

Urban Agriculture Courses

Urban agriculture is increasingly recognized for its potential contribution to urban poverty alleviation, urban food security, productive reuse of urban wastes, urban greening, local economic development, and community development, among others. In response to an increasing demand for training in urban agriculture, Ryerson University's G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education and Centre for Studies in Food Security (www.ryerson.ca/foodsecurity) are developing a portfolio of distance education courses on urban agriculture in partnership with ETC-Urban Agriculture (www.etc-urbanagriculture.org) and the international network of Resource centres on Urban Agriculture and Food security (RUAFA) (www.ruaf.org).

In order to help students develop their skills and capacity to address global problems, specifically those related to the current global food crisis and climate change, an urban agriculture course series has been developed as part of the elective offerings of The Chang School's Certificate in Food Security. The series will consist of four courses and students who complete them will receive official acknowledgement from the University of having achieved completion.

The four courses, which are all available via distance education, are:

- Understanding Urban Agriculture (CVFN 410)
- Dimensions of Urban Agriculture (CVFN 411)
- Urban Agriculture Types (CVFN 412)
- Urban Agriculture Policy-Making (CVFN 413)

Students who complete this course series will gain in-depth knowledge of the technical aspects of urban agriculture as well as the policy dimensions and governance issues that must be taken into account in the development of effective urban agriculture systems.

The thematic focus of the course series is to demonstrate the importance and value of urban agriculture as an integral part of planning and development for sustainable, food-secure and healthy urban environments.

The urban agriculture courses are also electives for the food security certificate and can be used by students as part of their course requirement for completing the certificate if they so wish. The courses have been developed in a unique international partnership between The Chang School and the International Network of Resources Centres on Urban Agriculture and Food Security (RUAFA) in the Netherlands, which is a global leader in urban agriculture research and development. The instructors for the courses are based in Canada, Lebanon, the Netherlands and Sierra Leone and so bring a wide range of local and international knowledge and experience to the courses.

Who should enroll in these courses?

Recent reports by United Nations agencies have highlighted the practice of urban agriculture and its significance, constraints, and potential. Furthermore, many cities have issued new regulatory provisions and fiscal measures, and are creating municipal programs to support urban agriculture. The demand for professionals with urban agriculture training has never been greater.

The Chang School's new urban agriculture courses will appeal to a diverse group of individuals and organizations across the globe:

- students interested in urban agriculture and its policies
- researchers and professionals working in social services, public health, environmental studies, international



development, food aid, poverty alleviation, and other fields

- non-governmental organization (NGO) and government staff in related fields

Our Instructors

The Chang School's instructors bring a wealth of experience and up-to-date knowledge to every course. Our food security instructors are internationally recognized. Having lived and worked around the globe, they understand the challenges of implementing urban food security projects and policies; bring together backgrounds in urban planning, architecture, agronomy, and ecology; and have coordinated several regional training activities in urban agriculture spanning several continents.

Our Expertise

Ryerson University's Chang School is Canada's leading provider of university-based continuing education for adults. We are leaders in flexible learning options, offering more than 1,100 professionally relevant courses to individuals and organizations.

Our partners, ETC-Urban Agriculture and RUAF, have worked over the past 10 years to assist local and international actors in the participatory design, implementation, and evaluation of effective policies and action programs on urban agriculture.

Urban Agriculture Course Design

In a unique online learning environment, students will participate in group discussions and complete assignments and exams. You will be supported by instructors and a technical help desk, and will have access to an online library and resource centre. These distance education courses are designed in such a way that they can be accessed with low-speed Internet connections. To balance theoretical

learning with practical applications, the course curriculum will include a variety of well-documented examples and case studies from different continents.

Urban agriculture courses can be taken individually or as part of the current Certificate in Food Security.

How to Enroll - Canadian Students

For individual course enrollment, visit www.ryerson.ca/ce and click on Enrollment for details. New students can enroll in person (350 Victoria Street) or by mail. Returning students can enroll in person, by mail, or online. If the deadline for the mail in applications has passed please fax your application to Distance Education at 416.979.5196. Enquiries about registration can be emailed directly to distance@ryerson.ca

How to Enroll - International Students

For international student enrollment details, please e-mail food@ryerson.ca.

Courses

All courses are 42 hours and delivered online. For complete course descriptions, course fees and scheduling details please visit www.ryerson.ca/ce/foodsecurity

For More Information

For specific course information and details on the Certificate in Food Security, please visit www.ryerson.ca/ce/ua or contact Reg Noble, Academic Coordinator, Food Security.

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