

Frequently Asked Questions

Financial Assistance and Funding

Is financial support available?

Yes. No student is offered admission into the Food Science Graduate Program without a faculty member offering a research assistantship or fellowship.

What is an assistantship?

Assistantships typically involve approximately 20 hours of work per week for a professor. Frequently this entails research or teaching. In return, you receive a tuition waiver and a monthly stipend (i.e., salary).

What is a fellowship?

Fellowships are similar to undergraduate scholarships. They are typically awarded by a competition and generally do not require work in return for the award. Fellowships provide tuition scholarships and stipends, along with a supplement for purchasing medical insurance.

Fellowships may be obtained from your academic department or program, the Graduate School, or an outside entity, such as a government agency or philanthropic foundation. Fellowships are typically awarded to the most competitive applicants. A program will typically consider you for available fellowships when you apply for admission; however, some fellowships may require the completion of a separate application. Selection criteria and processes will vary.

Is tuition covered by an assistantship or fellowship?

Assistantship benefits include tuition waivers which pays all but a nominal portion of tuition. Fellowships generally include tuition scholarships. Tuition waivers and scholarships are in addition to the monthly stipend and other benefits.

How do I apply for an assistantship or fellowship?

All applicants are considered for research assistantships when they complete the application for admission. Self-funding is not an option in the Food Science Graduate Program. The Food Science Graduate Committee identifies the most competitive applicants to be considered for fellowship.

Typically when you apply for admission, you will be considered for available fellowships. To be considered for fellowships offered by the Graduate School, you must be admitted to Purdue. The following link <http://www.gradschool.purdue.edu/funding> provides information regarding specific Graduate School fellowships, including the application process and requirements.

Testing Requirements and Admission

What is the minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) required for admission?

The Graduate School requires all admitted students to possess a minimum of a 3.0/4.0 GPA in order to be admitted.

Is the GRE (Graduate Record Examination) required?

Yes.

What is the minimum GRE score that is required for admission?

Before August 1, 2011 - Verbal 400, Quantitative 500, Analytical 4.0

After August 1, 2011 – Verbal 146, Quantitative 144, Analytical 4.0

A holistic approach to the selection process is generally employed by considering all components of the application package, including application information, letters of recommendation, statement of purpose, academic record (i.e., transcripts), test scores, resume/curriculum vitae (CV), and other information a graduate program requires.

Do you accept applications for spring or summer admission?

Yes.

What is the application deadline?

Summer Entry: May 15

Fall Entry: July 15

Spring Entry: December 15

In general, it is suggested that you apply early in your senior year of college, which is usually nine to 12 months prior to when you want to begin graduate studies. Applying early has its advantages: more funding opportunities are typically available and more spaces may be available for admission.

How competitive am I for admission?

It is difficult to predict how likely you are to be admitted to the Food Science Graduate Program at Purdue University. Many factors impact admission decisions, such as the qualifications of other applicants, the number of new students that can be accommodated, and the number of professors that share your research and scholarly interests. Each application is given careful consideration and a holistic approach to the admissions process is generally employed by the graduate admissions committee. All components of the application package, including the application, letters of recommendation, statement of

purpose, academic record (i.e., transcripts), test scores, resume/curriculum vitae (CV), and other items required are considered.

How do I apply?

All applicants must complete the Graduate School's online application and pay the application fee. Detailed instructions and requirements are available in the application.

I have already applied for admission. Now what do I do?

If a completed application has been submitted (i.e., you have completed and submitted the Graduate School's application, paid the application fee, and submitted letters of recommendation, official transcripts, test scores, and any other items required), no additional action is required. After your application file has been reviewed by the Food Science Graduate Review Committee, you will be notified of the committee's decision of "acceptable" or "unacceptable" to be considered for available funding. This process typically take 2-3 weeks.

I reviewed all of the testing and admissions questions, but I still can't find the answer to my admissions-related question. Are there other resources I can consult?

The following link will provide step-by-step information on the application process http://www.ag.purdue.edu/foodsci/Pages/grad_application_process.aspx.

Tuition and Fees

How much is the international student fee?

International students pay a \$80 fee each semester to help fund the unique services the University offers to international students, such as immigration regulation advising, cultural/educational programming, SEVIS reporting (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System), and compliance with the United States' government.

International Students

Am I considered an international student?

If you are not a permanent resident or citizen of the United States, you are classified as an international student.

Is financial support available to international students?

Yes.

Is the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System) required?

If your native language is not English, you must take either the TOEFL or the IELTS to be admitted to Purdue. The Graduate School requires the following TOEFL scores:

- a minimum score of 550 on the paper-based,
- 213 on the computer-based
- Internet-based scores of
 - Writing 18
 - Speaking 18
 - Listening 14
 - Reading 19
 - Total 77

****Note that in addition to required minimum scores for writing, speaking, listening, and reading, the Graduate School also requires a minimum overall score that is higher than the minimums for the four area tests combined. Applicants must meet or exceed each of the five scores (listed above) for admission to the Graduate School. Only official TOEFL scores received directly from Educational Testing Service are acceptable.**

If you take the IELTS, a minimum band score of 6.5 is required. For more information on the IELTS, visit www.ielts.org.

Are TOEFL scores that are more than two years old accepted by Purdue?

TOEFL scores are valid for only two years.

I am an international student currently studying in the United States. Do I still have to take the TOEFL?

The Graduate School waives the TOEFL for applicants who have received a baccalaureate, graduate, or professional degree from a U.S. institution within the past 24 months (at the time the recommendation for admission is received at the Graduate School.)

How do I schedule a campus visit?

Please contact Mitzi Barnett, Graduate Program Coordinator at mbarnett@purdue.edu to inquire about visitation opportunities. All campus visits are done on an individual basis to provide more individualized attention to each applicant.

How many graduate students are there in the Food Science Graduate Program?

In general, the Food Science Graduate Program has about 75 graduate students each year.