



# IFTSA Undergraduate Research Competition

## RULES AND GUIDELINES

### BACKGROUND

Designed to showcase outstanding research at the undergraduate 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. To encourage and stimulate interest in independent undergraduate research in the area of food science and technology.
2. To provide an opportunity for undergraduates to organize and present their original research through oral and poster presentations.
3. To provide an opportunity for networking within IFTSA for undergraduate students as well as members of industry and academia.

### SPONSOR

Phi Tau Sigma

### SCHEDULE

Date	Event
March 30, 2023	Preliminary application deadline
May 1, 2023	Finalists notified
July 16 - July 19, 2023	IFT FIRST in Chicago

### ELIGIBILITY

1. Any student member of IFT, as of March 1, 2023, who is an undergraduate student or who has not graduated prior to July 1, 2023 is eligible to compete.
2. Work must have been done individually by an undergraduate.
3. A signed letter from the Department Head or a professor verifying the originality of the student's work will be required. The letter and abstract must be submitted through the IFT.org submission portal before March 30, 2023 at 11:59 PM CT.

## PRELIMINARY ROUND PROCEDURES

### Application

1. To enter the competition, students must be student members of IFT by March 30, 2023.
2. Students must submit an abstract of their research to IFT.org by March 30, 2023 at 11:59 pm CT. Abstracts must not exceed five hundred (500) words in length (titles not included), and should include the study objective, methodology, results, and significance and implications of results. At least five (5) pertinent references must be included. References are not included in the word count and must follow the Journal of Food Science citation style.
3. Two versions of the abstract must be submitted. One must include the paper title, as well as the name and address of the author. The second version of the abstract must only include the paper title (no universities' or institutions' names included). In both versions, no professors' names may appear as a co-author.
4. A letter, signed by the student's Department Head or professor, verifying the originality of the work must be submitted to IFT.org by March 30, 2023 at 11:59 pm. Letters should be submitted by the student via the submission portal before this deadline.

### Judging

Abstracts will be judged based on the criteria below and ranked as outlined in the supplemental Operations Document. Finalists will be chosen by a jury of at least three (3) IFT members representing academia, industry, and/or government as appointed by the Competition Chair.

<b>Abstract Judging Criteria</b>	<b>100 points total</b>
Adherence to rules of competition	5 points
Presentation of research importance and relevance	20 points
Explanation of objectives and background	15 points
Presentation and explanation of experimental methodology	15 points
Presentation and explanation of results	15 points
Explanation and soundness of conclusions	15 points
Professionalism, organization, and style	15 points

1. A total of six (6) finalists will be selected based on the abstract submitted.
2. Finalists will be notified by the Competition Chair in May 2023 if they are selected.
3. If selected, finalists will present their research in form of a poster AND oral presentation at the IFT FIRST 2023 Annual Event.

## FINAL ROUND PROCEDURES

### Poster Presentation

Finalists will present their posters during the IFT FIRST 2023 Annual Event. Posters must be smaller than the display board provided by IFT (4 ft. tall x 8 ft. wide).

1. Finalists will present their research to judges, as well as other event attendees, during the 60–90-minute poster session.
2. The posters may include, but are not limited to, sections detailing
  - a. The purpose of the work
  - b. Experimental methodology/design
  - c. Results
  - d. Significance of the results
3. All text and images should be with high resolution and be clearly visible from a short distance.
4. Finalists are expected to stand by their posters during the poster session and be prepared to introduce their research for 3-5 min and answer the judges' questions.

### Judging

Posters will be judged based on the criteria below.

Poster Evaluation Criteria	50 points total
Organization and presentation of content, data, and visuals	15 points total
Professionalism and scholarship of presentation	10 points
Explanation of objectives and background	5 points
Presentation and explanation of experimental methodology	5 points
Presentation and explanation of results	5 points
Explanation and soundness of conclusions	5 points

1. Posters will be judged by a jury of at least three (3) IFT members representing academia, industry, and/or government.
2. No judge may vote on research presented by a member of their institution; adjustments will be made for this factor.

## Oral Presentation

1. Finalists will present their research during the IFT FIRST 2023 Annual Event.
2. The presentation is limited to ten (10) minutes per speaker, plus an additional five (5) minutes to answer questions from judges.
3. The presentation should outline the scope of the research, study methodology and design, results, and significance of the results.

## Judging

1. Presentations will be judged based on the criteria below.

<b>Oral Presentation Judging Criteria</b>	<b>50 points total</b>
Organization and presentation of content	15 points
Professionalism and scholarship of presentation	10 points
Explanation of objectives and background	5 points
Presentation and explanation of experimental methodology	5 points
Presentation and explanation of results	5 points
Explanation and soundness of conclusions	5 points
Ability to answer judges' questions	5 points

2. Oral presentations will be judged by a jury of at least three (3) IFT members representing academia, industry, and/or government.
3. No judge may vote on research presented by a member of their institution; adjustments will be made for this factor.

## AWARDS

1. All finalists will be awarded a \$500.00 travel award to attend the IFT FIRST 2023 Annual Event in Chicago, IL.
2. Finalists are required to attend IFT FIRST 2023 to be eligible for the travel award.
3. A certificate will be presented to each finalist, as well as the first, second, and third place awards (\$1,000, \$750, and \$500, respectively) during the IFTSA Closing Ceremony during the URC awards announcement.
4. Prize money will be delivered to the winners by mail following the IFT FIRST 2023 Annual Meeting.



<b>Placement</b>	<b>Award</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> place	\$1000 and travel reimbursement up to \$500
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	\$750 and travel reimbursement up to \$500
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	\$500 and travel reimbursement up to \$500
4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> , and 6 <sup>th</sup> place	Travel reimbursement up to \$500

### **NOTE**

Any team or team member that does not follow the IFT Event Code of Conduct will risk being disqualified.

### **QUESTIONS**

Questions regarding competition eligibility, rules, and submission of abstracts and/or verification letters should be directed to the Competition Chair ([iftsa.unc@gmail.com](mailto:iftsa.unc@gmail.com)).