

## **DEAN'S MESSAGE**

The College of Food and Agriculture (CFA) is one of the best agricultural colleges in the Middle East in terms of research, teaching and community involvement. There are more than 600 undergraduate students enrolled in various disciplines. Three academic programs: Horticulture; Marine Fisheries and Animal Science; and Agribusiness are accredited by the Agricultural Institute of Canada (AIC), while all programs are fully recognized by the UAE Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. The College of Food and Agriculture at United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) is the first agricultural college in the region to receive accreditation from AIC and the only college in the Middle East to receive the (Pass 99) ISO certified (10002:2004/ ISO14001:2004/ ISO9001:2008/ ISO2200:2005/ OHSAS18001:2007). Also, the Animal Nutrition Lab is accredited by the National Forage Testing Association.

The strategy of the college is to develop a culture for the students that will improve their skills and scientific expertise along with academic and social development, through various activities, such as study abroad summer programs, internships, workshops, and providing opportunities for students to attend conferences, both national and international.

CFA is strongly committed to student success and provides academic programs that foster critical thinking and build the necessary skills to succeed in today's competitive job market. You will find our faculty to have graduated from some of the best universities in the world. I trust that once you discover our state-of-the-art facilities, check out our high-tech labs and teaching technologies, meet our motivated students, accomplished faculty and dedicated and supportive staff; you'll decide that CFA at UAEU is the place you should be in to build your future career.

**Prof. Ghaleb Alhadrami**  
**Dean, College of Food and Agriculture**

## **OVERVIEW OF THE COLLEGE**

The College of Food and Agriculture (CFA) was first inaugurated as the College of Agricultural Sciences in the academic year 1980/1981. At that time the academic structure included only two departments, namely, the Department of Plant Production and the Department of Animal Production. In 1995 the college program was further developed to focus on 'Arid Land Agriculture' and 'Food Science and Nutrition' by adding the Department of Food Science and Nutrition.

Then in 2001, United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) took a major step in transforming the College of Agriculture Sciences to reflect the vision of a century university and to follow the evolving nature of higher agriculture education where agriculture

became an industry and a component of the economy and society. The University designed a new curriculum to meet the needs of the UAE and to conform to the latest trends and concepts of agricultural education of the new millennium. The new interdisciplinary curriculum is based on the concept of vertically integrated systems and encompasses production agriculture, food processing, agribusiness & natural resources, and the environment.

The CFA now consists of five departments: Aridland Agriculture Department; Food Science Department; Nutrition & Health Department; Agribusiness and Consumer Sciences Department; and the Veterinary Medicine Department, each offering a wide range of undergraduate and graduate degree programs. The language of instruction is English and the faculty focus on the quality of the learning experience for each student.

The CFA continues to support the UAE, which is committed to being a knowledge-based economy in which education and research play a critical role.

## **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

### **Undergraduate Programs:**

Bachelor of Science in Horticulture  
Bachelor of Science in Marine Fisheries and Animal Science  
Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness  
Bachelor of Science in Food Science  
Bachelor of Science in Nutritional Science  
Bachelor of Science in Coordinated Program in Dietetics  
Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine

### **Master Program:**

Master of Science in Horticulture

### **PhD Programs:**

PhD in Horticulture  
PhD in Food Science  
PhD in Nutritional Science

## **UNDERGRADUATE INFORMATION**

### **Admission Criteria**

To be eligible for admission to UAEU, applicants must obtain a minimum of 75% on their Grade 12 Certificate or its equivalent from a science stream. Applicants must also have a valid National Identity Certificate and a valid UAE passport. Interested candidates should use the common National Admissions and Placement Office (NAPO) application form to apply to UAEU. The form is available from secondary schools, the UAEU's Admissions Office or NAPO.

Success at UAEU requires proficiency in both Arabic and English languages. Students admitted to the University are placed either directly into the undergraduate degree program or into the University Foundation Program (UFP). is the bridge between high school and the degree programs offered at UAEU. Placement in a UFP course level will depend on your scores in the UFP Placement Exams. There are three levels in English, and two levels in each of the following three subjects: mathematics, computer technology and Arabic.

To be considered for direct admission to an undergraduate degree program, applicants must satisfy the following requirements:

- a) proof of English-language proficiency, which may take one of the following forms:
  - an internet-based TOEFL minimum score of 500/61
  - IELTS minimum score of 5.0
- b) pass placement tests in Mathematics (Algebra and pre-Calculus), Computer Technology and Arabic Language

*\* Please note that these are the minimum admission criteria, further details can be obtained from the Admissions Department.*

### **Graduation Requirements**

The duration of the undergraduate degree programs is approximately 4 years. A minimum of 120 credit hours are required for graduation except for the Veterinary Medicine Program. The duration of the Veterinary program is approximately 5 years with a minimum of 152 credit hours required for graduation. Students must complete the programs with a minimum GPA of 2.0, including the internship.

