Student membership

Stand out from the crowd by becoming an IFST student member. IFST student membership supports your studies and helps prepare you for your career in the food sector.

Join our community of over 3000 members and over 700 students

Gain access to a huge range of resources and opportunities

Click on the screen to watch our short video outlining membership benefits →

Michelle Pazmino - IFST student member

“Being part of IFST has been important in encouraging me to develop my career skills and boosting my confidence in reaching out to professionals in the food sector. I have been able to build networks and meet admirable people whose paths have served as inspiration in developing a plan to achieve the place in industry I aspire to be in. I would recommend all students to join and experience the benefits of being part of such a supportive community.”

Key benefits:

- Free quarterly Food Science & Technology magazine
- Free access to Intl. Journal of Food Science & Technology
- Admission to face-to-face events and webinars
- Industry and technical visits
- Join our local Branches and Special Interest Groups
- Access our online community to build your prof. network

Cover image - Undergraduate Food Science students at the University of Reading
Career development

**Student Launchpad**

If you are trying to kickstart your career, every November we run Student Launchpad. These are events across the UK where you can learn more about graduate careers, meet professionals working in the food sector and learn how to improve your CV and interview skills. We also run an ‘Apprenticeship Launchpad’ in February. For more information - click here.

**Professional development guide**

Find out more about professional development with this handy guide created by IFST’s student group committee:

IFST professional development guide

**Competitions**

**Science Communication Competition**

Have a flair for science writing? Passionate about the biggest challenges we face? Want the opportunity to communicate your passion for science to the wider community? Then this is the competition for you! This competition provides you with the opportunity to write about a topical issue that the food industry is currently facing, whilst concisely demonstrating and developing your skills for science communication to the broader community. For more information - click here.

**Ecotrophelia**

Ecotrophelia is an EU-wide Dragons’ Den-style competition to develop the best new eco-friendly food product. Teams pitch their product to industry leaders for a cash prize. The winners go on to represent the UK at the European final. From idea generation through to the final packaged product, the competition will give you hands-on experience of what it takes to bring a new product to market. For more information - click here.

IFST also promotes other competitions of which we keep you updated throughout the year.
Getting involved

Become a Student Representative

Be IFST’s ‘eyes and ears’ at your university to help us provide the best possible experience for food science and technology students. Let other students know about benefits of IFST membership and increase participation in competitions and IFST events. We are looking for two students at every university in the UK. This is a great opportunity to bolster your CV and gain essential skills for the future.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Promote IFST to students
- Connect with food societies
- Share information about competitions and events
- Promote IFST through different social media channels
- Help at Branch events and join the local committee

Become part of the Student Group Committee

Student representatives will have the opportunity to sit on the student group committee. The committee aims to develop and improve the student IFST experience through events, the student newsletter and the student network on IFST Community. They meet regularly online to plan for their next activity, research new Instagram posts and keep students updated on the latest IFST news.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Promote IFST and raise awareness of the role IFST plays in the food sector to the student community
- Recruit student members
- Retain student members
- Support and develop student members to achieve higher grades of IFST membership
- Collaborate with the New Professional Group to facilitate the transition of student members to new professional members.

Join the student network on ‘IFST Community’

Our online ‘IFST community platform has a student page where you can speak to fellow students, join in with current discussions, suggest events and visits, post questions and look at job postings.
Connect

Join a Branch and attend events

Our eight Branches allow you to interact with other local food professionals. They organise various activities including conferences, scientific meetings and factory visits as well as supporting local universities, colleges and schools. IFST runs a large variety of events and webinars - many of them offered free to members. Click below to access our calendar of upcoming events.

IFST event calendar

Follow us on social media

Our social media channels are a great way to engage with the food sector and keep up to date with news and events. LinkedIn is the perfect platform to work on your CV and find out about potential career opportunities. Twitter helps you keep up to date with the latest IFST and industry news. Instagram is a great way to see what we are up to and gain food science and technology knowledge. You can also watch our latest videos on YouTube.

Contact us

If you have any questions or would like any further information about our membership, competitions or getting involved please do not hesitate to get in touch. Our contact details are below:

✉️ p.florit@ifst.org
🌐 www.ifst.org/education-careers/students-apprentices

Institute of Food Science and Technology

IFST is the UK’s leading professional body for those involved in all aspects of food science and technology. We are an internationally respected independent membership body, supporting food professionals through knowledge sharing and professional recognition. For membership information click on the link below.

www.ifst.org/studentmembership