



International Summer School

DS-FOOD - Design of sustainable food systems

Virtual component: 25th June 2025

Physical mobility: [Alpine Studies Centre of Pieve Tesino](#), Italy, 6th – 13th July 2025

The 5th edition of the international summer school “DS-FOOD - Design of sustainable food systems” arises from the growing attention that the issue of sustainability of food systems has gained at the international level. The **Farm-to-Fork** strategy launched by the European Union in 2020 brings agri-food issues to the heart of the **European Green Deal**, pushing for a transition of food systems towards a condition of sustainability that can lead to environmental, social, and economic benefits. This approach aims to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (especially SDG 12: sustainable production and consumption).

The in-depth knowledge of these issues by students enrolled in courses dealing with the agri-food sector will be essential to allow them to work towards this transition in the next future. The **objective** of the summer school is to provide participants with a theoretical overview and a basic toolbox to design and assess sustainability in agri-food systems, in an international environment. The summer school is **organised by University of Tuscia** (UNITUS, Viterbo, Italy), in partnership with Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU, Uppsala, Sweden), University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU, Wien, Austria), University of Hohenheim (UHOH, Germany), Universitat de Lleida (UdL, Spain), Harokopio University of Athens (HUA, Greece) and University POLITEHNICA of Bucharest (NUTSPB, Romania). The summer school is also promoted by the [Euro League of Life Science](#), a network of European universities in which UNITUS, SLU, BOKU, UHOH and UdL are involved.

The summer school is a blended program that includes 1 day of virtual component and 8 days of physical mobility which will be hosted at the [UNITUS Alpine Studies Centre](#), located in the small village of Pieve Tesino, in the Dolomites of Trentino, Italy.

The Summer School is based on an interactive programme of lectures, seminars, field visits and workgroups to explore key issues linked to the sustainability of food systems.

Major **thematic topics** reflect the four-pillar approach of the Farm-to-Fork EU strategy, thus combining sustainability of production, food processing and distribution, sustainable consumption styles and prevention of food waste.



Aerial view of Pieve Tesino (left) and classroom of the study center (right).

Key information

The summer school is a Blended Intensive Program, co-funded by Erasmus+, which includes a **virtual component** (1 day, 25th June 2025) and a **physical mobility** (8 days, from 6th to 13th July 2025) at the premises of the Alpine Studies Centre.

The language of the summer school is **English**.

Provisional program

The provisional program of the activities is shown in the table below. Lectures will be given by professors from the Universities promoting the summer school, and by selected invited speakers.

VIRTUAL COMPONENT, online

Day	Program
June 25th Monday	h9.30-10.00: Welcome and presentation of the summer school h10.00-10.15: Presentation roundtable h10.15-10.45: Ice-breaking games (I) h10.45-11.00: Break h11.00-11.20: Program of the summer school and preparatory activities h11.20-11.30: Questions and answers h11.30-12.00: Background and topics of the summer school h12.00-12.15: Rules of the Alpine Studies Centre h12.15-12.30: Logistics of the travel and stay h12.30-13.00: Questions & answers and conclusions

PHYSICAL MOBILITY

Days	Program
July 6th Sunday	h14.00: Meeting point at Trento train station h14.30-17.00: Walk around and visit of Trento h17.30: Departure to Pieve Tesino (all together by train/bus) h19.00: Arrival in Pieve Tesino and check-in h20.00: Welcome dinner
July 7th Monday	h9.00-9.15: Opening ceremony h9.15-10.45: Lecture h11.00-12.45: Lecture h14.30-16.00: Lecture

	h16.30-18.00: Outdoor activity
July 8th Tuesday	h8.00-18.00: Field visit at local food companies
July 9th Wednesday	h9.00-10.45: Lecture h11.00-12.45: Lecture h14.30-16.00: Exercise h16.30-18.00: Visit to local museums
July 10th Thursday	h9.00-10.45: Lecture h11.00-12.45: Lecture h14.30-18.00: Group work session
July 11th Friday	h8.00-18.00: Field visit at a typical “malga” of Trentino with short trekking
July 12th Saturday	h9.00-12.45: Group work session h14.30-18.00: Final exam
July 13th Sunday	h9.00: Check-out and departure

Participation fee

Thanks to the funding provided by the Internationalization Program of the University of Tuscia, the registration is **free of charge** for the students enrolled in degree courses at the seven promoting Universities (University of Tuscia, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, University of Hohenheim, Universitat de Lleida, Harokopio University of Athens and University POLITEHNICA of Bucharest). The registration fee is **€ 250** for other participants.