### **Internships**

has integrated mandatory internships for all students as part their degree program. Through the Internship and Work Integrated Learning (iWIL) program, the students are

guided, prepared and placed in National and International private and government organizations. Internships add a significant real-world component to the student's education and provide students with the opportunity to earn academic credit while gaining valuable work experience.

### **Career Opportunities**

There are many career opportunities available to students with a degree from the College of Food and Agriculture in both private and government organizations. Some of these include: Ministry of Environment and Water, Ministry of Health, Health Authority Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority, Farmers' Service Centre, Municipalities, Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, Management standards and food standards, laboratories, universities, and private sector institutions (farms, factories, etc.). Some job positions may include: Agriculture Engineers, Agriculture Extensions, Lab Technicians, Food Inspectors, Hospital Dietitians, Veterinarians, and Teaching Assistants.

## **UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

### **Bachelor of Science in Horticulture**

Horticultural plants play an important role in the life of everyone. They provide us with fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables and make our homes, gardens and urban landscapes look beautiful. At the same time horticultural plant production uses some of the most precious resources of mankind, such as soil and water. The sustainable management of these resources for horticultural activities requires up-to-date scientific knowledge, an understanding of the biological and technical processes, and lots of creativity and ambition. The aim of this program is to provide students with high-quality information and skills in an encouraging academic environment where they can develop, discuss and test new and exciting ideas.

In the face of a growing world population and the increasing depletion of natural resources, our graduates are in high demand with their knowledge and know-how to sustainably produce food and create pleasant and healthy urban landscapes. There are two alternative specializations offered within this program: 'Crop Production & Organic Farming' and 'Environmental Horticulture'.

### **Bachelor of Science in Marine Fisheries and Animal Science**

The consumption of animal products such as fish, eggs, meat and milk is on the rise worldwide. Along with the intensification of marine fishery and animal husbandry comes the need to develop strategies that ensure high quality products, disease prevention, sustainability, and animal welfare. Within this program our students will experience some of the most innovative research in animal science in the Middle East with world-class teaching facilities. Experimental stations for poultry production, camel and sheep

husbandry, as well as unique aquaculture and aquaponics facilities are available to our students for training and to develop and test creative ideas in research approaches. Students will have the choice to specialize in either 'Marine Fisheries' or 'Animal Science'.

The rapidly growing animal production sector in the Middle East has a high demand for young, well qualified graduates. Most of our students within this program receive job offers even before they finish their studies.

### **Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness**

United Arab Emirates is at a strategic position to be the center of international agricultural trade for the world. In the Agribusiness major, students are given opportunities and support to reach their highest potential and to prepare them for a career and leadership challenge in a dynamic agribusiness industry. Graduates can assume positions with managerial responsibilities in public and private agricultural and food-related enterprises and organizations. Some potential employers include meat, dairy, and poultry processing industries; feed manufacturing, seed and fertilizer firms; transportation and storage; and wholesale and retail food businesses.

Students who choose to study the agribusiness specialization focus on the vertical integration of agribusiness and trade, conduct market research to identify consumer desires, and learn how to direct UAE agribusiness firms towards fulfilling consumer needs to benefit the country and its economic growth. The objective of the internship offered in this program is to provide students with experience in the marketplace by applying basic research techniques and working with clients to solve real agribusiness problems.

### **Bachelor of Science in Food Science**

Food Science is a multidisciplinary specialization that applies basic sciences such as biology, chemistry, and engineering to develop food products and design processes to improve the safety and quality of food. The Food Science program provides students with a solid understanding of all aspects related to food quality & safety, food chemistry & analysis, and food processing & engineering. The program also educates students on food laws & regulations, novel & functional foods, and sensory & nutritional values of food.

### **Bachelor of Science in Nutritional Science**

Nutritional Science examines the way in which the food we eat affects our physical and psychological health. The Nutritional Sciences program provides students with a solid understanding of the key role that a diet plays in the prevention, development and treatment of most major diseases. The program also emphasizes basic sciences and human nutrition for students planning to conduct further studies in the health-related professions such as medicine, dentistry, nursing, or physical therapy.

### **Bachelor of Science in Coordinated Program in Dietetics**

Students registered in the Dietetics program undergo a variety of courses such as, human nutrition in various age stages, medical nutrition therapy, food service systems management, nutrition education & communication, and community nutrition. Upon successful completion of all courses, students undertake an internship placement which enables them to apply their knowledge and gain skills that will qualify them as competent entry level dietitians.

