

Dear student,

In September you will start your study career for International Food & Agribusiness (IFA) at HAS University of Applied Sciences. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you at our University and are currently working hard to put everything in place for a memorable introduction period and most inspiring academic year.

With this letter we would like to inform you about the introduction period of our study program and share some practical matters regarding the start of the academic year with you.

### **IFA INTRODUCTION WEEK: 30<sup>th</sup> OF AUGUST – 3<sup>rd</sup> OF SEPTEMBER 2021**

Your introduction week starts on **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> of August** with an **Official Welcome** by our Program Director and a physical **'Meet & Greet'** with your coach and classmates. You are welcomed in 's-Hertogenbosch by students and staff. The first day focuses on getting acquainted and sharing some organizational and practical matters with you.

In the attachment you can find the indicative program of the IFA Introduction Week.

### **START OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR: PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

We start the school year with a combination of physical and online education, for at least the first ten weeks (1<sup>st</sup> term). We have created a nice blend of physical classes and online lectures, group work, and excursions.

The official schedules for term 1 will be published on HAS Intranet by the end of August. During the introduction we shall explain where to exactly find your schedules, and how to read & interpret these. Next to that, we give further instructions on how the online classes work in practice.

By the end of August, you also receive your account information (e.g. email, login codes) from the IT department. Additional tutorials are available on how to access and install the required software, to make sure you are ready and set to start your classes as from September.

Thanks to MS Teams, online communication and cooperation is very well possible. You do however have to make sure that before the start of the introduction you at least have a laptop with Microsoft Office available, including MS Teams.

The expected costs for books and excursion fees are around € 500,=. Each term you will be informed which books are required and whether excursions are part of the program. Most study materials will be made available digitally. We will ask you to buy a limited number of book; reference materials that will be used for the entire duration of the program. More information on the required study materials can be found on our website (<https://www.hasuniversity.nl/study-at-has/information-for-new-students/literature-list>).

## **CORONA PROTOCOL HAS UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES**

As said, we are very happy that after the Summer break we can carefully re-open! HAS University has a protocol that describes which rules and guidelines to follow in the HAS buildings. The health of students, staff and visitors is namely paramount! After the summer, you will see physical instructions in the HAS buildings regarding keeping your distance, obligatory walking routes and compliance with hygiene measures. The protocol will be further explained in the IFA Introduction Week, because only together can we tackle the risk of contamination.

## **ARRIVAL IN THE NETHERLANDS AND QUARANTINE**

Travelers coming from [safe countries](#) with a low COVID-19 risk are welcome in the Netherlands.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a European entry ban is in effect for some people, barring them from travelling to the European Union or the Schengen area. If you travel to the Netherlands, [check these points before you travel](#).

For example, you must show a negative COVID-19 test result if you are travelling to or returning to the Netherlands. And you must quarantine for 10 days immediately after returning or traveling to the Netherlands. If you get tested on day 5 you might be able to shorten the quarantine period.

Please look into this carefully and arrive in The Netherlands on time so you can participate in the introduction week starting on Monday the 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2021.

## **LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU!**

We hope that with this letter we have sufficiently informed you about both the start of the academic year, including the introduction week, as well as other practical & organizational matters. Should you nevertheless have any questions or remarks, please do not hesitate to contact us. However, please do notice that ***our University is closed from Friday 16<sup>th</sup> of July until Monday 23<sup>th</sup> of August 2021, due to the Summer holidays.***

If your questions are study and planning related, please contact our study advisor Esther van Lieshout ([E.vLieshout@has.nl](mailto:E.vLieshout@has.nl)).

If your questions are related to visa, housing, etc., please address our International office ([international@has.nl](mailto:international@has.nl)).

Looking forward to meeting you on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> of August!

On behalf of the entire IFA staff,

Kind regards,

Martine Overdijk

Program Director

# Indicative Introduction Program 2021/22: International Food & Agribusiness

**MONDAY 30 AUGUST 2021: *PLEASED TO MEET YOU!***

AT HAS; MAIN LOCATION

*TIME FRAME: 12.00-18.00 HOURS CET*

Your introduction week will start on Monday 30<sup>st</sup> of August with an **Official Welcome** by our Program Director and a physical **'Meet & Greet'** with your coach and classmates. You are welcomed at our main location in 's-Hertogenbosch, only a short walk from the Central Station. We shall make sure IFA students and staff members are available to guide you to the right classroom. The first day focuses on getting acquainted and sharing some organizational and practical matters with you. Please bring your laptop, so we can assist if you have questions about the software we use.

