



Competencies for Food Graduate Careers

NPD*, Development or Process Roles

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Focussed on development of new products (NPD), existing ones (EPD) or improvement of manufacturing processes. Most are a combination of 2 or more of these. Can be employed in small to large businesses across the sector, so the scope of the role will change accordingly. In manufacturing companies, some require working with customers. A large variety of role titles, responsibilities and salaries but a classic graduate entry point.

*NPD = New Product Development.

Typical Role Names

NPD Technologist | Process Technologist | NPD Process Technologist |
Process Development Technologist | Development Technologist | Product Developer



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There are standards for the technical content of UK Food Sciences degrees; but there are more aspects you can develop to support success in the workplace. Industry have outlined what they think may be the most valuable additional skills, knowledge and behaviours for 14 typical graduate roles & this is one of them.

Desirable Elements for this Role

Adaptability
Collaboration
Commercial Awareness
Food Industry Experience
Initiative
Innovation

Open-Minded
Passion for Subject
Questioning Approach
Teamworking
Working Under Pressure

This material has been developed with industry involvement to support graduates, employers and degree educators.
<https://www.ifst.org/resources/competencies-food-graduate-careers>. Find out about more technical graduate roles in the food industry & what may be best suited to you in developing your career with our partners: