



Faculty of Bioscience Engineering – Ghent University
Alumni Newsletter - Issue 5 – December 2018

Dear Alumni, Dear Friends,

2018 is almost coming to an end. I can only hope that it was a very happy and fruitful year for you all. I am excited that the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering could meet several of you at one of our alumni tours that we organized this year to recruit new students. You should know that almost half of our current students refer to an alumna/alumnus if we ask how they got informed about our master degree programmes. So, therefore, I would like to thank all of you for being great ambassadors of our programmes, Faculty and University.

2019 is approaching very fast. In this Newsletter we will invite you to participate in our contest to show us how you are contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals through your work. I'm looking forward to seeing how our Alumni – you! – are changing our planet!

Next to that, I hope that we can count on your support, as a proud Alumna/Alumnus to recruit students for our programmes, because, if we want to change the future, it will be through education!

But most of all, I would like to wish you all the best for 2019: Fruitful results at work, a good health and lots of Friendship and Love!

On behalf of my team and the entire Faculty: Best wishes for 2019!!

Wim Hoste

Why current master's students elected UGent University, Faculty of Bioscience-Engineering?

Which study meets my interests best? At which university? And which city is the most appealing? Which country? Deciding on a master's study is quite a challenge. It is your future you're planning after all!

Our new student ambassadors at the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering were in that same boat last year.

"Belgium"

Dutta chose Belgium above other countries but for a completely different reason. "I actually decided for Flanders (Belgium) because there is a very good [price/value level of study](#); education is really good and internationally quite well-received, but it does not cost you an arm and a leg."

"The Master Programme we have chosen is more complete and unique"

Alain and Baroness preferred a master's in Gent to a master's in another EU country, because for them the one in Ghent was [unique in its kind](#). Alain: "I chose my master's because the subjects are very unique, interesting and correspond with my interests." Baroness wanted to learn something completely new. "The similar programmes in the other EU countries focussed on economics or agriculture, while my UGent master's connects theory and know-how given in a multidisciplinary range of courses at several joint universities to the real situations in my country. These complements means more job possibilities."

"UGent and especially FBE, are innovative and diverse!"

The city of Ghent has a very international atmosphere. You hear many different languages and see people of many different nationalities. And the same holds true for UGent University. Almost 12% of our students are from all over the world. Priscilla: "FBE uses English as the teaching language for all its International Master of Science Programmes. Meaning language is not a barrier". And what about conversing with the Flemish peoples? "I was surprised by how excellent the Flemish students speak English, even though they are not native speakers," says Gabriel.

Studying at FBE in Ghent; Belgium also offers many opportunities to travel. In your spare time within Belgium and Europe. But also as part of your study programme. Daniel: "I loved the prospects of working/studying alongside a network of universities across the world - the chance to study abroad and go to an internship really showed me how innovative and diverse the International Master of Science in Rural Development (IMRD)at FBE!" My colleague of the SINREM programme, Ms. Belen Estefania is just feeling the same.

"I love Group works and I hate it"

Finally yet importantly, FBE's diversity in teaching methods draws students to Gent. But it is not said that everyone is a fan from the start! "I love the Problem based learning system in nutrition epidemiology and I hate it", says Michelle. "You obtain a lot more than just book-knowledge. You are developing yourself into a worthy employee for the future; someone who is a good communicator and team player. This really sets UGent apart from other universities. However, it is a time-consuming way of studying."

Another student with mixed feelings about Group works is Ryan John. "Every student in the tutorial group is different; say in what you already know or if you are an introvert or extrovert. We needed to learn to communicate effectively. It's not easy, it asks for organisational skills as well as discipline and autonomy. But that is where you start to learn! You are responsible for your own progress, and slowly but surely, you learn how to take this responsibility."



This month's video



What's new



1. ITC is setting up **WhatsApp groups** for its alumni per country.

“ The national or subnational WhatsApp group belongs to the international ITC alumni of the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering at UGent. The conversations in the WhatsApp group are restricted to pure professional matters linked to alumni welfare. Language of conversation is limited to English. Each member is kindly asked in joining other alumni members by sending their mobile phone numbers”.

