



Your Programme

MLE/PgDip Land Economy (Rural Surveying)

Masters/Diploma: 12 Month Taught Postgraduate Programmes accredited by the Royal Institution Of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). A small number of SAAS awards may be available.

Reasons to Study Land Economy (Rural Surveying) at Aberdeen

- Only RICS accredited programme of its kind in Scotland
- 100% graduate employment record
- Teaching includes Rural Practitioners
- Accessibility to rural estates enables field visits and practical exercises
- Includes a week-long European field trip
- Small group teaching is the norm
- Close links with the RICS (Rural Faculty)

Entry Requirements

The normal entry requirement for the programme is at least a lower second-class Honours degree or equivalent. Mature students who do not meet the normal entry requirement but who have appropriate professional experience may also be considered. Applicants should note that irrespective of your initial registration (Diploma or Masters) the qualification awarded on completion of the programme is dependent upon your performance during the year.

Programme Structure and Content

Land Economy (Rural Surveying) is concerned with the management of land and its resources, rural businesses and their associated activities and interests. The knowledge and skills from a range of disciplines – for example, land management, public policy, law, planning, economics, and valuation – are integrated to meet the future challenges facing landowners and land managers. Knowledge and understanding of traditional land management (agriculture, forestry, sporting) and emerging land uses (such as environmental and conservation activities, countryside access and leisure activities, hotel developments, steading conversions, telecommunication masts and wind turbines) are combined with the business skills necessary for successful decision-making and business diversification. As a rural land and business manager the student/graduate is concerned not only with practical land management but also with the financial, legal, planning and policy contexts within which decisions are made and business interests managed.

Students study the following courses:

• Land and Environmental Economics	• Valuation and Appraisal
• Rural and Environmental Policy	• Agricultural and Planning Law
• Projects in Rural and Environmental Practice	• Rural Business Management
• Land Use Management	• Reserach Methods
• Dissertation (Masters) OR Case Study (PgDip)	

An optional **English Land Law** course is also available for students wishing to work in England/Wales.

Teaching and Assessment

Highly qualified and motivated staff, including those with considerable practical experience will teach you. A variety of teaching and assessment methods are used. All courses involve lectures, tutorials, seminars and project work although the relative balance varies as you progress through the programme. Courses are assessed via coursework and formal examinations. There are two diets of examinations: January and May, with a maximum of four courses examined during each. As you progress greater emphasis is placed on the application of knowledge and skills, and involves increased project work and coursework (and fewer examinations). Projects focus on local estates and farms and are designed to incorporate the types of task expected in the workplace.

Courses typically involve two or three hours of lectures and one small group tutorial/seminar per week. Practical courses include a half-day field visit (for example, to Highland estates) or project class per week, and regularly involve leading practitioners in the field. Project-work includes a mix of individual and group exercises. Residential field visits often involve a European visit. In recent years visits have been made to Spain, Portugal, the Czech Republic and Slovenia.

Careers

The Land Economy (Rural Surveying) programmes are designed for graduates from any discipline. **It is the only programme of its kind in Scotland**, which is accredited by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). Graduates therefore have the option of following a career in chartered surveying (Rural Faculty). Career options include such areas as land agency, estate management, countryside management, and rural policy and development. Most, if not all, Diploma and Masters students secure a post-graduation employment position before the end of their programme. Diploma and Masters graduates are particularly highly sought-after by the leading land agency firms throughout the UK: Smiths-Gore, Strutt and Parker, Bidwells, Savills, and Edwin Thompson to name but a few. Many of these firms visit the Department as part of their annual recruitment strategy. Other graduates have secured employment with landed estates (Buccleuch Estates, Moray Estates, Strathmore Estates, Dunecht Estates), conservation bodies (SNH, RSPB) and public authorities (National Parks, Local Authorities).

How to Apply/Further Information

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Application Forms can be obtained at: www.abdn.ac.uk/sras/postgraduate/apply5.shtml