

DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION, FOOD STUDIES, AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Food Studies | M.A.

with concentrations in Food Culture and Food Systems

Program Director: Jennifer Schiff Berg

Food is the nation's largest industry, employing more than 10 million people in food processing, preparation, and sales. The revolution in food consumption, foodways, and production – international cuisines, quality ingredients, food systems, global marketing, agricultural concerns – demands professionals who combine food expertise and hands-on experience with a strong understanding of the role of food in culture and society.

What is food studies?

Food studies is an umbrella term that includes foodways, gastronomy, and culinary history as well as historical, cultural, political, economic, and geographic examinations of food production and consumption, using food as a “lens” through which to view, explore, analyze, and interpret society in the present as well as in the past.

Why pursue an M.A. in Food Studies at NYU Steinhardt?

- Study with top faculty and industry professionals in New York City
 - Learn through an interdisciplinary approach to food studies
 - Pursue exceptional work experiences through internships in a vast array of potential employment sites, including leading food establishments, corporations, media, publishers, and nonprofit agencies
 - Gain a global perspective through our popular summer study abroad program in Tuscany
 - Develop the critical thinking and research skills needed for a successful career
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What kinds of students apply to the M.A. in Food Studies?

Join college graduates from a wide variety of backgrounds in the sciences, social sciences, and humanities who share your passion for food.

What can I do with an M.A. in Food Studies?

Graduates find careers in publishing, advertising and marketing, communications and media, writing and editing, public relations, product and recipe development food systems development, managing food procurement, food distribution, and environmental analysis.

Required Courses

- New Graduate Student Seminar
- Contemporary Issues in Food Studies
- Food Systems I: Agriculture
- Food Policy
- Food and Culture
- Nutrition in Food Studies
- Research Methods
- Research Applications

Food Culture Concentration

- Food History
- Comparative Cuisines
- Food Writing
- Theoretical Perspectives in Food Culture

Food Systems Concentration

- Food Systems II: Processing
- Food Markets: Concepts and Cases
- Waste, Water, and the Urban Environment
- International Food Regulation

Electives

- The Role of Food in Social Movements
- Field Trips in Food
- Beverages
- Food in the Arts
- International Study in Foods and Nutrition (Tuscany, Italy)
- Advanced Topics in Food Studies

Degree Requirements

40-credit program

- Core, specialization, and elective course work
- Cooperative work or field experience
- English competency
- Research

A 34-credit program is available for those who have completed the 6-month certificate program at the French Culinary Institute or Institute for Culinary Education in New York City.

Prerequisites

- E33.0085 Intro to Food Science (3 credits) or equivalent
- At least six months or 500 hours of full-time food-related work experience

Unfulfilled prerequisites may be completed during the master's program and must be taken in addition to the required M.A. credits.

Which concentration should I choose?

Food Culture examines the social, economic, culture, and psychological factors that have influenced food consumption practices and patterns in the past and present. Students research historical, sociological, and anthropological aspects of food.

Food Systems traces commodities and agricultural concerns from production through consumption. Students explore environmental, ethical, and economic factors in food production and distribution, with an emphasis on international, national, and local food systems.

Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree (or foreign credentials equivalent to the U.S. Bachelor's degree)
- A completed, dated, and signed graduate admission application form
- Statement of Purpose/Personal Statement
- Résumé or Curriculum Vitae
- Official transcripts
- TOEFL scores for international applicants
- Application Fee

How to Apply

Visit www.steinhardt.nyu.edu/application to access the application or contact the Office of Graduate Admissions at 212 998 5030.

The application deadline is February 1 for fall admission and November 1 for spring admission.

Further Information

Visit www.steinhardt.nyu.edu/foodstudies, call 212 998 5580, or send an email to nutrition@nyu.edu.



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