

Student Video Competition: Exploring AI in Food Science

Education, Extension & Outreach Division (EEOD) Sponsored Student Competition

Rules, Guidelines & Evaluation

Background

This competition offers an exciting opportunity for students to apply their expertise in food and science to explore how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming the food industry and food research.

Individuals and teams of up to four students are invited to submit an abstract in February outlining the AI-related topic they plan to feature. Selected teams will then move forward to create a dynamic 5-minute video, due in May, for a chance to win one of three cash prizes.

With the team's permission, all video submissions will be showcased on the EEOD's LinkedIn page, providing a platform for your work to educate and inspire a wide audience.

Competition Theme for 2026

Student teams are tasked with selecting an application or example of AI in the food industry or food research. Topics may include AI in food safety, quality assurance, product development, sustainability, consumer behavior analysis, or ingredient discovery. Teams should communicate how AI is being used to advance food science and address real-world challenges.

Purpose

The goals of this competition are to:

- Encourage student participation in food science education and outreach initiatives.
- Motivate students to explore how AI and data-driven technologies are advancing the food industry.
- Promote the EEOD Division to the next generation of food science educators and innovators.
- Develop a library of educational videos highlighting applications of AI in food science to inspire and inform a global audience.

Awards

Up to three awards will be presented:

1. First Place: \$1000 per team
2. Second Place: \$750 per team
3. Third Place: \$500 per team

Schedule

1. Preliminary abstract submission deadline: Monday, February 16, 2026, 11:59 p.m. (CT)
2. Finalists notified and feedback shared with teams: Sunday, March 1st, 2026
3. Video submission deadline: Monday, May 11, 2026, 11:59 p.m. (CT)
4. Winners announced: Sunday, June 21, 2026

General Competition Rules

1. Teams may not enter their video in more than one IFT competition.
2. Entries must be the student's work. Faculty Advisors may be consulted but may not be a major contributor to the actual work. Similarly, the work must not be outsourced to someone else or a company to produce.
3. Students are welcome to use Chat GPT or other AI platforms for their abstract submission but must ensure that all information presented is accurate and that credible sources are cited.
4. Abstracts will be checked for plagiarism using Turnitin and Google Searches.
5. Videos produced for students' course work is eligible for submission.
6. The judges will determine penalties for violations of competition rules e.g., abstracts >300 words, videos > 5 minutes.

Eligibility

1. Individuals may participate. Teams must have no more than four members.
2. All team members must be enrolled at the same university.
3. Teams may consist of undergraduate and/or graduate students.
4. All team members must be an IFT member at the time of the initial preliminary abstract submission.
5. All team members must be enrolled in a food science or related program during the semester of the competition (Jan – May).
6. Each team is required to have a faculty advisor. This ensures that all teams receive the guidance and support needed to succeed throughout the competition. The faculty advisor should be from the same institution as the student team.

Abstract Submission Preliminary Round Procedures

Team Roster and Faculty Sponsor Information

Upon filling out your online submission, you will be asked to include the following:

1. **Team Information:** Team name, institution, country, number of members
2. **Team Captain:** First name, last name, e-mail, IFT member number, degree seeking (undergraduate or graduate)
3. **Team Members:** First name, last name, e-mail, IFT member number, degree seeking (undergraduate or graduate)
4. **Faculty Advisor Information:** Full name, position/title, department, institution, e-mail, phone

Abstract Submission Guidelines

An **abstract submission template** is provided as a separate document. Your abstract should include the following:

1. **Identify the focus area** — Clearly state how AI is being applied within the food industry or food research (e.g., food safety, quality assurance, product development, sustainability, consumer insights).
2. **Explain the significance** — Describe why this application of AI is important or innovative in advancing food science or addressing an existing challenge.
3. **Summarize key scientific principles** — Provide a brief overview of the food science concepts or data science methods that underpin the topic.
4. **Highlight real-world impact** — Discuss potential or demonstrated outcomes (e.g., improved efficiency, enhanced safety, waste reduction, better product quality).
5. **List of references used**, formatted in accordance with APA 7th edition guidelines (<https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/references>).

Please ensure your abstract complies with the following rules and guidelines:

1. Does not exceed 300 words, with references excluded from the word count. **A penalty of 2 marks will be applied for every additional 50 words over the limit.**
2. Does not include in-text citations.
3. Includes a list of references used that is formatted according to the APA 7th edition guidelines. References should be from credible sources which may include but are not limited to the following: peer-reviewed journal articles, books, and government or industry websites.

- Chat GPT may be used but must be cited in the reference section and students are responsible for ensuring that the information presented is accurate and supported by credible sources.

