

# MIAP STUDENT HANDBOOK

## 2024 - 2025



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# MASTER OF INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

Ferguson College of Agriculture

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# Welcome

Welcome to the Master of International Agriculture Program (MIAP) at Oklahoma State University (OSU)! MIAP is one of the leading graduate programs in international agriculture in the United States. We have a unique niche in providing an applied, interdisciplinary education that prepares students for a variety of international careers. Students have the opportunity to take a range of classes across the Ferguson College of Agriculture, the Spears College of Business, and the School of Global Studies, while interacting with leading faculty in the classroom and on research. MIAP is growing its course offerings to include classes on participatory processes and urban agriculture to give students a broader range of skills demanded in the marketplace. Our graduates are leaders in their fields with footprints around the world.

A unique selling point of MIAP is the requirement to do an international experience, where students spend a minimum of four weeks overseas with an international partner. This has been a transformative experience for many of our students and instills in them a sense of mission and stewardship that lasts a lifetime.

The global Covid pandemic has been a challenge for all academic programs, and particularly challenging for MIAP given its international character. Despite the restrictions on travel during the past two years, we have been able to provide students with the flexibility to pursue a variety of virtual or locally-based international experiences. However, from Spring 2022, our students are beginning their overseas travel again, traveling to a range of geographies such as Southern Africa, India, UK, Eastern Europe, the Caribbean, and Southeast Asia in the coming months. We look forward to accelerate this momentum in the future.

As Director and a former development practitioner with a range of international experience over the past 25 years, I am excited to be a part of this re-start of our student international experiences and bringing MIAP to the next level.

I wish you all success in MIAP and look forward to working with the next generation of leaders and innovators!

Sincerely,

*Karl Rich*

Dr. Karl Rich, Director  
Master of International Agriculture Program



# Faculty & Staff



## **Dr. Karl Rich**

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## **Pam Bay**

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# About MIAP

MIAP is a multidisciplinary degree program that prepares students for successful careers in global agriculture. Blending theory, practical knowledge, and hands-on experience, the program prepares students to make significant contributions to the field of international agriculture.

## Program Offerings

- Master of Agriculture (M.Ag) or Master of Science (M.S.)
- Classes ON CAMPUS and/or ONLINE
- Focus toward your educational and professional goals

## Admission Requirements

- 3.0 GPA
- Statement of purpose
- 2 professional reference letters
- Academic transcript
- International students are required to submit TOEFL or IELTS score



# Focus Areas

**Rural Development:** Aims to improve the quality of life and economic well-being of people living in rural areas.

**Agricultural Entrepreneurship:** Explores the marketing and production of various agricultural products and the development and management of small businesses and NGOs.

**Agricultural Outreach Extension and Education:** Connects current agricultural practices, research, and technologies to farmers and communities to create better and more sustainable agricultural systems and productivity.

**Community Engagement and Sustainability:** Connects the community to agricultural practices and programs to ensure they last for years to come with minimal social, environmental, or economic damage.

**Production Agriculture and Food Security:** Ensures access to an adequate amount of nutritious foods through large-scale production agricultural practices.

**CREATE YOUR OWN** focus area to fit your personal and professional goals. One of the advantages of MIAP is the opportunity to build your own focus area based on your background, passions, and future aspirations.

MIAP Alums, Reed Burres & Alex Jost (2019), on their international experience in Piura, Peru, working with a local farmers' cooperative.

# Master of Science

The Master of Science in International Agriculture program accommodates those students who prefer to take theoretical courses preparing them for research. This program will provide students the theoretical, science, and research backgrounds necessary to design, implement, manage and evaluate agricultural programs in developed and developing countries. It allows participants to blend theory and practice to improve the lives of people. Students completing a MS degree will be more prepared to continue their education at the doctoral level.



Scan for Master of Science Catalog Description

Master of Science	
<p><b>Focus Area</b></p> <p>The student will create an international agriculture focus area in consultation with the graduate advisory committee.</p> <p>(Thesis - 11 credit hours; Formal Report - 14 credit hours; Creative Component - 14 credit hours)</p>	
<p><b>Core Requirements</b> (Thesis - 9 credit hours; Formal Report - 12 credit hours; Creative Component- 12 credit hours)</p>	<p><b>Research and Inquiry Core</b> (Thesis - 10 credit hours; Formal Report - 6 credit hours; Creative Component - 6 credit hours)</p>
<p><b>AGIN5312</b> – Applied Issues in International Agriculture and Natural Resources</p>	<p>AGIN5000 – Master’s Thesis/Formal Report in International Agriculture (Thesis, 6 credit hours; Formal Report, 2 credit hours)</p>
<p><b>AGIN5313</b> – Global Food Security and Sustainability</p>	<p>AGIN5102 – International Agriculture Creative Component (Creative Component option only)</p>
<p><b>Select ONE of the following:</b></p> <p><b>AGIN5113</b> – Global Agricultural Development Communications  <b>AGIN5213</b> – Global Agricultural Entrepreneurship  <b>AGIN5333</b> – Guided Reading in International Agriculture and Natural Resources  <b>AGIN5353</b> – Advanced Case Studies in Agricultural Marketing and International Development  <b>AGIN5413</b> – Overview of Global Development</p>	<p><b>Quantitative/Qualitative (choose one course):</b></p> <p><b>ECON5213</b> - Introduction to Econometrics  <b>REMS5013</b> - Research Design and Methodology  <b>REMS5953</b> - Statistical Methods in Education  <b>STAT5013</b> - Statistics for Experimenters I</p> <p>Or another quantitative/qualitative course approved by the Graduate Advisory Committee.</p>
<p><b>AGIN5800</b><sup>1,2</sup> – International Agriculture Internship Experiences (4 credit hours for Creative Component and Formal Report, OR minimum 1 credit hour for Thesis)</p>	<p><b>Research Methods (choose one course):</b></p> <p><b>AGEC5101</b> - Research Methodology  <b>AGED5983</b> - Quantitative Research Methods  <b>SOIL5112</b> - Research Methods in Plant and Soil Sciences  <b>HORT5233</b> - Experimental Horticulture</p> <p>Or another quantitative or qualitative research methods course approved by the Graduate Advisory Committee.</p>

## Master of Agriculture

### Focus Area (22 credit hours)<sup>3</sup>

The student will create an international agriculture focus area in consultation with the graduate advisory committee.

### Core Requirements (14 credit hours):

**AGIN5312** – Applied Issues in International Agriculture and Natural Resources

**AGIN5313** – Global Food Security and Sustainability

Select ONE of the following:

- AGIN5113** – Global Agricultural Development Communications
- AGIN5213** – Global Agricultural Entrepreneurship
- AGIN5333** – Guided Reading in International Agriculture and Natural Resources
- AGIN5353** – Advanced Case Studies in Agricultural Marketing and International Development
- AGIN5413** – Overview of Global Development

**AGIN5800** – International Agriculture Internship Experience (Professional Internship option, 6 credit hours; Creative Component option, 4 credit hours)

**AGIN5102** – International Agriculture Creative Component (Creative Component option only – 2 credit hours)

# Master of Agriculture

A Master of Agriculture in International Agriculture prepares students for public and private sector positions in international agriculture. Graduates work in international agribusinesses, non-profit organizations, development agencies, government and diplomatic service, education and extension, agricultural trade associations, commodity groups and other positions in global agriculture.

Scan for Master of Agriculture Catalog Description



# International Experience

All U.S. students must complete an international experience of 4 weeks or longer.\* International students studying on OSU's campus may pursue an international experience but are exempt from this requirement. The international experience may be paid or unpaid but must be approved by MIAP faculty prior to enrollment for credit.

\*If the university restricts travel (i.e. COVID-19 restrictions), students may complete a U.S. based internship focused on international agriculture. This experience must be approved by MIAP faculty.

# Thesis

This program requires 30 approved credit hours of coursework including a six-credit-hour formal thesis. The thesis is a report of scholarly research conducted by the student in consultation with the Graduate Advisory Committee. The scope of the research effort should surround an international agriculture issue.

# Formal Report

The formal report option requires 32 approved credit hours of coursework, which includes a two-credit-hour formal report. The formal report is the result of original research completed by the student in consultation with the graduate advisory committee. The formal report differs in that the literature review and/or rigor of the analysis may lack the depth required of a thesis.

# Creative Component

The creative component option is a scholarly product that does not qualify as a research thesis or formal report. The creative component is designed to enable students to demonstrate a level of maturity beyond that of successfully taking courses and examinations. Students should exhibit such qualities as creativity; good judgment; independence; and clarity, depth, and breadth of thought. The creative component may be done as a part of the MS (32 total hours) or MAG (36 total hours) degree. This alternative permits students to demonstrate their mastery of theory and skills in an applied fashion through the process of creating original work and presenting their experiences to the Academic Advisory Committee.

