

Graduate Research Video Competition

RULES AND GUIDELINES

BACKGROUND

Designed to showcase outstanding research at the graduate level, this competition seeks students engaged in independent research who are interested in presenting at the IFT Annual Event. Finalists will have the opportunity to network with industry and academic members.

PURPOSE

1. Provide opportunities for graduate students to share their research.
2. Encourage students to gain experience in science communication, scientific salesmanship and self-branding.
3. Provide students with a venue to practice presenting research topics concisely to an educated audience with limited time.
4. Give students the opportunity to be creative in presentation style and use of technology.
5. Facilitate a visit to the UK by the winning student, to experience aspects of the European food and drink industry.

SPONSOR

Campden BRI

SCHEDULE

Date	Event
December 1, 2025	Applicants must be a student member of IFT
April 15, 2026	Application submission deadline
May 15, 2026	Finalists notified
June 1, 2026	Finalists must notify the competition chair if they will be attending IFT FIRST
July 12 - July 15, 2026	IFT FIRST in Chicago
September - December 2026	Winning student to travel to the UK for a ten-day industry visit opportunity including Campden BRI. Specific dates will be determined mutually between the winning student and Campden BRI.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Be enrolled in a graduate-level degree program (MS or PhD equivalent) or have graduated recently.
2. Applicants must maintain active student status through December 2025 and hold valid Student Member status with the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT).
3. Previous applicants, excluding winners, can submit videos presenting the same research that was presented in previous submissions. New submissions must present a new narrative or research theme. For resubmissions, an additional letter indicating changes made from the original submission is required.

PRELIMINARY ROUND PROCEDURES

Application

1. Completed online application
2. Three-minute introductory video about the applicant, an overview of the research, the process that the applicant used to create the main video, passion about the applicant's research (or research in general), and any additional information the applicant would like to share with Campden BRI and the audience.
3. Three (3) minute research video presentation (the actual video for competition).
4. Signed Video Release Forms from each person appearing in the video.
5. Signed verification letter from the Department Head/Chair, which should objectively set forth the extent to which the student or students exercised independence and originality
6. Personal statement indicating why the student should be selected to visit Campden BRI, why they are a good fit for the program, and how they plan to share and communicate their experience.
7. Current CV/Resume.
8. A brief letter to the judging committee regarding the changes made to the previous submission (for submission only).

Video Presentation

1. Interested students will submit a three-minute video related to original research conducted by the student on any subject related to food science or technology.
2. The video topic is not limited to research included in the contestant's thesis; students can discuss side projects they may be working on during graduate studies.
3. Students must submit as individuals but may recruit others to participate in the video. The prize will only be awarded to the individual student listed as the applicant.
4. Videos longer than three minutes will be disqualified.
5. Videos should be concise and targeted to educate the audience of the overall objective of the research and how it will benefit the scientific community and/or society.
6. Students are encouraged to exercise creative freedom when creating their video. Avenues such as presenting, cartoons, skits, or other creative means can be used.

7. Use of inappropriate language, gestures, and visuals are prohibited and will result in disqualification.

Video Judging Criteria	100 points total
1. Comprehension <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Did the video provide a good introduction in which the viewer understood the reasoning for why this research is being conducted? Did the video explain technical material in an understandable and concise manner? Did the video follow a clear and logical sequence? 	25 points
2. Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Did the video leave the viewer wanting to know more? Was the video careful not to trivialize or generalize the research? Did the video capture and maintain the audience's attention? 	25 points
3. Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Were the research topic and its significance communicated appropriately to a non-specialist audience? Was there adequate time spent on each element of the presentation (i.e., not too rushed or too long on certain portions)? Was there an effective use of visual aids in the video? 	25 points
4. Originality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was the information presented in a creative, unique way? 	15 points
5. Production Quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was the audio quality, visual quality, and editing smooth and coherent? 	10 points

Personal Statement

Applicants should include information on how they plan to share and communicate their experience; judges will take into consideration how the selected student will make the most of their visit and how it will help them develop as a student.

Verification Letter

A letter of verification must be submitted to the competition chair by April 15 from a Department Head/Chair or faculty member stating the independence and originality of the submission if submitted separate from application materials.

Judging

Judges will award points for both the personal statement and the video, as listed below, for a total of **140** points.

Score breakdown	140 points total
Personal statement	40 points
Video	100 points

AWARDS

1. A maximum of three (3) individuals will make it to the finals. The teams will all be judged against one another in the finals.
2. Each finalist will receive a travel and registration reimbursement of up to \$600.
3. All finalists will also receive a certificate and can choose up to five free copies of Campden BRI guideline documents from the Campden BRI publications store (see <http://www.campdenbri.co.uk/publications/pubs.php>) to help with their continuing professional development.
4. The winner of the competition will be selected to attend a **ten-day industry visit opportunity at Campden BRI in the United Kingdom which will occur in the fall of even numbered years. The winner of the competition will either visit with the previous year's winner or, in the absence of a previous year's winner, will wait until the following year for the visit.** So, two finalists will visit Campden BRI every two years. The industry visit will take place during a mutually agreed upon time by the winner and Campden BRI. **Travel expenses are covered up to \$7,500.** Final details will be determined by the sponsoring company in discussion with the winner.

ABOUT CAMPDEN BRI

Campden BRI is the world's largest membership-based food research organization, with an extensive range of laboratories, pilot plant and consumer study facilities spread across four sites. Activities span the entire food production chain – including analysis and testing, process technologies, regulatory and compliance, and knowledge support – with the emphasis on practical application for industry. While at Campden BRI, the winner will have the opportunity to experience each of the major divisions (science, technology, brewing, and knowledge

management) focusing on the most relevant areas of their area of study and visit industry members to gain an insight into the UK/EU perspective.

NOTES

- The enforcement, review, and changes of these Rules and Guidelines will be the responsibility of the Chair of the competition and designated IFT Staff member. Failure to comply with any of the rules of the competition may result in disqualification.
- Any competitor that does not follow the IFT Event Code of Conduct will risk being disqualified.

QUESTIONS

Contact the Graduate Research Video Competition Chair via email at iftsa.tvc@gmail.com