Please upload a motivation letter. In your own words, using a cover letter format and taking no more than one page, include the following items. Why have you chosen this particular specialisation? What skills and knowledge do you hope to gain from studying this particular programme? How does this degree relate to your current position, the improvements you wish to make during this employment, the future of your organisation/employer and your personal work ambitions? How will your studies benefit your community and your country?

International learning environment

The Master in Management of Development (MSc) is designed for mid-career development professionals, with a background in rural development or agriculture. This top-rated programme is renowned for its international learning environment, team projects and linking theory and practice. Relevant work experience is essential to the course, as students contribute and use their previously obtained know-how.

Graduates are competent rural development professionals prepared to support service delivery organisations, private and government agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) or other development-related organisations in the area of food security, communication, innovation and social inclusion. So, if you wish to enhance your professional performance and contribute to organisations’ programmes and policies, then join the Management of Development Master programme.

Three specialisations

The Master in Management of Development offers three specialisations:

Disaster Risk Management

Food and Nutrition Security

Social Inclusion, Gender and Youth (RDG)

The English taught MSc programme in Management of Development is offered at Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences (VHL) in Velp, the Netherlands.

Scholarships

Our Master programmes are eligible for the Orange Knowledge Programme (OKP), formerly the Netherlands Fellowship Programme. The Orange Knowledge Programme (OKP) is targeted at professionals from selected developing countries who, after their studies in the Netherlands, will be able to further develop and strengthen the organisations at which they work.

Top rated master programme 2019

The Master's programme Management of Development received 86 out of 100 points for its agriculture and food programme, and was consequently awarded top programme status in 2019 by the Keuzegids Masters.

Linking Sustainable Development to Social Inclusion

Through the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals, governments around the world have committed themselves to a global partnership to fight poverty. However, poverty can only be eradicated once marginalised individuals and groups experience equality, regardless of their gender, race, ethnicity, disabilities or age. That is why the term social inclusion is frequently used today in discussions on sustainable development and reversing poverty.

But what exactly does social inclusion refer to and how can development organisations and government agencies contribute to inclusive transformation processes that will improve circumstances for all people to take part in society? Such transformation processes are important for ensuring that marginalised individuals and groups can influence decisions affecting their lives and that they can enjoy equal access to markets, social services and various political, social and physical spaces. These changes may in turn increase people’s security over their livelihoods.

Specialising in Social Inclusion, Gender and Youth

This specialisation has been designed to tackle the problems of marginalisation head on, by equipping students with specific competences needed to understand and define the afore mentioned contextual factors, reduce inequities and improve the social and economic conditions for everyone.  These competences are taught through an array of academic knowledge and professional skills development. After a 9-month taught programme, students will spend three months conducting their own research and writing a thesis.

This specialisation places a strong focus on gender and youth, because as empirical evidence demonstrates, development strategies that do not stimulate gender equality and empowerment and full participation of women and youth are less successful. Understanding differences between men and women is a good starting point in learning to address other inequities in society, because gender inequality restricts general progress.

The emphasis on youth is particularly important, because youth have the potential to drive innovation, entrepreneurship and prosperity in developing countries. This is particularly needed in the agricultural sector, from which the younger generation has an overwhelming tendency to forsake, seeking greater financial security and other assumed attractions of city life. Engaging future generations of young people in the agricultural sector is essential for a healthy and sustainable world food system, so understanding the challenges youth face is essential.

Graduates

Graduates of the Rural Development, Social Inclusion, Gender and Youth specialisation have developed specific competences useful in defining the needs and interests of marginalised people, promoting and mainstreaming social inclusion in rural development and service delivery, and recommending internal adjustments within their organisation. They are professionals who facilitate change and community development, transform social processes, and enhance gender equality and social equity.

If you feel that it is time to bring social inclusion to the forefront and improve the well-being of all people, then come and join the Social Inclusion, Gender and Youth specialisation and allow us to prepare you for the challenges that need to be solved.

