

# Food Safety & Quality Assurance: MSc, GDip.

The Food Safety & Quality Assurance (FSQA) program provides advanced, career-oriented education and training for university graduates in flexible options of study.

FSQA graduates work in industry and government positions, applying knowledge of total-quality management, food safety management systems, risk analysis, detection, epidemiology and control of foodborne pathogens, food policy development and Canadian and international food law.

[uoguelph.ca/oac/food-science/](http://uoguelph.ca/oac/food-science/)

## Program

There are various options of study for the MSc course work program, which are further outlined on the back page:

- Hybrid (on campus and online learning) with a Major Research Paper;
- Hybrid with collaborative specialization in Toxicology and a Major Research Paper; and
- Distance education (entirely online) with a workplace project.

The Graduate Diploma (GDip) FSQA is a two semester (fall & winter) coursebased program that is completed entirely online.



*"I chose to pursue the MSc FSQA DE because this program offered a unique experience that I had not seen elsewhere. The ability to continue to work full-time while completing my MSc was something I didn't think I would be able to achieve until I discovered that UoG offered a program in my field that could be completed entirely online. It's a game changer!"*

– Laura Nurse (MSc, FSQA DE 2021)

## Admission Requirements

- A BSc honours degree with courses in food science, nutrition, public health or other related fields. Applicants with a Bachelor of Technology, Engineering in food science or a degree in veterinary medicine may also be accepted.
- The FSQA graduate level courses require a background in food science or a closely related field.
- Distance education applicants must submit a letter of support from an individual (such as an employer) in an organization indicating a willingness to oversee the applicant's workplace project, should they be accepted.

## Training

Students leverage theoretical knowledge acquired through coursework to meet outcomes-oriented project-based goals.

Hybrid MSc FSQA students conduct their research project with graduate faculty in the Department of Food Science and the Canadian Research Institute for Food Safety.

Distance education MSc FSQA students gain research experience in their workplace completing a project with an approved project sponsor.

All research projects are evaluated by University of Guelph Graduate Faculty.

## Application Deadlines:

Domestic applicants:

April 1, 2026

International applicants:

November 1, 2025 (in person)

April 1, 2026 (online)

Entry: Fall only

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- Food Safety and Quality Control
- Food Spoilage, Shelf Life, Food Fraud
- Auditing and Inspection
- Regulations and Policy
- Pathogenesis and Epidemiology of Foodborne Pathogens

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

- Food Safety and Quality Control Manager
- Food Inspector/Food Safety Evaluator
- Public Health Food Safety Specialist
- Food Safety Analyst
- Consultant to the Food Industry

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Graduate Program Assistant**

519-824-4120 ext 56983

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## FSQA: MSc

There are various options of study for this program:

### **Hybrid (on campus and online learning) with a Major Research Paper**

This three-semester (12 month) interdepartmental program has courses available in food safety, quality assurance, operations management and leadership, nutrition and nutraceuticals, epidemiology of food-borne disease, zoonotic disease, safety of foods of animal and plant origins and many others. Courses are available both on campus and online by distance education.

Students leverage theoretical knowledge acquired through coursework to meet outcomes-oriented project-based goals. The major research paper is completed with a faculty advisor from one of the participating departments over 2 or 3 semesters.

### **Hybrid with collaborative specialization in Toxicology and a Major Research Paper**

In addition to the MSc FSQA program courses, the toxicology collaborative specialization requires two toxicology courses as part of the MSc FSQA+TOX program. Advanced principles of toxicology through lecture, case study and oral presentations enhance the FSQA program for those with some undergraduate toxicology background. The major research paper is completed with a faculty advisor from one of the FSQA participating departments including toxicology over 2 or 3 semesters.

### **Distance education (entirely online) with a workplace project.**

This entirely distance education program can be completed fully online over three semesters (12 months). Students gain research experience in their workplace completing an approved workplace project with a workplace field supervisor. This two semester project is evaluated by University of Guelph Graduate Faculty.

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