Leaders of each country alumni FBE/ITC WhatsApp group will become member (organised by ITC) of all other alumni WhatsApp groups in order to facilitate exchange of relevant professional messages posted in each of the groups.

At this moment alumni from Ghana, Tanzania (SUA), Ethiopia (Addis Ababa) and Kenya have already set-up a WhatsApp group with a growing number of members.

ITC Alumni Team hopes new groups will be created soon, representing other nationalities and continents.

Keep us informed if you are willing to set-up such an Alumni FBE UGent WhatsApp group. All support to this initiative is most welcome! The more groups the better exchange of information!

2. **Recruitment and Alumni Fairs**

ITC took the initiative to promote its Bachelor, Master and PhD Programmes organised at our Faculty through some new types of activity.

- Renewing contacts with the alumni through some local fairs. They can become our programme ambassadors;
- Visit of different universities by a FBE team to enhance cooperation in research and study programmes;
- Participating to different scholarship fairs all over the world for which local students are invited.

Some Examples

EHEF-fair in Manilla on 10 October



Our ITC liaison officer Leen De Wispelaere was sent on October 7 to Manilla to participate to the 2018 European Higher Education Fair.

Recruitment trip Colombia

During the 3rd week of November the ITC sent Iarre Lafort (International Liaison Officer at ITC) to Bogota for the annual Expo-Posgrados on 17 and 18 November. There he was assisted by Luis Javier López, alumnus of the Inter University Master of Science in Food Technology. Luis was an invaluable asset during the fair. He was able to inform interested students on all the aspects of life and study in Belgium. Both from the perspective of a former student and as a current PhD researcher at the National University of Colombia.

On Friday 16 November Iarre attended two preparatory meetings at the National University of Colombia. The goal of the meetings were to focus on possibilities of student exchange and educational collaboration in the future.

In the evening of 16 November all Belgian University representatives and their alumni residing in Bogota were invited to a reception organized by the Belgian Embassy.



The ITC would like to thank all Colombian alumni, university staff members and the Embassy, that helped with the aspects of organizing the visit: your efforts were invaluable! We hope to have convinced the Colombian students of the added value of studying at Ghent University!

ITC mission to Ethiopia and Ghana

Michel Flement and Mie Remaut-De Winter, both International liaison officers at ITC, visited during November from 18 till 28, several universities in Ethiopia and Ghana (respectively Addis Abeba, Mekelle, Awassa and UG at Accra, Cape Coast and KNUST in Kumasi). They have given at each university a lecture



to an audience of students and staff members interested in our study programmes at the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering. The attendance of participants was enormous. At each university one FBE alumnus prepared and organised our visit, including some meetings with the responsables of the university, sessions for students and staff members and a local alumni meeting. ITC would like to thank all Ethiopian and Ghanaian UGent alumni who were involved in the smooth organisation of the whole trip.

Preliminary outcomes of the mission

- Increasing demand for MOUs (Ghent University considers a bilateral agreement as an international cooperation agreement between two universities, concluded in order to start up joint initiatives or to intensify existing contacts. The main purpose is to create opportunities for student and staff mobility outside Europe).
- Increased number of applicants for our MSc. and PhD programmes



Recruitment fair in Mexico



The International Training Center (represented by Marleen Vereecken, International liaison officer at ITC) was present at the [EuroPosgrados México](#) Fair in Mexico City on November 10th and 11th and in Monterrey on November 12th. Several enthusiastic Mexican alumni supported the ITC representative to present and promote the international master programmes offered by the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering. The presence of the alumni was so much appreciated, as well by the visitors as by the ITC. We believe that no one is better placed to provide candidates with information than the one who lived the experience him/herself. The ITC slogan is "No better ambassadors for our programmes than our alumni!"



The UGent-ITC booth received many interested candidates who came with well-prepared questions, going from details about the content of the programmes to more practical issues about the application procedure. A lot of interest was given to the international Erasmus Mundus master courses, more particularly to the new programme that will be launched in September 2019, the International MSc in Soils and Global Change (IMSOGLO, <https://imsoglo.eu>). Looking forward to receiving several Mexican applications, we remain by saying:

EuroPosgrados Mexico, see you next year!



Training programme for Tajikistanis

The government of Tajikistan is currently implementing a World Bank funded project to increase the agricultural commercialization. In the context of this Agriculture Commercialization Project (ACP), the International Training Centre (ITC) of the faculty of Bioscience-engineering at Ghent University is consulting on the curriculum modernization at the Tajik Agrarian University and two vocational training colleges for agriculture.

The training of the teaching staff is an important strategy in the process of agricultural education modernization. Therefore, a delegation of lecturers from the aforementioned institutes travelled to Ghent University, Belgium from the 15th to the 28th November of 2018 for a specialized scientific training, consisting of both lectures and excursions. It was a fruitful and interesting experience and an amazing time, one they will not easily forget. Many Thanks to Dajo Smet for the successful organisation!



Faculty mission to Mexico and Colombia

From 9 to 15 December 2018 a delegation of the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering was visiting some institutions in Mexico and Colombia.

The delegation members were:

- Prof. Geert Haesaert, Dept. of Plants and Crops, Faculty of Bioscience Engineering, Ghent University
- Prof. Em. Donald Gabriels, Dept. of Environment, Faculty of Bioscience Engineering, Ghent University
- Prof. Guy Smagghe, Dept. of Plants and Crops, Faculty of Bioscience Engineering, Ghent University

- Dr. Daylan Amelia Tzompa Sosa , Dept. of Food Technology, Safety and Health, Faculty of Bioscience Engineering, Ghent University
- Mr. Wim Hoste, Head of the International Training Centre, Faculty of Bioscience Engineering, Ghent University

The goal of the mission was to explore possibilities for collaboration in research and in education as well as to promote our English master programs.

The following visits to universities were organized by Hilde Vandecasteele and facilitated by some alumni: Gabriela Bandini, Sandra Cruz, Héctor Martínez and Beatriz Vera Castillo.

- In Mexico: Universidad Politécnica del Valle de México, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and Universidad Autónoma Chapingo
 - In Colombia: Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Universidad de La Salle, Universidad de Los Andes
- Besides those visits there are also meetings with the Belgian Embassies in both countries, with Colfuturo and an alumni meeting in Mexico City and in Bogota.

Preliminary outcomes of the visits:

- 2 PhD candidates
- Increasing number of applicants for our Master Programmes
- Training programme 2019 organised by ITC at UGent for Mexican students: approved
- At each university , learning agreements have been signed or are in the pipe-line

What's hot in Belgium, at the Ministry of Development Cooperation

Beyond Chocolate

Alexander De Croo (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Development Cooperation) launches partnership for sustainable Belgian chocolate with the chocolate industry, major retailers and civil society.

Making Belgian chocolate even better and more sustainable. This is the joint ambition of the Belgian chocolate and retail sector, civil society, social impact investors and universities. Under the impetus of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Development Cooperation Alexander De Croo, they all signed today in Antwerp the *Beyond Chocolate* partnership for sustainable Belgian chocolate. With their signature, they commit themselves to tackling child labour, combating deforestation and ensuring a liveable income for local cocoa producers.

Belgian chocolate is known at home and abroad as a high quality product. However, in addition to the best quality, consumers of Belgian chocolate also need to be able to count on the maximum sustainability of the product. That is why Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Development Cooperation Alexander De Croo took the initiative for *Beyond chocolate*, a partnership that aims for sustainable Belgian chocolate. Sustainability organisations The Shift and IDH Sustainable Trade Initiative played a coordinating role in the creation of Beyond Chocolate. The signing took place today in Chocolate Nation, the largest Belgian chocolate museum in the world - where chocolate lovers will be able to learn all about chocolate from January 2019.

