If you are looking for a Second Cycle (MSc) Degree Course at the forefront of the modern food sciences, and you want to acquire the ability to face the challenges posed by the modern food systems and learn deep skills in managing the safety of what we eat, we propose to you to become a Food Safety expert. It’s possible through a regional course, fully taught in English, offered by a network formed by the Universities of the Emilia-Romagna region: University of Parma, University of Bologna, Catholic University of Piacenza, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, University of Ferrara.

Emilia-Romagna region and, in particular, the Parma District represents an integrated ecosystem of food industries, research centers and public institutions fully dedicated to food (for this reason it’s called “food valley”) and is the headquarter of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

Foods have a direct impact on human health and well-being. They are the main way in which our body comes into contact with the external environment and with millions of different compounds. It becomes therefore essential for companies, control bodies and research centers to form specific figures dedicated to risk assessment and management of food risks. These figures are the Food Safety experts. The Food Safety expert has a knowledge of European legislation in the sector and is linked to the global market, which poses logistical challenges and makes the guarantees on ingredients of the food chain less robust, leading to new safety risks.

WHY IN PARMA

Food Safety and Food Risk Management

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During the 1st year all courses will be taught at the University of Parma. At the beginning of the 2nd year, students will choose one among three different curricula offered by the partner universities: Risk Mitigation (UNIPC in collaboration with UNIP), Agri-Food Safety (UNIMORE), Risk Management (UNIBO).

The degree qualification will be successfully gained after the elaboration and defence of an original thesis work, under the joint supervision between universities and/or food companies, governmental and EU institutions, and will be officially awarded as a joint Second Cycle (MSc) degree of University of Parma, Piacenza, Bologna, Modena e Reggio Emilia and Ferrara.

1st Year (at UNIP) CP
- RISK CHARACTERIZATION AND EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT IN FOOD (6)
- FOOD TECHNOLOGY (MOD. I) (6)
- EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT AND RISK/BENEFIT EVALUATION (MOD. II) (6)
- FOOD TECHNOLOGY AND MICROBIOLOGY (6)
- BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS IN FOOD (6)
- HAZARDOUS IDENTIFICATION IN PRIMARY PRODUCTION (6)
- PLANT HEALTH (MOD. I) (6)
- ANIMAL WELFARE (MOD. I) (6)
- FOOD LAW AND INTERNATIONAL POLICY (6)
- BIOSTATISTICS (6)
- BIOETHICS (3)

2nd Year – Path “Risk Mitigation” offered at UNIP in collaboration with UNIMER CP
- MANAGEMENT OF RISK IN FOOD PRODUCTION (6)
- MANAGEMENT OF PROCESS-RELATED CONTAMINANTS (6)
- FOOD ALLERGENS (6)
- STUDENTS’ FREE CHOICE (12)

2nd Year – Path “Agri-Food Safety” offered at UNIMORE CP
- POST-HARVEST DISEASES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT (6)
- ANIMAL PESTS IN STORED AGRI-FOOD PRODUCTS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT (6)
- MYCOTOXIGENIC FUNGI IN AGRI-FOOD AND PESTICIDE CONTAMINATION: ANALYSIS AND RISK MANAGEMENT (6)
- BIOTECHNOLOGY AND AGRONOMY FOR SAFETY AND IDENTITY PRESERVATION OF AGROFOOD PRODUCTS (6)
- RISK ASSESSMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGICAL AND GENETIC MODIFIED ORGANISMS IN FOOD (6)
- STUDENTS’ FREE CHOICE (12)

2nd Year – Path “Risk Management” offered at UNIBO CP
- ADVANCED AND PREDICTIVE FOOD MICROBIOLOGY (6)
- ADVANCED FOOD TECHNOLOGY AND FOOD PROCESS (6)
- ADVANCED AND PREDICTIVE FOOD MICROBIOLOGY (6)
- FOODBORNE RISK TRACEABILITY (6)
- FOODBORNE RISK ASSESSMENT (6)
- INNOVATIVE APPROACH FOR RISK ASSESSMENT IN MICROBIOLOGICAL FOOD VALUE CHAIN (6)
- STUDENTS’ FREE CHOICE (12)

2nd Year – Thesis CP
- THESIS (21)

Careers opportunities
Graduates in Food Safety and Food Risk Management will fill roles of responsibility in food companies for the safety aspects related to primary production, procurement and handling of raw materials (especially at transnational level), process controls, development of new products, and marketing and distribution at European and extra-European level. In addition, they will be able to integrate current regulations and new scientific knowledge in terms of emerging risks, by performing direct research and development of new products both in companies, universities and other research institutions. Graduates will be able to develop and monitor risk management strategies for the prevention and management of current and emerging risks or outbreaks as well as effectively define and manage food safety plans.

In other words, graduates will be able to manage the system of risk governance, which is intimately responsible for the efficiency of the detection, prevention, mitigation, and reduction of threats and risks at an appropriate level.

The graduate will also cover responsible positions in control bodies and in national and international organizations operating in the sector of Food Safety (including EFSA).

The graduate will also be able to have an active role in the field of training and scientific dissemination at all levels.

A professional practice exam called “esame di stato”, in Italy, must be passed to enroll in the Food Technologists professional register.