MASTER’S IN FOOD STUDIES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

1. How do I register? When do I register?

Each semester, you need to make an appointment with a graduate advisor. These appointments may be in person or over the phone. Prior to the appointment, you should pre-select classes and make a list of pertinent questions. Students in their first semester meet three times as a group in New Student Seminar. We devote one of these sessions to advising.

2. What kind of job can I get when I graduate?

Food Studies graduates find jobs in all areas within the food industry.

FOOD CULTURE
• Food Culture graduates find jobs within 5 broad categories:
  • ** Publishing (magazines, newspapers, online sources)
  • ** Public relations (restaurants, food lobby groups, cookbooks, food organizations)
  • ** Marketing (for restaurants, celebrity chefs, cookbooks, organizations)
  • ** Nonprofit work (education, food/hunger advocacy groups)
  • ** Food operations (wine importers/distributors, restaurants, retail)

FOOD SYSTEMS
• For graduates of Food Systems, common job categories include:
  • ** Local and national governmental (city government, federal government, food regulations, relations between industry and government)
  • ** NGO work in advocacy and policy (farming, labor, food scarcity, trade)
  • ** Development organizations (community building, national programs, international trade and aid organizations)
  • ** Food production companies (producers and manufacturers of food items)
  • ** Food distribution companies (importation, transportation, and retail)

3. Should I go part-time or full-time?

We highly recommend that students attend part-time. By pursuing related jobs and internship opportunities while in school, we believe that students get more out of the program. However, in certain circumstances, a full-time commitment makes more sense for some students. We suggest discussing the options with a Department advisor. For financial aid purposes, part-time means 6 credits and full-time means 12 or more credits per semester.

4. How many credits do I need to graduate?

The Food Studies degree is 40 credits. However, if a student has completed a comprehensive certificate program in culinary or pastry arts, in addition to a baccalaureate, he/she is entitled to matriculate for a 34-credit program. Additionally,
if a student has completed a masters degree in another field, the 34-credit options also exists.

5. How do I find out about what classes are offered?

Every two years, each school at NYU publishes a bulletin of all available courses. However, much of this information becomes out-of-date quickly. Steinhardt’s bulletin is available at steinhardt.nyu.edu/graduate_admissions/bulletin. For more up-to-date information, see the NYU course schedule (www.nyu.edu/registrar/listings) and individual departments’ course schedules, which are usually linked through department websites. For the schedule and descriptions of courses offered through the Department of Nutrition, Food Studies, and Public Health, please visit steinhardt.nyu.edu/nutrition/courses.

6. Is there a strict curriculum, or do I choose my own classes?

The Food Studies curriculum is broken down into three categories – core requirements, concentration requirements, and electives. For additional information about requirements, see section below on core classes.

7. What are the core classes? What are the concentration requirements?

All students are required to take five core classes and two research classes. They must also take four additional classes within their area of concentration – Food Systems or Food Culture. Substitutions may be permitted after consultation with a Department advisor. All of these courses are worth 3 credits. For additional information about requirements, see the curriculum summary (steinhardt.nyu.edu/scmsAdmin/uploads/000/856/FOOD-CUL_SYS_2007-08_CURRICULUM.pdf).

CORE CURRICULUM

Core classes:
- E33.2017 Contemporary Issues in Food Studies
- E33.2033 Food Systems I: Agriculture
- E33.2015 Food Policy
- E33.2191 Food and Culture
- Ess.2215 Nutrition in Food Studies

Research classes (required):
- E33.2190 Research Methods
- E33.2061 Research Applications
- or E33.2063 Research apprenticeship

AREAS OF CONCENTRATION

Food Systems
- E33.2016 Food Markets: Concept and Cases
- E33.2036  Water, Waste and the Urban Environment
- E33.2034  Food Systems II: Processing and Industrialization
- E33.2110  International Food Regulation

**Food Culture**
- E33.2012  Food History
- E33.2019  Comparative Cuisines
- E33.2021  Food Writing
- E33.2205  Theoretical Perspectives in Food Culture

8. **Where can I find the syllabi set for the core classes?**

Syllabi change yearly to reflect the most recent developments and literature in the field. Samples of syllabi from recent years are available for your reference:

- E33.2191  Food and Culture
- E33.2017  Contemporary Issues in Food Studies
- E33.2012  Food History

9. **What are the two specialization tracks?**

In brief, the two specializations are: FOOD CULTURE, which examines the social, economic, cultural, 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, which explores the food systems, tracing commodities and agricultural concerns from production through consumption. Emphasizing international, national and local food systems, students explore environmental, ethical, and economic factors in food production and distribution.

10. **What if I'm interested in both food and nutrition (or public health)? Is there a joint degree?**

No joint graduate degrees are allowed at NYU. However, students have many opportunities to take nutrition and public health courses within the Department. Students can also take classes across Steinhardt and, with permission from advisor and professor, from academic departments in other schools at NYU.

11. **May I enroll in courses outside the Department, Steinhardt and beyond NYU?**

Students may enroll in most classes offered through Steinhardt without special permission. For classes in other schools at NYU, students need to get advanced approval from an advisor within our department and permission from the professor of the course and his/her home department. Courses in other universities require both advanced permission from a Department advisor and permission from the other
institution. In addition, an official transcript must be sent to the Department upon completion of the course.