Wide group of signatories

In addition to the Choprabisco sector federation, retail chains Delhaize, Aldi, Lidl, Carrefour and Colruyt Group committed also themselves for their own brands. Belgian universities, governmental and non-governmental organizations, impact investors and trade unions support the new partnership and will contribute in their own field to a sustainable Belgian chocolate. Manufacturers of non-Belgian chocolate also come on board. This is important, because to make Belgian chocolate more sustainable and to be able to write real success stories, every actor in the chain must cooperate.

Alexander De Croo: *"We all enjoy our delicious Belgian chocolate. At home and abroad, Belgian chocolate has a very strong reputation. By paying even more attention to sustainability, we make our chocolate taste even more. I am therefore very pleased that the entire Belgian chocolate sector, the major retailers, NGOs, trade unions, social impact investors and universities are supporting it."*

Jos Linkens, President Choprabisco, the Royal Belgian Association of the Chocolate, Praline, Biscuitry and Candy Industry: *"Belgian chocolate is known and loved worldwide for its superior quality. For years, we have also been striving to preserve the complex cocoa chain. Thanks to the Beyond Chocolate initiative of Minister De Croo, we are making great strides forward. We are therefore proud to be able to sign this partnership in which all stakeholders work together to make the Belgian chocolate sector fully sustainable."*

The partnership is open to additional signatories who want to help fulfil the commitments.

Series of concrete commitments

With *Beyond Chocolate*, all signatories commit themselves to working together on a whole range of challenges in the field of sustainable chocolate, such as tackling deforestation, child labour and a liveable income for local cocoa products.

In concrete terms, this means that all Belgian chocolate produced or traded in Belgium meets a relevant certification standard or is produced with cocoa products from company-specific sustainability programmes by the end of 2025 at the latest.

The agreements between governments and private partners that fall under the *Cocoa & Forests Initiative* must also be fully respected by the end of 2025 at the latest. This mainly concerns ending deforestation in the two largest cocoa producing countries, Ghana and Ivory Coast. Deforestation as a result of cocoa production for the Belgian chocolate sector must end by 2030. By then, all cocoa producers must earn at least a living income.

Result of the Belgian SDG Charter

Beyond Chocolate builds on the Belgian SDG Charter for International Development. It was launched two years ago and brings together the private sector, civil society and government around the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

Belgian chocolate - a few figures

Belgium is one of the largest importers of cocoa beans. Every year, **more than 300,000 tons of cocoa beans** enter our country via the port of Antwerp.

Belgium is the second largest importer of cocoa beans in Europe, after the Netherlands and Germany. The port of Antwerp is not only important for the Belgian chocolate sector, but is also an important port of entry for cocoa beans for the food industry in Germany, the Netherlands, France and other EU countries.

The Belgian chocolate sector accounts for an **annual turnover of almost 5 billion euros**. About **500 companies are active in the cocoa processing industry and chocolate sector**, varying from large multinationals to SMEs and artisanal chocolatiers.

Almost 600,000 tons are exported annually by Belgian chocolate makers, both to neighbouring EU countries and to the US and Japan. This makes Belgium the **second largest chocolate exporter in the world**.

12 Sep 2018

Ghent joins international initiative on adequate housing

[Read more](#)



What's hot in the city of Ghent

City of Ghent as SDG Voice

Following the example of the UN ambassadorship for the SDGs of Shakira and Queen Mathilde, Minister Marie-Christine Marghem appointed eight organisations to SDG Voice on 26 September 2016. By doing this, the City of Ghent became one of the ambassadors to help announce the SDGs in Belgium. To involve as many people and cities as possible, the City of Ghent launched a communication campaign through five challenges between the end of February and September 2017. The challenges were not only to promote the SDGs, but also to encourage citizens, organisations, the business community and educational institutes to take sustainable action.

