

Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra **Higher education**

The Slovak University of Agriculture (SUA) in Nitra is the only educational institution in Slovakia whose mission is to train university graduates for all resorts of agriculture and food industry. Extensive possibilities to acquire knowledge in the area of biological, economical, technical and social sciences create good conditions for the graduates to find jobs also in other resorts of the Slovak Republic's economy.

During recent years all SUA faculties have undergone deep transformation changes resulting in the formation of new educational systems, compatible with other universities, in the development of interdisciplinary programmes as well as cross-disciplinary and part-time study at other faculties in Slovakia and abroad. As the first university in Slovakia, the SUA introduced the ECTS system at all its faculties during the academic year 2001/02.

In accordance with Law No. 131/2002 on Higher Education and on Changes and Supplements to Some Laws as well as with the Slovak higher educational system (as explained in the Annex), the SUA faculties provide higher education at three levels.

Bachelor study programmes

Bachelor study programme (henceforth as BSP) – as a study programme of the first level of higher education - is focused on providing theoretical and practical knowledge (based on the latest scientific results), on its practical application in all kinds of jobs or its development at the second level of higher education.

A standard length of BSP (together with a vocational practice) is three academic years. BSP is concluded by state exams. State exams include a defence of a bachelor thesis.

BSP graduates acquire the first level of higher education and they are awarded the academic degree of „bakalár“ (abbr. „Bc.“).

Master (Engineer) study programmes

Master study programme (henceforth MSP) – as a study programme of the second level of higher education – aims at providing theoretical and practical knowledge (based on latest scientific results) and at developing skills for its practical application in jobs or at a tertiary level of higher education.

A standard length of MSP (together with a vocational practice) is two academic years.

MSP is completed by state exams and a diploma thesis defence. A defence is one of the state exams.

MSP graduates acquire higher education of the second level and they are awarded the academic degree of „engineer“ (abbr. „Ing.“).

Doctoral study programmes

Doctoral study programme (henceforth as DSP) – as a study programme of the third level of higher education – is focused on scientific investigation and independent creative activities in the fields of research and development.

Doctoral study consists of a study and a scientific part.

The skills to study and research independently must be proved by passing a dissertation exam, writing and defending a dissertation thesis, by publishing activities as well as other forms of presenting the students' scientific, research and developmental activities.

DPS graduates acquire higher education of the third level and they are awarded the academic degree of „philosophiae doctor“ („PhD.“).

Organisation of Study

The SUA consists of the following 6 faculties and other educational and research institutions:

Faculty of Agrobiology and Food Resources,
 Faculty of Biotechnology and Food Sciences,
 Faculty of Economics and Management,
 Faculty of European Studies and Regional Development,
 Faculty of Horticulture and Landscape Engineering,
 Faculty of Agriculture Engineering.

The faculties provide education within the following study programmes:

FACULTY OF AGROBIOLOGY AND FOOD RESOURCES

Accredited study programmes	FS	T	L
<i>Bachelor study</i>			
▪ management of plant production	F	Bc.	3
▪ management of animal production	F	Bc.	3
▪ general agriculture	F, P	Bc.	3
▪ sustainable agriculture and rural development	F, P	Bc.	3
▪ human nutrition	F	Bc.	3
▪ breeding of special animals	F	Bc.	3
<i>Master study</i>			
▪ management of plant production	F	Ing.	2
▪ plant nutrition and protection	F	Ing.	2
▪ management of animal production	F	Ing.	2
▪ animal nutrition and fodder studies	F	Ing.	2
▪ special animal breeding areas	F	Ing.	2
▪ sustainable agriculture and rural development	F, P	Ing.	2
▪ human nutrition	F	Ing.	2
▪ production of food resources	F, P	Ing.	2
▪ genetic technologies in agrobiolology	F	Ing.	2

Abbreviations: FS – study form (full-time, part-time), D – academic degree (Bc. – bachelor, Ing. – master of engineering), L – length in years

Graduates at labour market

The Faculty prepares masters in agriculture able to manage the production of food resources of both plant and animal origin, observing environmental requirements, to develop extra-production functions of agriculture and rural development, to scientifically manage human nutrition, and to apply the knowledge of biology based on the society's needs. Graduates may work in research institutions, in state and private food enterprises, in commercial and charity organizations, in organizations providing food control and protection, in healthy nutrition consultancy centres and in the field of consumer protection, in institutions active in nature protection, at the market with exotic and protected animal species, in

institutions involved in the development of agro tourism, in agricultural entities and private farms, etc.