## **Welcome, introduction and inspiration**

- Official welcome by Program Director Martine Overdijk
- Informal welcome - getting acquainted (variety of ice breakers/ fun activities)
- Inspiration session 'Future Food Systems' by Lector Frederike Praasterink
- Introduction to IFA program: mission, vision, curriculum

**TUESDAY 31 AUGUST 2021: *A TASTE OF TEAM SPIRIT!***

EXTERNAL: FITT OUTDOOR, IJZEREN MAN (VUGHT)

*TIME FRAME: 10.00-14.00 HOURS CET*

On Tuesday we spend time on getting to know each other even better on an informal level during some great **Teambuilding** activities at the **IJzeren Man**, a beautiful lake and recreational area in Vught, close to 's-Hertogenbosch. So make sure to wear your sports gear & some sturdy shoes and to bring your swimming suit, as some challenging teamsport and water activities are involved! If the weather allows, you can even stay for the rest of the afternoon to enjoy some cold drinks and relax at the beach.

**WEDNESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2021: *MEET THE IFA FLEET***

ONLINE: VIA MS TEAMS!

*TIME FRAME: 9.00-15.00 HOURS & 16.00-18.00 HOURS*

On Wednesday we reserved time for you to rest a bit, and to have **Individual Coach Talks**, so you can get further acquainted with your coach, who will be your contact person throughout your study career at our University. Your coach not only discusses your study progress with you on a regular basis, but also advises you if certain matters interfere with your studies. Next to that the coach helps you in your personal and professional development, and in taking the various decisions along the way.

We have also organized **Speed Dates** in the late afternoon with the IFA staff and our current IFA students, including members of the International Student Association (ISA), so you can get a better idea of the people you'll frequently encounter and work with in the coming years.

- Individual coach talks (to be scheduled by coaches: approx. 30 min per student) to get further acquainted, discuss personal matters (if applicable) and answer possible questions
- Online Speed Dates with current IFA students & staff

## THURSDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2021: *INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT*

ONLINE: VIA MS TEAMS!

TIME FRAME: 9.00-15.00 HOURS

On Thursday we continue our introduction program by diving into the world of **International Business Development**. Two of our alumni, who currently work in an international business setting, share their personal views and experiences with you in an online interview. During the meeting you are given ample opportunity to ask questions, and hopefully you get inspired by their stories. Next to these interviews, we also work in teams on a small group assignment related to international business.

- Inspiration session 'Creating Animal Feed by Reducing Waste' by alumna Talash Huijbers (InsectiPro in Kenya)
- Group assignment on International Business Development
- Inspiration session 'Cooperatives & Farmer Organizations' by alumnus Freek Braaksma (Business Advisor Agriterra in Peru)

## FRIDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2021: *IT'S A WRAP!*

AT HAS; MAIN LOCATION (& HAS GARDEN)

TIME FRAME: 9.00-17.00 HRS

On Friday we close off the week with some practical information regarding your studies, so you know how, where and when to start your first official week of lectures and classroom activities. The coaches discuss and further explain matters like planning & scheduling, assessments & grading, educational methods and studying in the international classroom. Next to that we have you exploring some of the ICT tools and programs we commonly use in class in a small workshop setting. Make sure to bring your laptops and other devices!

In the afternoon, we plan to officially close off the introduction week with a nice **Food (Truck) Fun Activity**, organized in close cooperation with the International Student Association (ISA). We also hope to have (international) students of the other English-taught study program Horticulture & Business Management joining in, so we can together give the international community at HAS a real boost!

- Wrap up: Recap of Intro Day 1-4
- Practical information: IFA study manual (a.o. planning & scheduling, assessments & grading, educational methods)

- The International Classroom: differences in school systems, educational methods, peer feedback
- Mini-workshop ICT: practice with MS Teams (environment), Outlook agenda, (import)schedules, Osiris, room reservations
- Q&A Session about program: ready to start classes next week?!
- Food (Truck) Fun Activity: hopefully you got the taste for IFA!!!

***IMPORTANT NOTE: COVID-19 MEASURES & HAS PROTOCOL***

*Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, HAS University follows the guidelines of the Dutch Government and RIVM. Based on this HAS University has drawn up a HAS corona protocol. This protocol includes guidelines and procedures for staff, students and visitors.*