



Training School

Cooking underutilised crops



JULY 1-2, 2026



University of West London, UK



DEADLINE

for applications
26 April 2026



This interactive programme combines scientific insight with hands-on culinary practice, allowing participants to engage with real recipe data, experiment in professional kitchens, and critically reflect on gastronomy's role in diversifying food systems.

SCHEDULE

1st July – Day 1

half-day session from 13:00 to 17:00

- Explore underutilised crops through recipe data
- Formulate food concepts and research ideas

2nd July – Day 2

full-day session from 09:00 to 17:00

- Develop recipes through culinary experimentation
- Evaluate flavour, texture and innovation potential

TRAINERS



SZYMON LARA

UNIVERSITY OF WEST LONDON, UK



MARIJA KNEZ

UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE, SERBIA



JELENA MILEŠEVIĆ

UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE, SERBIA

Learning outcomes

Participants will be able to:

- Evaluate the role of underutilised crops in nutrition, sustainability, and food systems
- Apply basic culinary and sensory techniques to develop and assess innovative recipes
- Analyse key barriers and opportunities for integrating diverse crops into practice and research



Selection Criteria

The training school will follow the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy (<https://www.cost.eu/about/strategy/excellence-and-inclusiveness/>) by strongly supporting equality of opportunity and access for all, especially with respect to gender and the geographical spread of participants

WHO CAN APPLY?

Members of DIVERSICROP Working Groups (WGs).

If you are not yet part of DIVERSICROP, you can simply join:

<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA22146/>.



WHO WILL BE SELECTED TO ATTEND?

Active WG members. We encourage young researchers and innovators (under 40 years) and post-graduate applicants (e.g. PhD and MSc students, post-doctoral researchers) to apply. **Participants must bring their own laptops.**

WHAT DOCUMENTATION IS NECESSARY TO APPLY?

A. Motivation letter (1 page maximum) describing:

- Relevance of the training school to your participation in DIVERSICROP (how will it help you contribute to this COST Action?)
- How this training school will impact your research or innovation activities

B. Short CV (2 pages maximum)

C. Proof of holding minimum of third-level degree (Bachelors or similar qualification)

WHO IS THE SELECTION COMMITTEE?

Assoc. Prof. Sónia Negrão (Action Chair)

Dr. Szymon Lara (Trainer)

Dr. Marija Knez (Trainer)

HOW TO APPLY?

Send documentation to:

 Email: Mortaza Khodaeiamijan
mortaza.khodaeiaminjan@ucd.ie

Selected applicants will receive a formal e-COST invitation to travel to London. All Training School expenses are covered by COST.