FACULTY OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND FOOD SCIENCES

Accredited study programmes	FS	T	L
<i>Bachelor study</i>			
▪ agro food science	F, P	Bc.	3
▪ agro biotechnology	F	Bc.	3
▪ applied biology	F, P	Bc.	3
<i>Master study</i>			
▪ food technology	F, P	Ing.	2
▪ biotechnology	F	Ing.	2
▪ applied biology	F, P	Ing.	2
▪ animal physiology	F	Ing.	2

Graduates at the labour market

Study programmes are conceived to enable graduates to work in agriculture and food sector. Based on the profiles of individual programmes, graduates can work in agricultural and food-related organisations, in research and breeding institutes, in controlling and testing organizations within agriculture and food complex, in enterprises for national and international trade with agricultural products and food, in departments of urban planning and nature protection, in state regulation of national parks, etc.

FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT

Accredited study programmes	FS	T	L
<i>Bachelor study</i>			
▪ business management	F, P	Bc.	3
▪ business economics	F, P	Bc.	3
▪ business and trade	F, P	Bc.	3
▪ accounting	F, P	Bc.	3
▪ quantitative methods in economy	F	Bc.	3
▪ economics and management of agro sector	F	Bc.	3
▪ teaching of practical agricultural subjects	P	Bc.	3
▪ business management	P (Dt)	Bc.	3
▪ business management	P (Dt)	Bc.	3
<i>Master study</i>			
▪ business management	P	Ing.	2
▪ business economics	P	Ing.	2
▪ economics and management of agrosector	P	Ing.	2

Graduates at the labour market

Vocational knowledge and quality foreign language training give students numerous possibilities to work at various levels of business management in agricultural and food resorts, in biological and technical services business, in foreign trade, as well as in trade departments of agricultural businesses, and in financial institutions. Students get training also for the work in public administration institutions and local governments. Graduates may find jobs in central institutions, in consultancy companies, research institutions, etc.

FACULTY OF EUROPEAN STUDIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Accredited study programmes	FS	T	L
<i>Bachelor study</i>			
▪ European development programmes	F, P	Bc.	3
▪ Regional development	F	Bc.	3
	P	Bc.	3
	P	Bc.	3
▪ Management of rural landscape and tourism development	F, P	Bc.	3
▪ Management of natural resources	F, P	Bc.	3
▪ Management of environment	P	Bc.	3
▪ Protection against natural and economic catastrophes	F, P	Bc.	3
<i>Master study</i>			
▪ European development programmes	P	Ing.	2
▪ Regional development	P	Ing.	2
▪ Management of rural landscape and tourism development	P	Ing.	2

Graduates at labour market

Graduates of the mentioned study programmes are trained to work in branches of regional development, public administration institutions, international organizations, EU institutions as international consultants for various EU projects. They can work as analysts, managers and project-makers of local and regional developmental projects and projects funded by EU's structural funds (in institutions of public administration, as well as in project-consulting organizations), as top managers guiding regional and local development at international, central and regional levels in a wide scale of public administration institutions, as experts in public administration departments for the creation and protection of the environment, in industrial, agricultural and other enterprises and organizations involved in monitoring and evaluating environment, etc.

FACULTY OF HORTICULTURE AND LANDSCAPE ENGINEERING

Accredited study programmes	FS	T	L
<i>Bachelor study</i>			
▪ Horticulture	F, P	Bc.	3
▪ Landscape engineering	F, P	Bc.	3

▪ ground design and geographic information systems	F, P	Bc.	3
▪ Water management	F, P	Bc.	3
▪ Garden and landscape architecture	F	Bc.	3
▪ Management of park and landscape design	F, P	Bc.	3

Master study

▪ Horticulture	F, P	Ing.	2
▪ Landscape engineering	F, P	Ing.	2
▪ Ground design	F, P	Ing.	2
▪ Garden and landscape architecture	F	Ing.	2
▪ Management of park and landscape desing	F, P	Ing.	2

Graduates at labour market

Graduates of individual study programmes are employed as technical staff in gardening businesses, as consultants for the application of nutrition, as project-makers for correcting measures in agricultural landscape, as experts for the establishment and maintaining of green vegetation, as independent managers in both state administration and local government, in nature protection bodies, as staff in both state and private businesses involved in the use and protection of water resources. Moreover, they may be involved in activities related to organization of work in state administration bodies, in creative landscape-architectonic teams, etc.

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

Accredited study programmes **FS** **T** **L**

Bachelor study

▪ production quality management	F, P	Bc.	3
▪ operational security of technology	F, P	Bc.	3
▪ agricultural technology	F, P	Bc.	3
▪ agricultural technology and commercial activities	F, P	Bc.	3
▪ technology and techniques of agricultural product processing	F, P	Bc.	3

Master study

▪ production quality	F, P	Ing.	2
▪ reliability and security of technical systems	F, P	Ing.	2
▪ information and automatization technology in production quality	F, P	Ing.	2
▪ agricultural technology	F, P	Ing.	2
▪ agricultural technology and commercial activities	F, P	Ing.	2
▪ technology and techniques of agricultural product processing	F, P	Ing.	2
▪ transport mechanisms and devices	F, P	Ing.	2
▪ environmental mechanisms and devices	F, P	Ing.	2
▪ operation of transport mechanisms and devices	F, P	Ing.	2

Graduates at labour market

Faculty graduates can work in all branches of economy at various levels because they are equipped with deep technological knowledge, information technology skills and the familiarity with economic conditions of production. They can work as technical managers, technical staff or department heads in public sector, they can manage teams of workers in areas of mobile and environmental technology. They are able to manage independently complicated projects and be responsible for complex solutions, to solve technological and technical problems related to technology operations, to work as project-makers and technologists in specialized project-engineering organizations, as staff of research and developmental institutions, mechanism-testing institutions, etc.