# Registering for Classes

1. Go to [my.okstate.edu](http://my.okstate.edu) and log in using your O-Key username and password.
2. Choose the “Self-Service” option in the center of your screen.
3. On the Main Menu, choose “Student”
4. Select “Registration”
5. “Add or Drop Classes”
6. Select the correct term
7. At the bottom of the screen, choose the “Class Search” button
8. Search for the classes you would like to take by department or course number.



**SCAN THIS CODE  
for more in-depth  
instructions  
and information  
about the OSU  
registration system**

# Plan of Study

The plan of study for a master’s student must be filled out prior to the completion of the 17th graduate credit hour of enrollment.

The electronic plan of study is available at [planofstudy.okstate.edu](http://planofstudy.okstate.edu). Log in with your o-key username and password and create a plan of study. Once the Graduate College and your committee members have approved the plan of study, you will be able to see the approval online.

You may also revise the plan of study online.

When the changes are completed, the revised plan will be electronically submitted to all committee members, the program director, and the Graduate College. The plan should be revised and resubmitted only once at the beginning of the final semester of coursework.

The plan of study is intended to include graduate credit courses the student has completed, is currently enrolled in, and plans to enroll in. However, you do not need to list courses that would amount to more than the required hours for your degree. If you have more credits than required, choose the courses you would like displayed on your plan of study that add up to the number of hours required.





# Academic Advisory/Graduate Committee

An academic or graduate advisory committee guides a graduate student in their research and academic endeavors. An Advisory Committee of no fewer than three members of the Graduate Faculty with committee privileges must be appointed. The Chair of the Advisory Committee need not necessarily serve as the student's academic advisor but must hold an OSU faculty appointment, be a member of the Graduate Faculty with master's committee chairing privileges, and have familiarity with the academic requirements of the graduate degree sought. The student will work with their graduate advisory committee chair to select other members of the graduate advisory committee who will help advance the scope and overall effort of the research project.

Advisory Committee members should actively participate in the academic endeavors of graduate students. It is best practice for Advisory Committee members to regularly meet with the student to provide guidance and input. The frequency of meetings will change as the student moves from coursework to the research, creative component, or final reporting phase of the educational process. Graduate students should consult the members of the Advisory Committee frequently and keep them informed on the progress of their work.

Dr. Rich will serve as your adviser, although it is not a requirement to have them on your advisory committee. The adviser, committee chair, and committee members will be appointed when students submit their plan of study.

It is highly recommended students first meet with Dr. Rich before appointing their graduate advisory committee. By doing so, they will be able to advise and assist you with what best fits your focus area and research interests.

## Steps to Appointing a Graduate Committee

1. Determine your focus area and interests.
2. Determine your MIAP route (MS or MAG)
3. Schedule an appointment to meet with Dr. Rich to discuss your goals and building a committee that will help you be successful.
4. Meet with potential graduate advisory committee faculty members to discuss your research and their availability to serve on and/or chair your graduate committee.
5. Once your committee is set, enter it into your Plan Of Study.

# Graduate Assistantships

There are multiple opportunities for graduate assistantships in many departments throughout OSU. Assistantships provide graduate students with research and/or teaching experience as well as monthly financial assistance and yearly tuition waivers. Graduate assistantships are either graduate teaching assistants (GTA) or graduate research assistants (GRA). MIAP staff will send information via the MIAP Minute email about any GA opportunities as they arise.

## **Graduate Teaching Assistants**

GTAs are provided a stipend and their primary responsibilities are to support the University's instructional mission. Services provided by a GTA may include: classroom or laboratory teaching; advising and mentoring of students; proctoring examinations; grading papers, homework, and/or projects; accompanying/coaching musical or vocal performances, providing artistic instruction or assisting with preparation and management of materials and programs that are utilized in imparting knowledge or in the instructional process; or providing other general assistance in the instruction process. A GTA may be assigned primary responsibilities in an extension, outreach, or service role for which those responsibilities support the instructional mission of the University. GTAs may not be given duties to support faculty research or those primarily clerical in nature.

