

Food Law

Master of Law (LL.M.)

Luiss

School of Law



Italy as a privileged place for advanced study in Food Law

Italy undoubtedly enjoys a worldwide reputation for its food. Thanks to its long-standing tradition, well preserved local expertise and to its rich variety of local specialties, Italy holds the highest number of internationally recognized denominations of origin. It is well known that several Italian food trademarks are frequently identified globally as synonyms of the highest quality in food production.

Italy has always played a key role in the establishment of EU agricultural policy and of EU rules concerning food and its related activities.

Italian public institutions and authorities, companies and their associations as well as Italian consumer movements and NGOs are constantly in the forefront of national, EU and international regulatory initiatives and decisions, rounds of negotiations and multilateral deals and treaties.

The most important European and international organizations dedicated to food are headquartered in Italy. In particular, Rome hosts the following organizations:

- the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO),
- the World Food Programme (WFP),
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Furthermore, the European Food and Safety Authority (EFSA) is located in Parma.

All these elements make of Italy a privileged place for advanced study in Food Law and an ideal paramount observatory, in an international and European perspective, on the manifold legal issues concerning the entire chain of food production and commerce. Studying in Italy may also increase the potential of working in one of the above-mentioned organizations and/or in one of its industries.



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Main campus of Luiss Guido Carli,
School of Law



Objectives

Agricultural and industrial production, distribution and international trade, quality and safety control, consumer information and health safeguard, scientific research and technological developments, environmental protection and bio-productions: these are just a few main facets of the complex prism of frequently interlinked activities concerning food. They are all of significant interest for lawyers, judges, entrepreneurs, advisors and consumer movements, as well as for those working in food-related fields, both profit and non-profit. Moreover, in-depth and focused study, in an interdisciplinary and international perspective, is the basis for a concrete contribution to the pursuit of updated and more efficient legal settings. This Master of Law (LL.M.) addresses the need of comprehensive analysis-cum-proposals of the various profiles and primary issues involved in the overall regulation concerning food. It is through the classes, labs, seminars, conferences direct contact with professionals, experts, professors and leaders in the field that the Master of Law (LL.M.) not only enhances professional backgrounds and competencies, but above all provides graduates with opportunities to enter or progress in their professional careers.

Participants

Participants include all persons wishing to acquire or to improve their knowledge of the relevant legal aspects of Food Law in an international perspective. The Master of Law (LL.M.) in Food Law is designed for those wishing to strengthen their education in this field in order to become more effective in their present or future profession, which includes a wide range of career opportunities in the food sector worldwide: national and international regulatory bodies, specialized law and consulting firms, food industries, governmental and non-governmental organizations, etc.

Directors

Gustavo GHIDINI,
Full Professor of Industrial Law
Luiss Guido Carli

Maria Pia RAGIONIERI,
Full Professor of Agricultural Law
Tuscia University

Coordinators

Daniela CORONA, Luiss Guido Carli
Ercole DE VITO, Luiss Guido Carli

Faculty

The faculty includes lawyers working in firms, high officials working within the United Nations and European Union institutions and diplomats as well as prominent agricultural, industrial, commercial operators and experts. The diversity of the lecturers contributes significantly providing participants with interdisciplinary and practical experience.

The complete list of our faculty is available on our [website](#).

Career Opportunities

Graduates will acquire both the knowledge and skills, at the national and international level, to work within:

- **Law firms:** given the increasing need to offer clients transactional, regulatory and litigation services in the food law sector, a growing number of law firms are focusing on food law in addition to the most diversified legal fields to efficiently respond to the growing demands of their clients.
- **Food industries:** acquired skills are particularly valuable in Italy, given the notably historical tradition of excellence in every aspect of the food chain.
- **International organizations and European institutions:** this program will facilitate the opportunities to gain contact with legal and policy departments of the various United Nations organizations such as FAO, WFP and IFAD and primary European institutions.

To help current and future graduates achieve their professional goals, the Luiss School of Law assures assistance, ranging from ad hoc training and preparation for job placement activities including CV writing and job interviewing, all the way to the identification of career opportunities and relative counselling.

