MSc (Agr) Sustainable Agriculture & Rural Development
(One Year Full Time or Two Years Part-Time)

This Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) programme is offered by UCD in response to the new agenda for agriculture and rural area development. It represents a return to core values in the development of rural areas which are rooted in agricultural change as well as responding to new societal demands such as safe and ethically produced food, a healthier environment and sustainable and affordable energy. These issues are as relevant not just in Ireland, the EU and other industrialised countries, but also in countries in the developing world.

Expertise from the UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science will be used in delivering the programme while optional modules will be available from other Schools across the University.

The programme draws on thirty years’ experience of UCD’s past MSc programmes in Rural Development and Agricultural Extension.

Course Content and Structure

Core modules include:
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Strategic Communications
- Policies and Strategies for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
- Research Methods Parts 1 & 2
- Minor Thesis

Optional modules include:
- Agricultural Extension and Innovation
- Sustainable Development
- GIS and Data Interpretation
- Land Utilisation
- Rural Resource Planning
- Planning for Development
- Global Biodiversity and Heritage

Why study at UCD?

Tradition
Established 1854, with 160 years of teaching & research excellence

Global profile
UCD is ranked in the top 1% higher education institutions worldwide

Global community
Over 6,000 international students from over 120 countries study at UCD

Global careers
Degrees with high employability; dedicated careers support; 1 year stay-back visa

Safety
Modern parkland campus with 24 hour security, minutes from Dublin city centre
Graduate Profile

Kenneth Chaula, Malawi, Assistant Chief Agricultural Extension Officer, Department of Agriculture Extension Services

Following graduation from the SARD programme, I was immediately promoted to the post of Assistant Chief Agricultural Extension Officer, which is a senior position in government. Since then, I have been entrusted with several high level tasks, including being one of the teams developing our new Agricultural Policy. UCD is one of the most prestigious universities in Ireland and is ranked one of the best universities in the world. This programme has carefully taken into consideration the current challenges of most developing countries in Africa in terms of agricultural and rural development. The programme has been designed to help students understand policies and strategies for sustainable agriculture and rural development including trade policies. Built into the programme are cutting edge research methods that help students conduct independent, but effective research. The programme has opened up the world to me and has helped me attain most of my life goals both professionally and academically. These skills have enhanced my performance in my organisation. I would have no hesitation in strongly recommending students to consider this programme.