## **Graduate Research Assistants**

GRAs are provided a stipend and their primary responsibilities are to provide general support to the University's research mission. These responsibilities may or may not relate directly to the student's thesis or dissertation. Duties of the GRA primarily involve applying and mastering research concepts, practices, or methods of scholarship. Services provided by a GRA may include: assisting faculty members in a research or creative activity; performing degree-related professional or administrative services that support research, instruction, professional development, or outreach missions of the University; developing and evaluating instructional materials or curricula; or assuming responsibility for designated scholarly endeavors. "Performing degree-related professional or administrative services" does not include jobs that are outside of the student's field of study.

# Financial Assistance

MIAP has assistantship opportunities within the program, in addition there are many assistantship and financial assistance opportunities across the OSU campus. Typically on-campus students in MIAP have an assistantship in MIAP or another department, funding from their employer or home country, or another on-campus job that is not an assistantship. Students may also consider reviewing [HireOSUgrads.com](http://HireOSUgrads.com) for assistantship opportunities that might be available and advertised.

# International Experience Grant / Scholarship Opportunities

The Master of International Agriculture Program is a globally-minded degree program. An important part of this program is the International Experience or Internship, to provide students with the opportunity to travel and gain new perspectives in the field.

## Humphreys Travel Grants

These Travel grants were established through the generosity of the Humphreys, who are committed to assisting OSU students broaden their international experiences. This support is for long-term experiences (8 weeks or longer) in other countries.


Dr. Shida Henneberry, Director of MIAP, is a Humphreys Chair in Global Studies. As such, this scholarship is separate from the Humphreys Study Abroad Scholarship.



Mackenzie Jacobs, MIAP Alumna (2020), working with Field of Hope in Uganda for her International Experience.

## OSU Study Abroad Scholarships

Don't let a lack of money, or fear of securing potential funding for your international experience, keep you from experiencing the world!



**SCAN THIS CODE**  
for application  
details and to learn  
more about funding  
opportunities.



**SCAN THIS CODE**  
to find out more  
about opportunities  
from the OSU Study  
Abroad and National  
Exchange Office.



Clara Jungerman, MIAP Alumna (2020), working with Akimmaa Africa, a company in Kenya that strives to double farmers incomes through the value addition of their raw materials.

# International Agriculture Courses

There are a number of AGIN courses offered as you focus on international agriculture. In consultation with your graduate advisory committee, there are also a number of courses to meet your focus area needs throughout or campus. Below is the current list of all AGIN courses as found in the University Catalog.

Please refer to the course schedule each semester to determine what courses are offered.

**AGIN 5000** - Master's Thesis/Report in International Agriculture

**AGIN 5113** - Global Agricultural Development Communications

**AGIN 5213** - Global Agricultural Entrepreneurship

**AGIN 5312** - Applied Issues in International Agriculture and Natural Resources

**AGIN 5313** - Global Food Security and Sustainability

**AGIN 5333** - Guided Reading in International Agriculture and Natural Resources

**AGIN 5353** - Advanced Case Studies in Agricultural Marketing and International  
Development

**AGIN 5413** - Overview of Global Development Ag International

**AGIN 5800** - International Agriculture Internship Experience

**AGIN 5990** - Advanced Studies in International Agriculture and Natural Resources

## Graduation Checklist

In addition to completing the MIAP course and program requirements, the following steps should be taken to receive a diploma:

- File a diploma application and a graduation clearance form online at the beginning of the semester you expect to graduate. The committee chair should sign the graduation clearance form. If you fail to graduate during that semester, a new diploma application and graduation clearance must be filed.
- MS students completing a thesis or formal report must pass an oral defense.
- Complete a graduate student exit interview, given by the graduate school via email.

# Student Organization for International Agriculture



Student Organization for International Agriculture (SOIA) is the official graduate school club of the Master of International Agriculture Program at OSU. Students involved in SOIA meet regularly for social, fundraising, learning, and volunteer activities. While SOIA is not a requirement of MIAP, many students have had positive experiences and formed strong friendships through the club.



# Important Offices and Contact Info.

## Ferguson College of Agriculture Student Success Center

103 Agricultural Hall  
(405) 744-9464



Graduate College  
202 Whitehurst Hall  
(405) 744-6368



## Office of the Registrar

322 Student Union  
(405) 744-6876



ID Card Services  
421 Classroom Building  
(405) 744-4357



## Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid

119 Student Union  
(405) 744-7295



## Office of the Bursar

113 Student Union  
(405) 744-5993



## Edmon Low Library

(405) 744-9775



MIAP Office  
545 Agricultural Hall  
(405) 744-6638