Study forms and methods

The SUA offers education in full-time or part-time form and through the following methods:

- attendance method,
- distance method
- combined method.

Study plan

Each study programme includes a standard study plan. The student's study plan gives a temporary and content sequence of a study programme's units (subjects) and forms of the evaluation of study results. A study plan is created by the student himself/herself or in cooperation with a study consultant, within determined rules of a particular study programme and in agreement with the SUA or a faculty Study Guide.

Study subjects are categorized as follows:

- compulsory,
- compulsory upon selection,
- optional.

Compulsory subjects are determined according to the requirements stated in a graduate's study programme profile. Compulsory upon selection subjects represent alternative offer, resulting from a student's orientation on certain study field. To achieve a required number of credits, a student can choose any optional subject from the SUA's Catalogue of subjects for a particular academic year.

An inseparable part of a study programme is practice. Student can do it in the University Agricultural Enterprise, in the SUA botanic garden and in other enterprises (banks, insurance companies, etc.) in Slovakia or abroad, based on a particular study programme.

Credit system

A study at SUA is organized according to a flexible system with the credit evaluation of subjects based on the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) rules.

The credit system enable students to choose an individual tempo and place of study (university, faculty) and thus to harmonise the study demands with one's own individual abilities and possibilities, as well as with the educational institution's requirements.

A student gains credits for the passing of subjects of a study programme, including a vocational practice and a final thesis. The standard number of credits for one academic year within a standard length of a study is 60, 30 for each semester.

To properly finish the study in a bachelor study programme, within its standard 3-year length of study, a student must acquire 180 credits. To finish a master study programme within its standard 2-year length of study, a student must acquire 120 credits.

Completion of Study

A study programme of each level is completed by passing state exams, including the final thesis defence. Upon the completion of their study, the SUA graduates are awarded the following documents: diploma, state exam certificate, and diploma supplement (annex).

Information System Student (ISS)

Information System Student has been working at the SUA for more than 10 years. It includes a complete database of students and allows processing of a study agenda from school entrance exams, through student registers, subjects, exams and their terms, registers of time schedules and the processing of other supporting systems, up to the register of graduates. The system is used for the printing of diplomas and their supplements as well.

Life-long education

Based on its mission, the SUA provides wide-scale education not only with regard to the diversification of study programmes, forms and levels, but to the possibilities for life-long education as well. The university thus meets one of the key requirements of important European declarations on education stating that life-long education is a necessary prerequisite for economy and knowledge-based European society.

Life-long education at SUA is provided in the following forms:

- University of the third age (UTV),
- complementary pedagogical study,
- specialized forms.

University of the third age is an institution for complementary education of older people (men older than 45 years and women older than 40 years), and disabled people without age limits. The study lasts 4 – 6 semesters. Lectures are offered by SUA pedagogical staff and by important experts from scientific institutes as well as from practice. Such study at the SUA is offered in the following fields:

- horticulture,
- decorative gardening,
- special gardening,
- floriculture,
- security and quality of Slovak products
- nutrition and health,
- agro tourism,
- information and management,
- accounting,
- economics and law,
- law and history of Slovakia,
- law, history and health.

Complementary pedagogical study is intended for master degree (“Ing.”) graduates who wish to gain a teaching qualification and a possibility to work as teachers of vocational agricultural subjects at secondary schools of agriculture. The study provides vocational pedagogical, psychological and methodological training for teaching vocational agricultural subjects at secondary vocational and technical schools of agriculture, or at other types of schools. A 4-semester long study is completed by the final exam and the defence of the final thesis.

Specialized forms are offered mostly by the SUA Institute for the Protection of Biodiversity Biological Security. They include, for example, the following courses:

- Agricultural plant seed production,
- Diagnostics of malted barley species,
- Differential equation and their application in biology,
- SAS – an effective instrument of the evaluation of biological experiments,
- Application of modern mathematical-statistical methods in experiment evaluation.

Courses are completed by a certificate.

In addition to contact teaching, part-time as well as further education study forms make more extensive use of e-learning. The most important activities in the development of e-learning are offered in the SUA Institute for the Protection of Biodiversity and Biological Security and within bachelor part-time study forms offered at the Faculty of Economics and Management.