

Food Scientist

Design what goes in the package, and make sure it is safe, stable and the same every time.

TYPICAL PAY

\$83,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$53k to \$139k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

4 to 5 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Food and beverage plants, product development kitchens, testing lab...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Chemistry, biology and math. Cooking at home helps more than you would think, because you need a feel for food.
- 2 Bachelor of Science in food science** 4 years
Four years of food chemistry, food microbiology, processing, packaging and sensory evaluation. Guelph, McGill, the University of British Columbia, Dalhousie, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Laval all run programs.
- 3 Co-op work terms** Adds 1 year
Four work terms stretch the degree to five years and usually turn into a job offer.
- 4 First job** Year 1
Quality assurance on a plant floor, or junior product development in a pilot kitchen.
- 5 Specialise** After 3 to 5 years
Move deeper into product development, food safety systems, sensory science or regulatory affairs.

Pros and cons

- + You can point at something on a shelf and say you made that
- + Strong hiring, and more openings than graduates most years
- + Jobs in every province, wherever food is made
- Plant work means hairnets, early starts and cold rooms
- Marketing and cost usually beat your best technical idea
- Recalls and contamination scares are high pressure and public

Good to know

Canola is a Canadian invention

Canola was bred from rapeseed by scientists at the University of Manitoba and Agriculture Canada in the 1970s to remove bitter compounds and harmful acids. The name comes from Canadian oil, I...

Guelph is the food school

The University of Guelph ranks first in Canada for food science and technology, and a large share of the food scientists working in Canadian plants came through it.

Optional boosts

Product development. Food safety systems. Sensory science. Regulatory affairs.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Food Products Scientist in Canada, wages (updated November 2025)
University of Guelph: Food Science degree
Canadian Institute of Food Science and Technology
Chemical Institute of Canada

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/food-scientist>



Scan for the full clicker