The Master of Agricultural Science with specialisations in:

- Agricultural Economics
- Agricultural Systems
- Genetics and Breeding
- Soil Science and Plant Nutrition

Students nominate a specialisation on application.

Course description, features and facilities

Agricultural Science provides the research, technology and information for the sustainable, profitable and ethical development of the agricultural industry. Studies in agriculture include:

- Soil science
- Genetics
- Plant breeding
- Animal breeding
- Cropping and pasture systems
- Crop production
- Soil-plant interactions
- Plant and human nutrition
- Integrated pest management
- Livestock production
- Animal reproduction
- Scientific modelling
- Agricultural economics
- Agribusiness
- Data management
- Science communication (peer-to-peer)

UWA is well equipped for teaching and research in agricultural science, with facilities including:

- A field station at Shenton Park
- The University research farm near Pingelly, aiming to be self-supporting, sustainable, carbon-neutral, clean, green and ethical – a best practice farm.

Teaching in agricultural science is also supported by the following research and outreach activities of the Institute of Agriculture, the Centre for Plant Genetics and Breeding (PGB), and the Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative (AHRI).

Specialisations

- **Agricultural Economics.** The application of economics, risk management and marketing within Agricultural enterprises and the wider international industry and social contexts. This specialisation explores optimisation of resource management using applied economics within the physical, biological and social constraints in selected agricultural sectors. Sustainable agricultural industries must be underpinned by sound economic principles.

- **Agricultural Systems.** Sustainable and profitable agricultural production requires knowledge of how best to integrate various components using a systems approach. The application of science to the management of animals and plants in production systems, as well as environmental sustainability, is the focus.

- **Genetics and Breeding.** Plant and animal genetics underpins approaches to breeding of improved crops, pastures and animals for various agricultural industries around the world. This specialisation provides a solid grounding in the disciplines of genetics and molecular genetics and how these techniques are applied to the theory and practice of modern breeding and conservation of genetic resources. The role of breeding in enhancing the supply of food and fibre, especially in this era of climate change, is emphasised.

- **Soil Science and Plant Nutrition.** Soil management is of great importance to agricultural production in all environments and depends on an in-depth understanding of the nature of soil and how it responds to various forms of management interventions and disturbance factors with a view to its sustainable utilisation and management for productive crops.

You will study the core units for the Master of Agricultural Science:

- AGRI4402 Agricultural Economics
- SCIE4402 Data Management and Analysis in the Natural Sciences

Each specialisation has four core units in addition to the two units listed above, with other units selected as options.


You may apply to replace the equivalent of half a year’s units with a research project.

UWA is ranked 1st in Australia for Agriculture and Life Sciences!
While the standard timeframe for completion of this degree is two years (full time), if you have previously completed an undergraduate degree in a cognate (relevant) area it may be possible to complete within 1.5 to 2 years. Subject to academic performance, you may apply to replace the equivalent of half a year’s units with a research project – an opportunity to develop your project management and research skills and work closely with an academic and research group in various disciplines.

**Intake periods:** February and July each year

**Scholarships for international students:** visit: [www.studyat.uwa.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/2756398/Science-International-Scholarships.pdf](http://www.studyat.uwa.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/2756398/Science-International-Scholarships.pdf)

**Domestic students:** This course qualifies for a Commonwealth Supported Place

**Visit the Future Students website** for more information, including fees, refund policy and support services: [www.studyat.uwa.edu.au/courses](http://www.studyat.uwa.edu.au/courses)

**How to apply:** visit [www.studyat.uwa.edu.au/applynow](http://www.studyat.uwa.edu.au/applynow)

**Course enquiries:** postgrad-science@uwa.edu.au

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**Why study Agriculture at UWA?**

- UWA is ranked first in Australia for Agriculture and Life Sciences.
- The Institute of Agriculture assists with finding work experience placements for Masters students during the holidays.
- Our strong links with industry representatives.
- Our Industry Forums are great platforms for you to network.
- You have opportunities to interact with farmers (field days) and to work with world-leading agricultural scientists and other specialisations in the Faculty of Science.

**Career opportunities**

This course prepares you with the knowledge and skills you need for a future in the rapidly evolving field of agricultural science. There is a shortage of agricultural science graduates and career opportunities range from the laboratory to the field, from the city to rural areas, as breeders, agronomists, farm managers, market development officers, researchers, catchment or farming group scientists, journalists and bankers.

Graduates are employed as consultants, managers or researchers, by government agencies, universities, consulting firms, food industries, fertiliser companies, community groups, local/regional governments and international agencies.

**Admission requirements**

A relevant bachelor’s degree, that aligns with one of the specialisations of this course, or an equivalent qualification as recognised by UWA. You must also demonstrate a minimum level of English Language Competence. See [www.studyat.uwa.edu.au/postgraduate-coursework/requirements/english](http://www.studyat.uwa.edu.au/postgraduate-coursework/requirements/english)

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