The Dietetics program prepares graduates to work in the applied field of dietetics in positions such as clinical dietitians, nutrition services managers, nutrition educators, and community nutritionists. Graduates provide leadership in various work settings to prevent and alleviate nutrition related problems among population groups in the region. The Coordinated Program in Dietetics at UAEU is currently working towards acquiring accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Education of Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND).

### **Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine**

As a result of the importance of safeguarding the health of humans, domesticated and food animals, and the critical shortage of national veterinarians, the United Arab Emirates University decided to offer a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine. Besides producing bachelor degree veterinarians who will satisfy international standards, this program will produce veterinarians who are uniquely trained relevant to the needs of the local environment of the UAE and the Middle East.

The Veterinary Medicine program will produce highly motivated and adaptable veterinary graduates, with a desire for continuing education, who are well equipped to embark on a successful career in veterinary practice, the veterinary pharmaceutical industry, bio-medical industry or public service, or in some cases to study higher degrees and become the academic teachers and researchers of the future.

## **GRADUATE INFORMATION**

### **Master Program**

#### **Master of Science in Horticulture**

The M. Sc. program in horticultural sciences prepares students for a scientific career and leading positions in the public and private horticultural sector. With courses scheduled in the evening and on weekends, it can be pursued in parallel with regular employment. The program is based on a multidisciplinary approach integrating modern plant production technologies, plant physiology, ecological concepts and socio-cultural parameters to develop sustainable horticultural systems that significantly contribute to food security and economic development in

the Gulf Region and other parts of the world. Core courses emphasize on identification of knowledge gaps in horticultural sciences, and the use of scientific approaches to problem solving and generation of information. Guided by an experienced academic supervisor, students will develop their expertise through selection of specialization courses and participation in scientific research. The program allows students to choose their preferred specialization from a wide range of different topics, e.g. biotechnology, agro-ecology and sustainability aspects, crop- and post-harvest physiology, horticultural production technology, landscape planning and water management.

### **Admission Criteria**

- **Bachelor's degree or equivalent in Horticulture/ Agriculture** or a closely related field and minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0-point scale
- **A score of at least 6.0 on the IELTS Academic exam or 550 in TOEFL.** This test score must be less than two years old at the time of application
- Three letters of **recommendations** and a statement of research interests.
- Application fees paid at **Union National Bank**, Account No. **8201002777**, Account Name: **UAE University**
- Application is valid only for the semester for which the student applies. If an applicant is granted admission for a certain semester and fails to register, the application may be reconsidered, upon request, for the following semester only.
- Final decision on admission of applicants who satisfy the basic admission requirements will be made after personal interview of the applicant by the Program Admission Committee, chaired by the Program Director.
- Upon request, students who graduated from a university located outside the UAE, need to obtain and present a statement of equivalency of their degree from the UAE Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
- **Conditional admission:**

An applicant with a Bachelor degree recognized by the UAE Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research may be granted conditional admission into a Master's program in one and only one of the following cases:

1. An applicant with an IELTS scores of 5.5, or its equivalent TOEFL scores. Such a student must meet the following requirements during the period of conditional admission or be subject to dismissal:
  - a. Must achieve a minimum IELTS score of 6.0, or its equivalent, by the end of the student's first semester of study;

- b. May take a maximum of six (6) credits hours in the first semester, not counting intensive English courses;
  - c. Must achieve an overall GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in the first 9 credit hours of credit-bearing courses studied in the Master's program.
2. An applicant with an undergraduate cumulative GPA less than 3.0 but equal or higher than 2.5, or its equivalent. Such a student must meet the following requirements during the period of conditional admission or be subject to dismissal:
  - a. May take a maximum of nine (9) credits hours in the first semester of study;
  - b. Must achieve an overall GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in the first 9 credit hours of credit-bearing courses studied in the Master's program.

### **Fee Structure**

The total tuition fee for the M.Sc. in Horticulture program is AED 57,800 which is based on the following:

- AED 1,600 per credit hour, with 36 credit hours required for graduation
- AED 200 application fee

### **Graduation Requirements**

Students may enroll on a full-time or part-time basis. Full-time students are expected to complete the program in 4 semesters (two academic years), while part-time students are expected to complete the degree requirements in 6 semesters (three academic years).

- A minimum of 36 credit hours are required for graduation (including 6 hours for the Master Thesis).
- Courses are selected with the advice and consent of the student's academic advisor and the major professor who is also the chair of the thesis committee.

### **PhD Programs**

The College of Food and Agriculture currently offers three PhD Programs in Horticulture, Food Science and Nutritional Sciences that cover all disciplines related to food and agriculture. Students are admitted through one of the following departments: Arid Land Agriculture, Agribusiness, Food Science, or Nutrition & Health. The key objective of the program is to impart rigorous training for innovative research.