Upon attainment of the diploma, special care is dedicated to establishing internships and traineeships in various areas of students' potential interest. During the program, contact with the world of food-related activities, organizations and institutions and initiatives are already proposed.



Classes

As to foster the participation of professionals and graduates, classes are held primarily:

Fridays: 2:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Saturdays: 8:30 am – 1:30 pm

Workshops, practice-oriented seminars and additional events duly integrate material from lectures. Experts operating in the various fields related to food regulation and industry illustrate and discuss their concrete working life experience.

Credits

60 ECTS

(European Credit Transfer System)

Diploma

Master of Law (LL.M.)
in Food Law - Master universitario
di secondo livello

Duration of Program

One academic year.
Classes: from January to July.

Language

English is the language of the courses and all related activities

LL.M. students together with the participants of the “Gymnasium” during the opening ceremony organized in collaboration with the World Farmers’ Organization (WFO). Looking at photo, from right to left: Dr. Martin Märkl, Senior Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Bayer AG; Dr. Marco Marzano de Marinis, former Secretary General, WFO, Dr. Theo de Jager, President, WFO; H.R.H. Princesse Viktória de Bourbon de Parme, Kingdom of the Netherlands; Dr. Gilbert F. Hounbo, President, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); Prof. Gustavo Ghidini, Co-Director of Luiss LL.M. in Food Law, Luiss Guido Carli University; Mr. Ren Wang, Assistant Director-General, FAO.

Content

The program includes: the institutional grounds of food legislation, regulatory tenets of safety, security and environmental protection, the instruments and bodies of quality and traceability monitoring, correct safeguard of consumers, requirements for certifications of origin, legal profiles of distribution and agro-food contractual policies, rules of free competition and the responsibility of business operators along the production-distribution-consumption chain. Particular attention is given to the regulation of technological innovation in the food sector, as well as to bio-agriculture technologies.

The program is composed of nine modules:

1. International Trade Rules and the Agriculture Sector

The first module addresses legal foundations of the multilevel-system governing the food sector at the international level. The lectures unveil how WTO law shapes and constrains EU Food Law and how national measures are still used to promote the increase of production by means of subsidies and restrictions on market access.

2. Food Safety

The second module focuses on the rules governing food chain safety, namely its hygiene and health security, nutritional, hygienic and toxicological characteristics. Students also learn about the mechanisms set up at the EU level to guarantee food safety and management of emergency situations.

3. Food Quality

The third module provides students with a comprehensive overview of the rules governing the protected geographical indications of origin, brands, private collective marks and signs of quality. The particular discipline of the trade of wine and spirits, the sensorial analysis of food and important issue of the “Made in” market will complete this section.

4. Food Advertising and Labeling

This module addresses regulation of information that consumers may find on food products and advertising campaigns set up at the EU and national level.

5. Food Security and Environment

Module five provides a comprehensive overview of the strict relationship between food and the environment while analyzing major problems related to food security, namely the availability, access and use of food products.

6. Agrifoodstuff Market

This module deals with the rules governing the agrifoodstuffs market. In particular, students engage in the analysis of regulations on competition and state aids, the European food market system and the role of relevant authorities on fair competition. Also, particular attention is given to food trade in the international market and the role of specific financial institutions and instruments for the agri-food market.

7. Contracts

In this module, students look at the role of international and national trade associations, the discipline of network contracts and transaction contracts in the agri-food system as well as the laws governing consumer protection in contractual processes and various organizational systems in the food supply chain.

8. Responsibility and Fraud

The eighth module focuses on legal responsibility of the actors involved in the food chain, namely producers, distributors and importers. Particular emphasis is given to unfair trade practices, frauds, the role of consumers’ associations, the regulation of civil and criminal responsibility and class action law.

9. Food Companies on a Global Scale

The last module is dedicated to the challenges a food company faces when expanding its market and the legal assistance necessary to support them. In particular, students learn about the applicable fiscal and tax legislative regimes, customs arrangements, the rules governing e-commerce and distance selling.

Admission Requirements

To participate in the admission procedure, candidates need to meet the requirements and criteria provided by the Academic Regulation of the Master available here.

Online Application

Program fees: € 8,500 to be paid in two installments.

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