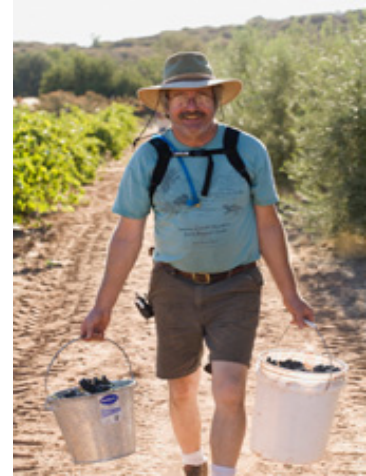


The application deadline for non-Norwegian students to the master's degree programme in agroecology is February 1!
Contact Kristin Pederson (kristin.pederson@gmail.com) with questions.

IN THIS ISSUE

Agroecology Program Deadline	1
Study Abroad Opportunities at UMB : Karen Adler	1
Agroecologist Profile — Stephen R. Gliessman: Chuck Francis	2
A Student's Experience at LIFE : Karen Adler	2
Geir Lieblein — Faculty Profile: Chuck Francis	2



Stephen R. Gliessman

Study Abroad Opportunities at UMB

Karen Adler

In the past, many Agroecology students have taken a semester of classes abroad in order to pursue specific interests related to their academic studies. Such exchange is encouraged because it fosters alliances and broadens the scope of knowledge available to agroecology students. The student information center at UMB offers information on a wide range of study abroad programs all over the world. Some of these universities, however, have special agreements with specific deadlines and requirements, so the sooner one visits SIT, the greater the chance that an exchange can be arranged in the time given. Also, some programs have specific criteria in order to qualify. For example, if you are a non-Norwegian student enrolled in the Agroecology MSc at UMB, your nationality may affect your eligibility for the exchange program. Some European universities are very strict in defining who can be admitted in an Erasmus exchange, which is a program set up in the EU to equalize differences in grading and promote exchange throughout Europe. Therefore, if you are not an EU or Norwegian citizen, you should inquire with SIT about the possibility of becoming an Erasmus student and studying in a qualifying university.

Another lesser-known exchange is called Nordplus, which was designed to promote exchange to other Scandinavian universities. In this exchange, any student enrolled at UMB is considered eligible for the agreement. The Nordplus exchange allows Scandinavian students to take classes in renowned universities that are closer to home but still offer excellent courses related to agroecology, plant sciences, economics, social sciences, organic agriculture and a number of other interesting topics. SIT makes the process of applying easy; the student simply applies to SIT, who then nominates the student for a Nordplus position at another Scandinavian University.

As a second year student in agroecology, I applied to the Nordplus exchange with the College of Agricultural and Veterinary Medicine in the University of Copenhagen, or LIFE. My information was transferred to the proper office at LIFE, where housing was designated according to my selections, and registration could be done on-line. The process was incredibly easy and minimized the stress of studying abroad in an unfamiliar city. The deadline for applying for the Nordplus and Erasmus scholarships is March 1st, so act soon to find out about other academic possibilities at other universities. You can also check out this English link for more details: <http://www.umb.no/6827>.

AGROECOLOGY MSC PROGRAM UMB

Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB)

P.O Box 5003
N-1432 Ås
Norway

Tel: +47 64 96 50 00
Other: +47 64 96 56 44
Fax: +47 64 96 50 01
E-mail: postmottak@umb.no
www.umb.no



The Student Information Center

Phone: +47 64 96 61 00
Email: opptak@umb.no/studie
www.umb.no/studie

Nordic School of Agroecology/Ecological Agriculture

Phone: +47 64 96 56 44
Email: geir.lieblein@umb.no
www.agroasis.org

Editor

Kristin Pederson
E-mail:
kristin.pederson@gmail.com
Chuck Francis



AGROECOLOGY MASTER OF SCIENCE (UMB)

Stephen R. Gliessman: Agroecologist Profile

by Chuck Francis

For over 30 years, Steve has taught agroecology and gained research and production experience in both tropical and temperate agriculture. He has worked with large and small farms, with chemical and organic farming systems, and with educational programs in California, Costa Rica, and Mexico. He has long been concerned about ecology of plants and animals, how they interact with the environment, and how this information can be made available to farmers. He founded the agroecology program at U.C. Santa Cruz, and also the nonprofit Community Agroecology Network that brings fair trade coffee directly from farmers to consumers. Author of our textbook *Agroecology*, also available in Spanish and Portuguese, Steve is currently the Heller Professor of Agroecology at UCSC. In addition, he and his family own a small vineyard, Condor's Hope, where they utilize ecological farming methods in the production of 400 cases of wine a year.

A Student's Experience at LIFE

Karen Adler

LIFE, a faculty of the University of Copenhagen, is about the size of UMB and has a similar focus on fields related to agriculture, horticulture and veterinary medicine. An English MSc degree called Agricultural Development is related to agriculture in developing countries, and the plant sciences department has a variety of relevant classes. The school offers courses in organic agriculture, and even in my applied plant nutrition course we addressed the benefits of applying manure as a fertilizer, in addition to traditional inorganic amendments. While there isn't an agroecology course labeled as such, you can certainly find relevant elements of agroecology in the classes, and you may be able to find a subject that isn't offered at UMB.

I chose to study abroad at LIFE for a quarter in part because I knew the subject of my thesis and saw classes at the college that pertained to my interests. In addition, I was able to live and study at a university in another Scandinavian country with an excellent reputation and a number of professionals familiar with agroecology. The classes were quite difficult, but of high quality, and I learned so much while I was there. The student body was friendly, studying was often social and group-oriented, and there were many people with similar interests that I met at the student bar or in the library. In fact, I found an even greater concentration of plant enthusiasts, and I greatly appreciated this facet of the student life.

I had a fantastic time in Copenhagen. While the pressure of intensive block courses required rigorous study, I still found time to wander around and muse over the differences between Norwegian and Danish life while taking in the view of a beautiful city. And Nordplus students qualify for a modest stipend, so financing the move to another area may be more feasible than you think.

Geir Lieblein: Faculty Profile by Chuck Francis

The person at UMB who initiated the Agroecology MSc programme is Geir Lieblein, currently the responsible faculty for PAE 303: *Agroecology and Food Systems*, and active in teaching PAE 302 as well as the distance course in the spring term. Geir has an academic background in horticulture and organic farming. He has been instrumental in developing the transdisciplinary and multidimensional agroecology teaching program at UMB. Geir strongly believes in the merging of methods from biological and social science perspectives, and in taking a systems approach to evaluation of complex situations. He is active in the European Network of Organic Agriculture Teachers (ENOAT) as well as a new EU project Organic Edunet that is developing a web-based portal for educational materials for organic agriculture. Geir currently supervises 15 students in the MSc programme, and is associate professor of agroecology at UMB.