The fee includes:

- All lectures and seminars;
- Course materials;
- Bus to join the field visits and Trento visit on 8th and 12th July 2025;
- Accommodation in multiple-bed rooms at the Alpine Studies Centre from the 6th of July (arrival) to the 13th of July (departure) 2025;
- Dinners at the local restaurant from July 6th to the July 13th (7 dinners), with a fixed and mandatory contribution of **6€ per day per student**, to be paid locally; in case of availability of additional funding in support of the summer school, it is possible that the organising team will remove this compulsory contribution.

Travel expenses to reach Pieve Tesino, small entrance fees to the companies and tourist sights (to be paid locally), and costs of breakfast and lunches are not included in the registration fee. Students enrolled in the 6 non-Italian promoting universities (University of Tuscia, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, University of Hohenheim, Universitat de Lleida, Harokopio University of Athens and University POLITEHNICA of Bucharest) can apply to the international offices of their home university to obtain a mobility contribution through Erasmus+ funds.

Selection criteria

The summer school has **25 places** for university students and will take place only if a minimum number of 15 participants is reached.

The summer school is targeted at bachelor and master students enrolled in university courses dealing with agricultural and environmental sciences, food technology, food chain management, sustainability, and circular economy. Application of students with different backgrounds, PhD students and other participants will be considered upon the availability of places.

The following criteria will be considered to evaluate the applications:

- English language proficiency;
- Priority to students enrolled in the academic year 2024/2025 in bachelor or master courses at University of Tuscia, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, University of Hohenheim, Universitat de Lleida, Harokopio University of Athens and University POLITEHNICA of Bucharest.
- Coherence of the university background of the applicant with the topics of the summer school;
- Academic performance as shown in the transcript of records;
- Motivation as expressed in the motivational letter;
- Gender balance;
- Balance among nationalities.

Application documents and procedures

The deadline to send applications is set on **14th May 2025**. Applicants must compile the online application form available at this [link](#) and upload in the same form the following documents in PDF file format:

1. English language certificate or a self-certification (template for self-certification available at [this link](#));
2. Transcript of records with exams and grades.
3. Motivational letter written in English (min 500 words, max 1,000 words);
4. Front-back copy of a valid identity document and (if needed) visa to enter Italy.

Selected applicants will be notified via email on **23th May 2025**. Notification emails will be sent from the account of the summer school **foodsummerschool@unitus.it**. Selected applicants are required to reply via email to confirm their participation by **30th May 2025**.

Participants required to pay the registration fee must complete the payment via bank transfer and send proof of the payment to foodsummerschool@unitus.it by 30th May 2025. The details of the bank transfer are:

Account holder: Università degli Studi della Tuscia CIA

IBAN: IT65L0306914500100000300015

Bank transfer description: DS-FOOD Summer School 2025 Name Surname

In case selected applicants do not confirm or do not pay the registration fee within the deadline, other applicants on the waiting list will be contacted.

Exam and achievement of ECTS credits

Selected applicants are supposed to follow all the summer school activities, including both the virtual component and the physical mobility. It is not possible to participate in individual modules of the summer school and/or to leave earlier than foreseen by the program.

On the last day of the mobility, the participants will take a final exam in front of a commission of 3 lecturers of the summer school. Following the final exam, students will be graded with a maximum of 30 points; those who score above 18 will pass the exam and will be eligible to receive 3 ECTS credits.

Link for the virtual component

The virtual component of the summer school will be hosted on Zoom. Selected applicants will receive the link to join the virtual component via email.

Venue of the physical mobility

The physical mobility of the summer school will be hosted in Pieve Tesino, a small town in the dolomites of Trento Province (North-Eastern Italy) at the Alpine Study Centre (CSALP) of the University of Tuscia.

Address: Via Rovigo, 7, 38050 Pieve Tesino TN

Location: 46°04' 10"N 11°36'28"E

Pieve Tesino is located 52 km from Trento and 107 km from Padua. It can be reached:

- by car:
via Trento (A22), continuing along the SS 47 in the direction of Padua to Strigno, then continuing along the SP 78 to Pieve Tesino
OR
Via Padova (A4, A13), continuing along the SS 47 in the direction of Trento to Strigno, then continuing along the SP 78 to Pieve Tesino
- by train:
via Trento (Brenner line), continuing along the Trento-Padova line to the stations of Borgo Valsugana or Strigno, then by bus to Pieve Tesino (bus timetable and routes on the website of [Trentino Trasporti](#))
OR
via Padova (Rome-Venice and Milan-Trieste lines), continuing along the Padova-Trento line to the stations of Strigno and Borgo Valsugana, then by bus to Pieve Tesino (bus timetable and routes on the website of [Trentino Trasporti](#))
- by air:
from Venice Marco Polo airport, continuing by train via Padova
OR
from Verona's Catullo airport by train via Trento

Additional information

For any additional information, please contact us at foodsummerschool@unitus.it.