Ghent received the UN Sustainable Development Goal Action Award in the communication category for its communication campaign. Out of more than 740 applications from 125 different countries around the world, Ghent was praised for its successful campaign 'SDG Challenges'. In this video you can find out more about the UN Action Award: (see video: <https://youtu.be/gen4KzOEJog>)

[Read more about the five city challenges.](#)

What's hot at Ghent University

- [Mailing list press releases](#) (inscription unfortunately only available in Dutch First Name, Name, E-mail address, medium, oinscribe)
- [Add prize or award](#) | [Add research participation call](#)
- **Editorial office:** nieuws@ugent.be, +32 (9) 264 82 55
- **Press service:** persdienst@ugent.be, +32 (9) 264 82 76 | 78

'We are transforming our university into a place where talent once again feels valued and nurtured'

(17-12-2018) Our university should once again belong to the academics, rather than the bureaucracy, writes the rector of Ghent University, Rik Van de Walle.

[Read More...](#)



22 Ghent University researchers are awarded the prestigious title of Highly Cited Researcher



(28-11-2018) Of the 66 scientists in Belgium who made the list of most cited researchers this year, 22 are affiliated with Ghent University. (6 are affiliated with the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering, Agriculture)

In the field of Agricultural Sciences, Wim Verbeke (agro-food marketing and consumer behaviour) is once again awarded the title of Highly Cited Researcher; in the category Environment/Ecology, so is his fellow Bioengineer Willy Verstraete.

[Read More...](#)

[Ghent University boosts sustainable cocoa cultivation in Ghana](#)

(14-11-2018) Researchers of Ghent University are teaching Ghanaian cocoa farmers how to produce better and more cocoa beans in a sustainable way.

[Read More...](#)



[HIV Ontrafelen Fund supports groundbreaking HIV research](#)



(31-10-2018) To the search for an effective remedy to combat HIV, the HIV Cure Research Center at UZ Ghent has made ground-breaking contributions. The HIV Ontrafelen

Fund represents an indispensable link to enable this research work to continue.

[Read More...](#)

ITC's Master Programmes in the Picture

The **Faculty of Bioscience Engineering** of Ghent University **opens applications** for its **top-level English-taught bachelor and master programmes** for the academic year 2019-2020. We offer three bachelor programmes and eight 2-year English-taught master programmes.

We are currently accepting applications for the following programmes:

2-year master degree programmes in Belgium

[Master of Science in Aquaculture](#) (Ghent University)

[Master of Science in Nutrition and Rural Development](#) (Ghent University)

Master of Science in Physical Land Resources - main subjects [Soil Science](#) and [Land Resources Engineering](#) (Ghent University & VUB Brussels)

[Master of Science in Food Technology](#) (Ghent University and KU Leuven - applications for 2019-2020 are managed by KU Leuven. More info on www.iupfood.be or contact iupfood.postharvest@biw.kuleuven.be)

International 2-year master degree programmes

NEW! Erasmus Mundus International Master of Science in Soils and Global Change (IMSOGLO, with partners in Europe)

[Erasmus Mundus International Master of Science in Rural Development](#) (IMRD, with partners worldwide)

[Erasmus Mundus International Master of Science in Rural Development and Agricultural Economics](#) double degree (IMRD+, with partners in Europe, the US and South Korea)

[International Master of Science in Sustainable and Innovative Natural Resource Management](#) (SINReM, with partners in Sweden & Germany)

[Erasmus Mundus International Master of Science in Environmental Technology and Engineering](#) (IMETE, with partners in Europe - applications for 2019-2020 are managed by UNESCO-IHE Delft. More info on imete.eu or contact erasmusregistration@un-ihe.org)

4-year bachelor degree programmes at our Ghent University [Global Campus Korea](#)

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Technology

Bachelor of Science in Food Technology

Bachelor of Science in Molecular Biotechnology

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We gladly welcome **top students** and can offer VLIR-UOS and Erasmus Mundus **scholarships**, as well as **top-up grants**. Our faculty has established preferential partnerships with Indonesian, Ecuadorian, Mexican and a wide variety of other (non-)governmental funding agencies (extensive list on our [Scholarship Website](#)). The **tuition fee** differs per programme and is subject to annual revision.