**Master programme**

The one-year Master in Management of Development (MSc) consists of a 9-month taught programme and a 3-month thesis research project. It involves a series of modules that strengthen competences, including disciplinary knowledge and expertise and professional skills and attitude. Modules cover topics such as development studies, management theories, communication and leadership, capacity building and qualitative research.

In addition, each specialisation goes in-depth on contemporary issues and the most effective ways of implementing structures within an organisation, covering issues such as social inclusion, food security, entrepreneurship, communication and participation. Graduates will be able to organise and facilitate processes of innovation and change, addressing gender differences, youth unemployment, food shortages, migration, social conflicts and competing claims on natural resources.

**Competences**

**Disaster Risk Management**

If you choose the specialisation [Disaster Risk Management](https://www.vhluniversity.com/study/programmes/master/management-of-development/specialisations/disaster-risk-management), the Management of Development programme builds on the following competences and upon graduation you will be able to:

* analyse stakeholders’ needs and interests and outline policies that lead to social change and participation
* design processes and strategies that facilitate communication, innovation and knowledge sharing
* transform traditional extension policy and practice and develop new approaches to communication and innovation
* design and facilitate effective, appropriate and exciting learning environments

**Food and Nutricion Security**

If you choose the specialisation [Food and Nutrition Security](https://www.vhluniversity.com/study/programmes/master/management-of-development/specialisations/food-and-nutrition-security), the Management of Development programme builds on the following competences and upon graduation you will be able to:

* analyse rural livelihoods and food and nutrition security
* analyse the livelihoods of farmers who produce for local and regional markets and understand their coping strategies
* define the economic, commercial and marketing needs, constraints and opportunities for small scale producers in rural communities
* develop appropriate strategies and interventions for local food security
* develop support programmes for farmers, producers and other stakeholders

**Social Inclusion, Gender and Youth**

If you choose the specialisation [Social Inclusion, Gender and Youth](https://www.vhluniversity.com/study/programmes/master/management-of-development/specialisations/social-inclusion-gender-and-youth), the Management of Development programme builds on the following competences and upon graduation you will be able to:

* identify opportunities for systemic change and enhance opportunities and interests of youth, men and women in rural environments
* promote social inclusion and mainstream gender and other social equity issues in rural development
* recommend changes that will bring about gender equality in organisations
* velop a personal strategy for enhancing empowerment, social inclusion, youth involvement and gender equality in your own profession and organisation

**Study units**

The Master programme in Management of Development consists of 8 main study units:

1. Introduction (1EC)
2. Rural Development Theory (3EC)
3. Personal Leadership (2EC)
4. Food Security and Rural Livelihoods (4EC)
5. Organisations and Institutions (5EC)
6. Management of Development Professionalism (4EC)
7. Specialisation study units (16EC)
8. Research and Thesis (25EC)

This Master programme is intended for professionals working within governmental and non-governmental rural development organisations or in the private sector, as project or programme coordinators or managers, or as specialists or consultants.

**How will you as a graduate benefit?**

Enriched with knowledge and empirical evidence from around the world, through diverse student and staff expertise, graduates will have broadened their horizon of solutions to developmental issues. Inspired with innovative ideas on how to address these issues in their home country, they will be able to design and implement projects in an interdisciplinary way. Having expanded their scope of capacities, graduates may play various roles within their organisation, finding themselves as specialists and consultants performing some or all of the following roles: advisor, planner, facilitator, lobbyist, manager, policy maker and researcher. Not only will they ensure contemporary issues are on their employer’s agenda, but that they are also put on the agenda of other stakeholders.

**How will organisations benefit?**

Graduated staff members will have enhanced their capacity as project- and programme coordinator or manager, coordinating work within their department. They will be competent to facilitate processes of change and mainstream national or organisational policies within their organisation’s projects and activities. They may be responsible for establishing and maintaining networks with related organisations and institutions, contributing to or supervising the development and implementation of monitoring and evaluating programmes, as well as capacity building for staff.