Judging

The Competition Chair will distribute the abstracts to a panel of 5-6 judges, which will include representatives from the EOD. Each judge will assess and rank the abstracts according to criteria below. After individual evaluations, the judges will convene to compare rankings and select up to six teams to be invited to submit 5-minute videos in May. Feedback will be provided to teams whose abstracts were not selected for video submission.

Abstract Evaluation Rubric

Each category is worth **3 points each** for a **total of 12 points**. The following rating descriptions will be used by the judges when evaluating each of the criteria.

Excellent (3 points): The work meets all expectations to a high degree, demonstrating strong quality, attention to detail, and effective execution. All elements are polished, cohesive, and contribute to an outstanding final product.

Good (2 points): The work meets expectations but minor improvements could enhance certain aspects.

Satisfactory (1 point): The work meets basic requirements, though there are noticeable areas for improvement. Some elements may lack polish or effectiveness but still serve their purpose.

Insufficient (0 points): The work falls below expectations, with significant issues in quality, clarity, or execution. Critical elements are missing, unclear, or poorly executed.

Criteria	Description for Excellence	Points
Introduction to AI Application	The AI topic is clearly introduced, including relevant background information and a concise explanation of what the AI technology or tool is designed to do.	
Technical Basis and Application Context	The abstract accurately explains the scientific and/or computational principles behind the AI application and clearly describes how it is being implemented in food research or industry practice.	
Relevance and Contribution to Food Science	The abstract effectively conveys why the AI application is important to food science, highlighting its potential impact on food safety, quality, innovation, sustainability, or efficiency.	
Grammar and Clarity	English is grammatically correct. Technical terms or acronyms are clearly defined or replaced with familiar	

Criteria	Description for Excellence	Points
	language. Writing is clear, concise, and well-organized, effectively conveying scientific and technological concepts to diverse audiences.	

A penalty of 2 marks will be applied for every additional 50 words over the limit

Video Submission Final Round Procedures

Video Submission Guidelines

Your 5-minute video should include the following:

1. **Introduction to the AI application or innovation** – Clearly describe the AI technology or approach being featured and its relevance to food science, the food industry, or food research.
2. **Background and context** – Provide a brief overview of how and why this AI application was developed, including any challenges in the field it aims to address (e.g., food safety, quality control, sustainability, product development, or consumer insights).
3. **Scientific and technological explanation** – Summarize the underlying scientific or computational principles (e.g., data analysis, machine learning, image recognition, predictive modeling) and explain how they are applied in this context.
4. **Real-world impact and future potential** – Discuss how this use of AI benefits the food system, improves efficiency, accuracy, or safety, and what future opportunities it presents for the food industry.
5. **List of references used**, formatted in accordance with APA 7th edition. This should be submitted as a .doc or .docx video transcript file. The EEOD will use your transcript to ensure accurate captioning when the video is added to IFT’s YouTube Channel.

Please ensure your video complies with the following rules and guidelines:

1. The videos, while providing scientific information, should be easy for the general public to understand.
2. Students have the option to film their videos, use animation software, use AI software, or create animated PowerPoint presentations. Here are a few program suggestions:
 - CapCut (free) – A user-friendly app that simplifies video creation. <https://www.capcut.com/>
 - Canva (free) – Offers video templates to make the process easier. <https://www.canva.com/>
 - PowerPoint – Slides can be animated and recorded as video.

- Check if your institution provides licenses for additional video production software, such as VideoScribe. <https://www.videoscribe.co/>
3. Students must only use images, video clips, and music that are permitted for reuse e.g., creative commons licensed: <https://search.creativecommons.org/>. See more details under “Competition’s Copyright Rules” below.
 4. Team videos must be submitted in .mp4 or .mov format, with a minimum resolution of 1080p HD.
 5. Videos must not exceed 5 minutes in length. A **deduction of 2 marks will be applied for every additional minute over the 5-minute limit**. While there is no penalty for videos shorter than 5 minutes, teams are encouraged to use the full time to thoroughly introduce their topic and provide sufficient information.
 6. Students must provide a transcript (in English) for their video as a .doc or .docx file.
 7. A reference list citing all sources used must be uploaded separately as a .doc or .docx file. Please also **give credit to the video editing/creation software used and sources of images, video clips, and music**.
 8. Each team must complete and submit a *Copyright Confirmation Form*, confirming that they have read, reviewed and adhered to the competition's copyright rules outlined below.

Summary of Video Submission Files

- .mp4 or .mov video file with minimum 1080p resolution
- .doc or .docx file with video transcript in English
- .doc or .docx file with reference list including video editing software used
- Filled and signed Copyright Confirmation Form (pdf or .doc/.docx)

Judging

The EEOD Competition Chair will share the videos with the same panel of 5 or 6 judges that evaluated the abstracts. Each judge will evaluate and rank the videos based on how effectively the topic is introduced and the quality of the information presented (see rubric below). The judges will then meet to compare their rankings and select up to three competition winners. Feedback will be provided to teams that submitted videos that were not selected as winners.