The Faculty of Bioscience Engineering of Ghent University is a **leading faculty** in Europe in life sciences, biological, physical and chemical sciences. Our Faculty is one of **the top 10 ranked in Europe** (Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities, National Taiwan University Ranking, Times Higher Education World Universities Ranking, QS World University Ranking).



The Faculty of Bioscience Engineering welcomes **around 4,000 students** each year. 460 of these are international master students and 840 are international doctoral students. The Faculty of Bioscience Engineering is one of the top 10 ranked in Europe (Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities, National Taiwan University Ranking, Times Higher Education World Universities Ranking, QS World University Ranking).

Ghent is a dazzlingly authentic, multicultural and open-minded city with **300,000 inhabitants** of more than 150 nationalities, of which 20% are students.

All information regarding admission requirements, language requirements and the application procedure for our programmes can be found on our website itc.ugent.be. Our team will be happy to answer all your questions at applications.itc@ugent.be.

Feel free to share this information with friends and colleagues. Thank you for your most valuable cooperation!

Video contest on SDGs | [Read in browser](#)

Achieving the Sustainable Development
Goals

Video contest

Are you an alumnus of the faculty of Bioscience
Engineering at Ghent University?

Participate in our video contest and win a **back-to-
back seminar with a Nobel Prize Winner!**

 SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Sir Fraser Stoddart
Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2016

Sustainable development goals

At the UN Summit of September 2015, the Member States of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that **aim to end extreme poverty, promote equity and opportunity for all, and protect the planet.**

SDGs are universal goals accepted by all countries and applicable to all – both rich and poor, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.

The video contest

Show us how you contribute to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals!

Content

Make a short video on any of the 17 SDGs in your past or current work or projects, and show how your studies at Ghent University have contributed to achieve these SDGs.

For whom?

The contest is open to all alumni of the faculty of Bioscience Engineering at Ghent University.

What's in it for you?

→ If you are 1 of the 2 winners, you will be awarded with:

- A back-to-back seminar with Nobel Prize Winner [Sir Fraser Stoddart](#) on May 20, 2019: a unique opportunity for your CV!
 - Public appraisal for your contribution to the SDGs by Sir Fraser Stoddart
 - A free round-trip to Ghent
 - Free accommodation around the event
 - Participation in an exclusive networking walking dinner on May 20, 2019

→ A selection of finalists will be awarded with:

- Recognition on the event
- Digital and/or social media exposure

Deadline

28 February 2019

Specifications

Read the [video requirements, rules and regulations](#)

How to submit your video

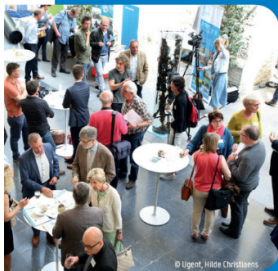
Upload your video to [WeTransfer](#) (free version: max. 2 GB) and direct it to leen.dewispelaere@ugent.be between January 1, 2019 and February 28, 2019. Include the following information in your email:

- The title of your video
- A full outline of the spoken text (transcription)
- Some background information, if appropriate
- Your name, email address, phone number, organization name

Subscribe!

[→ Subscribe now!](#)

Alumni



BE connected

- ✔ Become a member of Ghent University's International alumni family at the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering (FBE).
- ✔ Stay in touch with FBE staff, colleagues and friends and set up joint projects.

BE involved

- ✔ Be an ambassador and help us to promote International Master, PhD and Training programmes at the FBE.
- ✔ Help current and future UGent students by sharing your experiences and expertise.
- ✔ Participate in our annual alumni fairs and surveys.

BE informed

- ✔ Receive 3 newsletters per academic year.
- ✔ Read newflashes on the ITC website or the ITC Facebook page.
- ✔ Receive notifications of events, job opportunities or other activities organised by the ITC or Ghent University.

BE assisted

- ✔ Get free access to the ITC alumni webpage with job, PhD, postdoc, intern- and traineeship offers.
- ✔ Get free support for reference letters.
- ✔ Get free support in your search for the email addresses of your UGent colleagues.
- ✔ Get ad hoc service from our ITC desk whenever possible.