

IFT STUDENT FOOD PACKAGING DEVELOPMENT COMPETITION ENTRY KIT

Organized by the Food Packaging Division (FPD), this an annual international competition honors advancements in student food packaging development. Impacts of participating in and/or winning this competition include:

- Participants will solve real-life food problems (e.g., food waste reduction).
- Participants will enhance their knowledge about specific food packaging technologies (e.g., active packaging).
- Students will practically apply the knowledge they have gained within the classroom.
- Participants will improve their teamwork skills.
- Participants will improve presentation skills.
- Participants will gain exposure and prestige.

PARTICIPANTS

Eligibility

- Both undergraduate students and graduate students.
- Students enrolled in food or packaging programs.
- Must be an IFT member.

Type

No limitation on team composition:

- Individuals or teams
- Undergraduate students or graduate students or both together
- With or without mentor (e.g., professor, industry expert, etc.).

TOPIC

Pick one of the three challenges listed below. This year's three challenges are:

- Development of food packaging against viruses.
- Development of e-commerce food packaging able to overcome temperature variations within the food cold chain (all packaging levels from primary packaging to distribution packaging to unit load should be considered).
- Development of food packaging that contributes to the circular economy.

Alternatively, you can suggest your own challenge. You can focus on packaging innovation from a broad point of view (e.g., circular economy) or you can be rather specific and apply innovation based on current industry needs (e.g., viruses). You can even study the progress we have made on a specific packaging technology based on trends or needs.

Regardless of your selection, you need to study the system and its entirety in terms of functionality of packaging. Consider the whole food packaging supply chain from raw material to consumers including but not limited to packaging producers (e.g., machinery), food packers (e.g., barrier needs), storage and transportation.

You can ask industry and academia, including the members of the food packaging division, for advice on appropriate sources of information (books or videos).

Show us your innovation and creativity based on current or future packaging needs!

ENTRY FORM

All the required information is listed below:

- a. Participant information (name(s), phone number(s), and email address(es); contact person)
- b. Food package concept and its prototype if any. Participants should write a structural, conceptual, theoretical, or practical concept that addresses the selected food packaging issue. The concept should include:
 - i. A title
 - ii. A current food packaging issue (define the issue and explain why this is a current issue that relates to food packaging)
 - iii. Past solutions and their results
 - iv. An alternative solution (think outside the box!). This should be supported by evidence.
 - v. References
 - vi. Illustrations are encouraged
- vii. A picture of the package prototype is not required but an option

Guidelines

- a. Enter your name and other personal information on the designated fields in the Entry Form.
- b. Enter your essay title in the Entry Form box called “Title of Essay.”
- c. Write a concept that is created exclusively for the IFT food packaging development competition. See **ENTRY FORM** for specific concept content. Only clear and well-organized concepts that cover all the requested fields will be judged.
- d. 1,000 to 1,500 word-essay written in English. Citations are excluded from word account.
- e. Write your essay using a word processor and then paste this into the “Essay Box” of the Entry Form.
- f. Place quotes (e.g., any ideas that are not your own) within the body of the essay. Do not use footnotes or endnotes.
- g. Paste your citations into the “References” of the Entry Form. Reference style: MLA.
- h. Your essay will be judged not only on the science, but also on creativity, innovation, (avoid plagiarism and think outside the box!), ability to address the challenge, feasibility, implementation, and how well you express yourself (spelling, punctuation, and grammar). Specifically, the following points should be clearly addressed in your essay:
 - i. Under “A current food packaging issue”:
 - (a) Scientific background
 - (b) Why innovation is necessary
 - (c) Consideration of the entire food packaging supply chain
 - ii. Under “Past solutions and their results”

- (a) Scientific background
- iii. Under “An alternative solution”:
 - (a) Propose challenge in a scientific manner with any market data that support the challenge and its importance for the actual food packaging sector
 - (b) Consideration of the entire food packaging supply chain
 - (c) Is this an original food packaging idea, or is the idea a refinement of an existing one
 - (d) Scientific background
 - (e) Feasibility of the idea in context of the current food supply chain
 - (f) Thinking outside of the box
 - (g) Possible implementation of the idea
 - (h) Possible value created by the idea
 - (i) Targeted consumers

ENTRY PROCESS

Entry forms will be accepted until May 1, 2021 via the following entry form. Awards will be announced within a few weeks. Winners will be notified via email.

AWARDS

Competition participants will be notified of their status prior to IFT21, with a general certificate awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, including recognition on social media, through Division communications, and IFT publications. Winners will be recognized at the IFT21 Food Packaging, Food Engineering, and Nonthermal Processing Divisions joint social activity during the annual conference in the summer. Students will be invited to give a very brief overview (3 minutes) of their concepts.

JUDGES

A panel of experts in food packaging including academic and industry experts will judge the entries. Judges should be IFT FPD members.