Specialists and consultants having completed any of the MOD specialisations will be equipped with expertise relevant to their field, enhancing their capacity for research and an advisory role. Working in interdisciplinary teams, they will advise management and staff on effective adaptation or incorporation of contemporary issues in programme- and project-planning. Furthermore, graduates will incorporate the acquired knowledge and skills in providing staff trainings and co-developing tools for monitoring and evaluating programmes and projects.

As I look back, I feel I have developed a great deal in both my personal as well as professional character during my study and feel much more confident and sure of myself to face the future now.”

**Treena Stafford, India, Management of Development graduate 2018**

“The lessons were more oriented to the working environment, as if we were moving around the globe as consultants and with people from different nationalities and backgrounds trying to combine knowledge and experiences to solve global issues in this dynamic world. As l go back to my country Zimbabwe as a development change agent, it feels like l have to write this past year on my resume as being a consultant rather than a student.”

**Talkmore Penduka, Zimbabwe, Management of Development graduate 2018**

“We studied Rural development theories in the beginning of the course and this gave the students a strong foundation towards understanding the other modules that followed. This highlighted various aspects of development and philosophies that are prerequisites and a must to excel in the course. Studying value chains and business management is totally relevant as well, and made the entire course programme holistic.”

**Pradeep Rai, Bhutan, Management of Development graduate 2018**

“Studying at VHL equipped me with tools that are relevant to me as an independent researcher/ consultant in the field of Rural Development. Also, it gave me confidence and taught me "How to fish rather than to give a fish."

**Pradeep Rai, Bhutan, Management of Development graduate 2018**

“The program has trained me hard to become an effective “facilitator of change”. From the very beginning the course modules have been full of hints and clues on how I can integrate them into my actual work for far better operation.”

**Wakako Matsuura, Japan, Management of Development graduate 2018**

“We were able to interact with other international students and learned from co-existing with people from different cultural backgrounds. The experience helped us to forge relationships with people from all walk of lives, to learn about their countries and how they are tackling different issues.”

**Millicent Chamboko, Zimbabwe, Management of Development graduate 2018**

“The program exposed us to enthusiastic, caring teachers who showed us a new dynamic on the teaching process where there is an active interaction between teachers and students, it created a friendly environment where the students are free to interact and participate freely.”    

**Millicent Chamboko, Zimbabwe, Management of Development graduate 2018**

“I developed relevant insights into possibilities and limitations of research for development, addressing methodological approaches, research design, analysis in the research, including analysis methods of qualitative as well as quantitative material relevant for public and private sectors, development, evaluations, market analysis, gender impact assessment, risk analysis and project management.”        

**Patrick Bacokorana, Uganda, Management of Development graduate 2018**

“VHL has a friendly environment with good and modern facilities, students have access to a host of facilities.” 

**Patrick Bacokorana, Uganda, Management of Development graduate 2018**

“Being part of the Gender class equipped me with specific competences to define the needs and interests of marginalized people and promoting and mainstreaming social inclusion, and gave me a tremendous level of confidence to get out to the world and pioneer the change I want to see.”

**Gloria Nalule, Uganda, Management of Development graduate 2018**

Admission

**Bachelor’s degree**

Bachelor's degree or equivalent qualification in life sciences or related fields.

**Work experience**

Two years of relevant work experience in middle or higher management positions. In case a prospective student has less than two years of experience, his request for enrolment will be discussed by the Student Service Centre

**English**

All international students must provide proof of their English proficiency by submitting one of the following documents:

* Academic IELTS-test with overall band score of 6.0 and no sub-scores below 5.0;
* TOEFL test with a score of 80 or above (internet based);
* Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English\* (CAE): pass at grade C or above;
* Cambridge First Certificate (FCE)\*: pass at grade B/C or above.

Please note that tests results older than two years cannot be accepted.

**No test results?**

What happens if you are not able to provide the above official language test results? If your previous education was taught in English and you can proof this with a **medium of instruction statement** from the university you can still apply. You then need to do an alternative online language test. After you hand in your medium of instruction statement you will receive further instructions from us.

**Exemptions**

The following students are exempt from providing proof of their English language proficiency:

* Native English speakers (USA, UK, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, South-Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Canada (English-speaking areas). As a native English speaker from the above mentioned areas, you may be exempt from providing additional proof of English proficiency.
* Applicants with a Dutch VWO diploma
* Applicants with a Dutch HAVO diploma with final grade 6 or higher for English
* Applicants with an International Baccalaureate with a final examination in English A Language and Literature.
* Applicants from Austria, Belgium (Flanders), Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Norway, Romania, Slovakia and Sweden who have obtained one of the following diplomas, including a final examination in English.

**Computer skills**

Van Hall Larenstein is the most sustainable University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands. VHL has over 4,000 students and is home to over forty different nationalities. The curricula of VHL University of Applied Sciences focus on the domains Delta Areas and Resources - Food and Dairy - Animal and Business. Alongside the bachelors programmes, the institution also provides masters programmes, certificate programmes and short courses for regional, national and international students. VHL also conducts high-quality, practice-based research which enhances both its teaching and position as a research institute. Its educational programme is competence based, and right from the start, students will be in close contact with professional life and practice. Supported by VHL’s teaching staff, students will work on their competences in a range of projects relating to applied research and practical internships.Computer literacy (Windows, Word, Excel, and Internet use) are highly recommended.

**Innovative, sustainable and meaningful!**

Do you want to contribute to a more sustainable world and work on your personal development? Study at Van Hall Larenstein, the most sustainable University of Applied Sciences in Holland! We offer a range of unique English-taught Bachelor, Master and Certificate programmes in fields in which Holland performs at the top. So whether you are interested in **nutrition** or **international trade**, are looking for a bachelor degree in the **equine sports** industry or want to work on the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**, we have the right programme for you!

​​​​​​​Van Hall Larenstein is located in two cities: **Leeuwarden and Velp (Arnhem).** Both student cities are home to multiple universities and filled with international students. Leeuwarden was European Capital of Culture in 2018 and it is located close to the Dutch Islands. It has beautiful canals flowing through the city. In Velp we are located on the Larenstein Estate: a modern building surrounded by luscious greenery, only a few minutes away from the vibrant historical city centre of Arnhem.

Van Hall Larenstein has **close connections to the international business world and NGO’s.** This allows you to apply the theory into practice: besides obtaining highly valued work experience during internships abroad, students go on excursions at companies where they work on real life cases and we invite professionals over to give guest lectures. We strongly believe that international experience is crucial in the development of our students as intercultural competences are required in almost all career fields. Right from the start you will develop a professional network of students and colleagues from all over the world.

The lines of communication in our university are short: our students work in **small classes with personal attention from the lecturers**. Our programmes are designed to give you the opportunity to make your own choices. This will prepare you for a fascinating career in a professional field that really matters!

**Discover the top reasons for why you should consider coming to Van Hall Larenstein, University of Applied Sciences:**

* Fully English-taught curriculum
* Study at the biggest "green" university of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands
* Combine theory and practice to get a head start in the job market
* Apply your knowledge in (international) internships: included in your programme
* Increase your career opportunities by direct contact with prospective employers during the programme
* Develop strong connections within key sectors of Dutch economy
* Study in small classes with personal attention from teachers

**Accolades**

Van Hall Larenstein, that has locations in both Leeuwarden and Velp, has been rated the most sustainable University of Applied Sciences! Our University is the only institution in the Netherlands that has received three AISHE stars for all of its bachelor programmes (for all thirteen programmes). AISHE (Auditing Instrument for Sustainability in Higher Education) is an assessment tool for sustainable developments in higher education. A positive assessment leads to a qualification for Sustainable Higher Education. Van Hall Larenstein's CSR-audit was rated at 'Approved' level. CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) is a special qualification standard regarding sustainability for Higher Education, based on ISO26000 - the international guideline for social awareness of organizations. Van Hall Larenstein is the first University of Applied Sciences to receive this qualification.