Video Evaluation Rubric

Each category is worth **3 points each** for a **total of 18 points**. The following rating descriptions will be used by the judges when evaluating each of the criteria.

Excellent (3 points): The work meets all expectations to a high degree, demonstrating strong quality, attention to detail, and effective execution. All elements are polished, cohesive, and contribute to an outstanding final product.

Good (2 points): The work meets expectations but minor improvements could enhance certain aspects.

Satisfactory (1 point): The work meets basic requirements, though there are noticeable areas for improvement. Some elements may lack polish or effectiveness but still serve their purpose.

Insufficient (0 points): The work falls below expectations, with significant issues in quality, clarity, or execution. Critical elements are missing, unclear, or poorly executed.

Criteria	Description for Excellence	Points
Introduction to AI Application	The AI topic is clearly introduced, including relevant background information, context of its development or use, and its impact on food science, the food industry, or food research.	
Scientific and Technological Explanation	Multiple relevant and credible sources are used to explain the AI application and its underlying scientific or computational principles. Information is accurate, well-supported, and properly cited in accordance with APA 7th edition formatting.	
Organization	The video has a clear beginning, middle, and end that introduces the AI topic, explains its science and technology, and concludes with key takeaways or implications. The structure is easy to follow, and the main messages are expressed effectively.	
Grammar and Vocabulary	English is grammatically correct in both the video and the transcript. Technical or AI-related terms are clearly defined or explained in simple language. Scientific and technological information is communicated in a way that is accessible and engaging for a general audience.	
Delivery and Narration	Narration is clear, well-paced, and engaging. The tone is confident and professional, maintaining consistent style and energy throughout. Speech is expressive and enhances viewer interest and understanding.	
Video Quality (Visuals and Sound)	The video is visually and audibly engaging, with high-quality graphics, visuals, and sound. Music and sound effects enhance the content without distraction, and transitions are smooth. All elements are well-balanced,	

	with clear, high-resolution footage or animations.	
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2 mark deduction for every 1 minute over the 5-minute limit

Competition's Copyright Rules

The use of copyrighted materials, including images, video clips, and music, is strictly forbidden in this video competition. All submissions must utilize original or appropriately licensed content to ensure compliance with copyright regulations.

Using copyrighted materials, such as images, video clips, and music, in a video without proper permission is a violation of copyright law and can lead to serious legal consequences. Copyright infringement not only disrespects the original creator's rights and intellectual property, but it can also result in penalties, including fines or removal of the content from public platforms. Additionally, using copyrighted materials without authorization undermines the integrity of your work, as it suggests a lack of originality and respect for creative ownership. By avoiding the use of copyrighted materials and opting for resources with appropriate licenses, such as Creative Commons, you protect yourself legally, ensure your work is ethical, and promote a culture of respect for intellectual property.

Below your list of references used to debunk your myth, teams are required to **give credit to the video editing/creation software used and sources of images, video clips, and music.**

The following article provides valuable guidance on the types of images, video clips, and music that are permissible for use, as well as those that should be avoided.

https://www.aiche.org/sites/default/files/docs/award/copyright_information_gusvc.pdf

Creative Commons

Students can find images, video clips, and music with Creative Commons licensing by using various online platforms specifically designed for sharing content that is free to reuse. Websites like Unsplash, Pexels, and Pixabay offer a wide range of high-quality images that are free for personal or commercial use, often without attribution. For video clips, platforms like Vimeo and Pexels Videos provide royalty-free content under Creative Commons licenses. For music, Free Music Archive, Jamendo, and ccMixter are excellent resources that offer tracks available for reuse. When searching for media, students can refine their searches by including terms like "Creative Commons" or filtering results to show only reusable content. It's essential to review the specific licensing terms for each piece of content, as some may require attribution or have additional conditions for use. By leveraging these resources and paying attention to licensing details, students can effectively avoid copyright infringement in their videos.

Video Posting on Social Media

After the video competition concludes, qualifying videos will be uploaded to the EEOD's LinkedIn page. Qualifying videos include those that adhered to copyright regulations, presented valid scientific arguments, and cited credible sources.

The transcripts provided by each team will be used to correct errors in automatic closed captioning. Additionally, reference lists will be posted below the videos. All videos will be publicly accessible.

Questions

Please contact the Competition Chair, Patricia Hingston (patricia.hingston@ubc.ca) or IFT staff Melanie Bozek (mbozek@ift.org).