The research areas include: Horticulture, Water Use in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Natural Resources, Food Quality and Safety (Food Composition and Analysis), Food Technology and Processing, Food Innovation, Functional Foods, Nutrition and Chronic Disease Management and Prevention, Sociocultural Determinants of Food Choices and Nutritional Disparities, and Community Nutrition Interventions. The program is designed for full-time students who will complete the cycle of course work, qualifying examinations, and doctoral dissertation.

### **PhD Admission Criteria**

The minimum requirements for admission to the PhD program in CFA are:

- A Master's Degree from an accredited university recognized by the UAE Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, in an area appropriate to the academic area to which application is being made.
- A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale or equivalent, in previous graduate programs at an accredited university recognized by the UAE Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.
- A score of 6.5 or higher on the IELTS Academic exam or equivalent, for all disciplines in which the main language of instruction is English or the dissertation must be written in English. This test score must be less than two years old at the time of application.
- The complete application package must include the following:
  - i. Completed application form;
  - ii. Identity documents as required for Emirati students (copies of passport and Khulasat Al-Qaid) and international students (copy of passport).
  - iii. Two certified copies of official transcripts from all Colleges or universities attended (the applicant must arrange for these to be sent directly to the Office of the Assistant Dean of the relevant College);
  - iv. An official copy of the applicant's score on the IELTS exam or equivalent (the applicant must arrange for this to be sent directly to the Office of the Assistant Dean of the respective College); and
  - v. Two letters of recommendation from professionals familiar with the student's academic work.
  - vi. CV.

### **Fee Structure**

The total tuition rate for students accepted into the PhD program is based on the following:

- AED 2,400 per credit hour, with 54-58 credit hours required for graduation
- AED 200 application fee

### **Graduation Requirements**

Students may enroll on a full-time basis only. Full-time students with a master's degree can complete the degree requirements in 3-4 semesters while students entering. Students should complete the cycle of course work, pass the qualifying examination and successfully defend his/her doctoral dissertation at the end of the program before graduation.

### **RESEARCH CAPABILITIES**

The College of Food and Agriculture offers outstanding research facilities which include three experimental stations, a food pilot plant, and several laboratories that are used for teaching, research, training and other purposes. The laboratories contain a broad range of instruments ranging from agriculture related instruments to biomedical, biochemical, hematological, and anthropometric analysis.

The college publishes the Emirates Journal of Food and Agriculture (EJFA) that is devoted to sharing original basic and applied research articles in the field of Food and Agriculture. The EJFA is the only scientific Journal in the Middle East that publishes 12 issues per year. The College of Food and Agriculture offers full-service research capabilities and has a broad range of active research areas that includes water use in agriculture, protected agriculture, product development from camel milk and date fruits, etc.

## **CONSULTANCY & COMMUNITY SERVICES**

The College of Food and Agriculture (CFA) provides a wide range of services to the UAE community. Types of services offered such as testing programs, consultancy and training. The CFA laboratories provides analytical testing and research-based recommendations to support sustainable resources management decisions. The laboratories offers comprehensive analysis of food, feed, plant tissue, soil, water, toxins, manure and other agriculture materials. The fee-based services are available to all university faculty and staff as well as the public and private sectors.

### **Type of Services:**

1. Testing & Analysis
2. Consultancy
3. Training

### **Testing & Analysis:**

- [Lab](#)
- [Lab](#)
- [Lab](#)
- [& Water Research Lab](#)
- [Nutrition Lab](#)
- [Analysis Lab](#)
- [Chemistry Lab](#)
- [Physics](#)
- [Preparation](#)
- [Composition and Fitness](#)
- [Analysis](#)
- Poultry Diagnostic Lab

- Pilot Plan

### **Consultancy:**

The CFA offer consultancy in many area such as:

- Weight management
- Dietary management for individuals
- Meal planning for athletes
- Design of agricultural building
- Irrigation systems design
- Site planning of agricultural projects

### **Training:**

- Accredited continuing medical education for health professionals
- Training in Aquaculture and Aquaponic

In addition, the CFA along with the College of Business and Economics has established a partnership with Khalifa Fund to design effective business incubation program for the food sector to help foster an entrepreneurial culture among local female Emiratis. The Food Innovation Program is the first of its kind in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and one of the very few programs globally that is fully integrated with a University that caters for:

- Farmers looking to develop value-added products;
- Restaurant owners interested in producing products for retail sale (salad dressings and sauces);
- Talented bakers or cooks who want to sell their products; and
- Anyone looking to start a food business.

## **CONTACT US**

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