li>• Start with proposal with study leader</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biometry (6 credits)</li> <li>• Sociology of sustainable agriculture (6 credits)</li> <li>• Economics of sustainable agriculture (8 credits)</li> <li>• Systems analysis and simulation (6 credits)</li> <li>• Quantitative analysis of land-use systems (8 credits)</li> <li>• Work integrated learning (20 credits)</li> <li>• Refine proposal and apply for ethical clearance if necessary</li> </ul>
<b>Year 2</b>	Conducting research, analysis and writing research thesis (90 credits)	

### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To be accepted into this programme, all applicants should be in possession of:

- an appropriate 4-year BSc Agriculture degree, (NQF exit-level 8)
- or a BSc degree + relevant postgraduate qualification (e.g., BSc Hons or postgraduate diploma) (NQF exit-level 8) in any of the major disciplines related to Agriculture with a pass mark of at least 60%;
- an undergraduate Biometry or related Statistics qualification is a prerequisite. Students who did their undergraduate studies at any other institution than SU will be required to do the two undergraduate Biometry modules before enrolling in the postgraduate Biometry module in this degree programme.
- Proficiency in English for academic purposes is a requirement.
- A motivation letter (max 500 words), explaining why you would like to do this programme and how you view sustainability in Agriculture. Any AI-generated information will be viewed as plagiarism and result in you being disqualified from further consideration for the programme. This should be submitted with your application online, but if this is not possible, email your letter to [sust\\_agri@sun.ac.za](mailto:sust_agri@sun.ac.za).

### FEES

Applicants are responsible to secure funding or scholarships themselves, preferably before they enrol. Fees needed include tuition, accommodation and living expenses as well as operational costs for research (transport, logistics, stationery, books, lab chemical, etc.). Positions for bursaries are highly competitive. *Please visit this website* for a provisional quote for this programme. (Use the modules above for this.)

Students are also responsible to secure their own accommodation and *can find information about this here*.

### HOW TO APPLY

*Online applications* for all SU postgraduate degree programmes open on 1 April to 31 August for international candidates and to 30 September for South African candidates.

Academic enquiries can be sent to [sust\\_agri@sun.ac.za](mailto:sust_agri@sun.ac.za) Enrolment enquiries to [info@sun.ac.za](mailto:info@sun.ac.za) or the Postgraduate Office at [postgraduate@sun.ac.za](mailto:postgraduate@sun.ac.za)