MSc Food Policy Online Chat

This CityChat session is for anyone interested in studying our MSc Food Policy course. The session will be run by academic staff, giving you the opportunity to ask questions about your chosen course and life at City, University of London. As this is a typed chat group session, you will be able to see the answers to questions asked by other attendees.

Thank you for joining us for today’s CityChat session. This session is for students interested in studying our MSc Food Policy course. This session runs from 16:30 - 17:30 (GMT). This is an open chat session for you to ask any questions you have regarding this course and life at City, University of London. During the session, we may also share videos, polls or documents related to your course.

To ask a question, please type it in the chat box. Your question will not post straight away - it will be sent to our Moderators who will type an answer back. Once their answer is complete, it will be published with your question. Please make sure you say which course you have applied to when you post your question. You are also welcome to post just saying hi and introducing yourself!

Hi everyone my name is Dr Rebecca Wells and I am a lecturer in Food Policy here at City. I am very much looking forward to answering any questions you may have about our MSc course, I am one of the lecturers on the course.

Hi both, thanks for the opportunity to ask questions. Given the current climate and covid-19 crisis, can you advise how lectures are currently been run? Will this have any impact on the intake for 2020/21?

Hi again Louise I should have replied using this button! To answer the second part of your question I’m afraid none of us know how this will affect us in the future but we feel confident that we are able to offer good teaching and learning using our innovative technology. We have been running this course for distance learners for some years, although for the last year this has not been an option.

In regards of application, do you have any specific criteria for who can apply for the course, such as academic and experience requirements?

Hi you can find details of our criteria within the 'Entry requirements' tab on our course page: https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/food-policy

Food Policy MSc Course

Food Policy MSc Course - This postgraduate programme at City, University of London will give you the skills to change the food system for the better.

My question regards the possibility I might reside in Paris and commute on the Eurostar for classes. Is this possible, for instance, if classes are held Tuesday to Thursday or Monday to Thursday? And is this even relevant if we switch to virtual platforms? Or is there the possibility for both virtual and live teaching?
Hi and thanks for joining us. Our main classes are on Monday 4pm-7pm and Tuesday 4pm-7pm. These are the main sessions and there are 11 on a Monday and 11 on a Tuesday, per term for terms one and two. In term three students concentrate on their Dissertation which is a research project and report that they write on their own with the support of a supervisor. That's for full time students, Part Time students only do one day and over 2 years. Some students this year come to London on a Monday and then stay over until Tuesday. I'm not sure where we will be with virtual learning and distance learning for next year just yet. This is a fast changing situation!!

Can I ask how many hours of lectures there are per week?

Hi formally 6 hours per week if you are full time Mon 4-7 and Tues 4-7 but there are some extra sessions e.g. on research methods and some tutorials. Students often also meet up with each other for social events or reading groups. I know the application process has been open since October 2019 but is there a closing date? And at what stage do successful applicants find out they have been accepted on to the course?

Hi there isn't a closing date for applications, but we would advise you to apply as soon as you can, as if we reach capacity we can then not take on more students. This isn't hugely likely but there is a chance this could happen.

During the course, will we have any opportunities to get involve or gain experience of making Food Policies in the UK? Will the be about Food Policies in the UK only, or will we be able to use our learning outside the country?

Hi and thanks for your question. We have a very international approach and many of our lecturers have experience in the food policy field both nationally and internationally. We have research projects across the world both in the UK for example on the Childhood Obesity Plan with the Department of Health and the National Food Strategy as well as projects internationally e.g. in South Africa on food environments and in Colombia on Farmers' Markets.

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We don't have formal work experience placements as part of the course at the moment but we encourage students to use 'live' food policy issues for the assignments. For each module students are able to choose a subject for their assignment that fits their interest and that can be from any country so the assignment may be to look at a value chain analysis of a food stuff or to look at policy coherence in a particular context.

Do many people work when they are doing the full time course?

There are some students who have part time or occasionally freelance work but it would be difficult I think to do the course full time and have a full time job as well.

Another question from me - when completing the dissertation - how often do/can you meet with your supervisor? And can you choose who your supervisor is?
The dissertation runs from about March/April to when it is submitted in September. The guidance is that you can have 6 meetings with your supervisor, but I would say most supervisors are happy to meet when needed. You can make a request for a particular supervisor but the final decision on this is down to the Programme Director just for practical and logistical reasons!

If I start the course as a full time but if due to any unforeseen circumstances I can’t continue, will I be able to swap to part time?

Hi yes that’s entirely possible and some students do do this if they realise the full time is too much for e.g if they have caring responsibilities.

Thank you for answering Dr. I would also like to ask, what are the prospect after completing this Masters? And if the university in any way help the graduates to pursue Food Policy Related career path after?

Hi there. We have a very good careers service at the university who can help with general careers skills e.g. helping you with CV’s or interview techniques. We also do offer sessions with speakers from teh food sector e.g. industry or civil society organisations and you hav ea chance to network with them and talk to them. If you look at the PDF I posted earlier of our annual report this shows what some of our graduates have gone on to do I will also post anther PDF which is a history of the Centre for Food Policy and has more alumni stories in it.

Thank you all so much for joining us and we hope we will be welcoming you to City and the Centre for Food Policy in September!