



UNIVERSIDAD
DE ALMERÍA



Digital Transformation of Agro-Companies

JULY 06 - JULY 10 | 4,5 ECTS | 30 HOURS *



A SEA OF KNOWLEDGE
STUDY ABROAD

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Introduction

The 'digital transformation' could not be a more pressing and significant concern for agro-companies. The aim of this course is to collaborate in promoting the advantages of digitalization to help current students, who will also be future leaders of agri-food companies, to understand the importance of committing to digital transformation and how to implement it in order to boost their businesses and make them much more competitive and sustainable.

This course introduces main best practice in IT governance, introduce emerging technologies and visit several agro-companies to know how they have implemented them to achieve their digital transformation.

*** Teaching hours: 20 in person plus 10 online**

Coordinator

Antonio Fernández Martínez

Main Goals

- Understand that a company needs to increase its digital maturity to be competitive and that to do so, it must implement IT governance, digitization and digital transformation initiatives, all together.
- Learn about best practices for good IT governance and understand that good governance is a key factor for successful digital transformation.
- Learn about the main information systems that an agribusiness can use to digitize and the emerging technologies available to carry out its digital transformation.
- Discover success cases of agribusinesses around the world that have carried out their digital transformation and become Smart Agro Companies.
- Understand what steps an agribusiness must take to digitally transform itself and design a set of recommendations to digitally transform a real company.



Contents

Module A: Digital maturity of an agro-company	4 h
Digital maturity of a company	
How to implement the digital transformation of a company	
Information systems for an agro-company: ERP, CRM, BPM, SCM, etc.	
Emerging technologies to digital transformation: big data, blockchain, IA, machine learning, drones, RPA, etc.	
Module B: IT governance	4 h
ISO 38500 Corporate governance of IT	
Successful of the digital transformation relies on good IT governance	
Best practices of IT governance for an agro-company	
Module C: Emerging technologies for agro-companies	4 h
HISPATEC: Smart-agro emerging technologies to a company	
HISPATEC: Successful cases of digital transformation around the world	
Module D: Successful cases of digital transformation	8 h
Academic visits	

Methodology

The course begins with 20 hours in person at the University of Almería. The first 8 hours consist of on-campus lectures, and the remaining time is dedicated to company visits near the city of Almería.

This is followed by 10 hours of online teamwork over three weeks to solve a problem: “Determining the agro-company’s digital maturity and recommending technologies to carry out its digital transformation” using the PBL methodology.

Requirements



This course is aimed at teachers and undergraduate, master's and doctoral students in the fields of business, agriculture, food and IT, who must have a B2 certificate in English or similar level.

Academic Visits & Networking

Unica Group Central Office (PITA, Almería)

The Unica Group Central Office, located within the PITA technology park in Almería, serves as the headquarters for one of Spain's leading agricultural cooperatives. It coordinates operations, marketing, and logistics for a wide network of fruit and vegetable producers, focusing on innovation and quality control across the supply chain.

Tecnova I+D Laboratory (PITA, Almería)

Tecnova's R&D Laboratory, also based at PITA, is a hub for technological research in the agri-food sector. It develops innovative solutions for crop management, post-harvest processes, and sustainable production, supporting companies in increasing efficiency and competitiveness.



Agroponente automated packaging warehouse (El Ejido, Almería)

The Agroponente warehouse in El Ejido is an advanced facility for automated sorting and packaging of fruits and vegetables. Using robotics and smart logistics systems, it ensures products are efficiently prepared for distribution while maintaining quality and traceability.

COEXPHAL Centre for Technological Innovation (La Mojónera, Almería)

The COEXPHAL Innovation Centre in La Mojónera focuses on advancing technology and best practices in the horticultural sector. It provides training, research, and support for farmers and agri-businesses, promoting sustainability, digitalization, and productivity improvements.

UAL Anecoop Experimental Farm Foundation (Alquian, Almería)

The UAL Anecoop Experimental Farm in Alquian is dedicated to practical agricultural research and experimentation. It allows students and professionals to test innovative cultivation techniques, crop varieties, and digital tools, bridging academic knowledge with real-world agricultural practice.

Assessment

After the week in person in Almería, and for a period of three weeks, each team will carry out independent work and online meetings to solve the proposed exercise (with a commitment of 10 hours). The course will end in the third week, during a four-hour online session, in which each team will present its solution, which will be co-evaluated by the other teams and self-evaluated using a evaluating template.

Lecturers

Antonio Fernández Martínez

Department of Computer Science
University of Almería
afm@ual.es

Carlos Juiz García

Department of Computer Architecture and Technology
University of the Balearic Islands
cjuiz@uib.es

Pascual Romera Mateos

Founder and Sales Manager - Hispatec Agrointeligencia
hispatec.com/en
pascual.romera@hispatec.es

José Antonio López

CIO - Unica Group
unicagroup.es/en
jlopez@unicafresh.es

José Luis Estrella Herrada

President - Tecnova Foundation
fundaciontecnova.com/en
presidente@fundaciontecnova.com

Manuel López Godoy

Director - UAL Anecoop Experimental Farm Foundation
fundacionualanecoop.com/en
fincaexp@ual.es

Imanol Almudi
CEO - Agroponiente
agroponiente.com
ialmudi@agroponiente.com

Juan José Vázquez Manzano
Director de Negocio - Coexphal
coexphal.es
jjvazquez@coexphal.es



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www.ual.es/estudios/study-abroad
sabroad@ual.es
+34 950 01 58 16

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