12. Are GREs required?

As of now, we do not require that students take the GREs. If you have already taken the exam and earned a high grade, please feel free to include your score in your application.

13. What prerequisite courses are there?

There are no prerequisites. However, we require that students complete a hands-on culinary experience prior to graduation. We treat this as a co-requisite, rather than a prerequisite for the program. Many options are available for students who need to fulfill this requirement. NYU offers a 3-credit culinary course through the Department - E33.0085 Intro to Foods & Food Science. We also recommend courses at The French Culinary Institute (www.frenchculinary.com) and the Institute of Culinary Education (www.iceculinary.com). Classes at most other culinary and pastry schools are also accepted. Prerequisite credits must be taken in addition to the 34 or 40 master’s degree credits required. In addition to this hands-on food experience, students are expected to have completed at least six months of full-time food-related work prior to graduation. This can be done in any area within the food industry. Entering students meet with a faculty advisor to review transcripts and other documentary evidence to determine if these prerequisites have been fulfilled or still require fulfillment.

14. Do I need a culinary degree?

While we do not require that students hold a culinary degree, we certainly value the accomplishment. All students are required to have completed some form of hands on culinary (or pastry) experience prior to graduation. See previous question-- What prerequisite courses are there? for more information about this requirement.

15. What if I went to culinary school? Do I take fewer classes? Am I exempt from any classes?

If you attended a comprehensive culinary school, with approximately 700 hours of instruction, in addition to holding a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution, then you are eligible for a 34-credit master’s degree (compared to the typical 40-credit degree). The 6-month certificate programs offered at The French Culinary Institute and the Institute for Culinary Education in Manhattan are examples of acceptable culinary programs.
16. I’ve taken graduate courses at another University, do those credits transfer over?

If you have taken graduate level classes, that did not serve towards another degree, at another university within the past 10 years and received a B or higher, you may receive advanced standing when you matriculate. The courses must be approved by a Department advisor.

17. Does the Food Studies graduate program require an internship? When should I do it?

We strongly urge all Food Studies students to pursue as many internships as possible during their graduate career. We maintain an email list serve for all currently enrolled graduate students, where we continually post notices regarding internship and job opportunities. We recommend that students pursue different positions each semester.

18. Can I receive credit for participating in an internship?

We urge students to pursue internships while in the program. However, there is no graduate internship course through which students receive credit. On RARE occasions, if the organization demands that a student receive credit, then pending advisor approval, he/she may register and pay for a one-credit independent study.

19. Does the Department offer any study abroad opportunities?

NYU operates a number of campuses and maintains relationships with other universities around the world, thus providing students with a variety of study abroad opportunities. Many departments offer courses in these locations throughout the year. The Study Abroad office has more information about these options (www.nyu.edu/studyabroad). The Department of Nutrition, Food Studies, and Public Health regularly offers courses abroad. The most popular of these for Food Studies students is “Italian Cuisine and the Mediterranean Diet,” typically scheduled for late May through early June. For more information about this course, go to steinhardt.nyu.edu/study_abroad/programs/Italian_Cuisine_and_the_Mediterranean_Diet.

20. Are there informational sessions offered?

We offer 2-hour informational sessions once per month. You can find these dates on our online calendar (steinhardt.nyu.edu/events) or call the Department at 212-998-5580.

21. Is it possible to visit classes?

We urge prospective students to visit classes before or during their application process. You should download a current schedule from our website, select the
course or courses that you want to visit and send an email with your exact request (date, and course name/number) to Jennifer Berg (Jennifer.berg@nyu.edu). We request two weeks notice.

22. May I speak to current students?

When you come to visit classes, please feel free to introduce yourself to current students. This will allow you an opportunity to get a student perspective of the program.

23. Can non-matriculated students take classes?

Yes, non-matriculated students can take up to 12 credits. Students who are in the middle of the application process and want to begin immediately, or students who are still uncertain about their plans, may opt to take a couple of classes before matriculating. Any form of proof that you have obtained a bachelor's degree is typically sufficient, including an official transcript or a copy of your undergraduate diploma. If a student is taking 6 or more credits, he/she must have health insurance. See question below on health insurance for more information.

24. What percentage of applicants receive acceptance into Food Studies?

All students who meet the basic requirements will be considered for admission and their applications are processed for review. The requirements include a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0, an up-to-date resume, and a well-crafted essay. Previous food experience is strongly encouraged. Applications pass through two screenings. After graduate admissions reviews applications, they then pass to the Department’s admissions committee for consideration. Graduate admissions, not the Department, contacts prospective students with the final decision.

25. How long does it take to hear from graduate admissions?

Graduate admissions handles applications for all departments within Steinhardt. Applicants generally hear from graduate admissions within a few weeks. But during the review months following application deadlines, the process may take longer. Although there are strict deadlines for specific semester start dates, graduate admissions reviews applications, makes decisions, and informs applicants continually throughout the year. Please be advised that there is no way for the Department to track the status of an application.

26. What is the average age of the students?

Students range in age from recent college graduates to retirees. Most students are in their late twenties.
27. How many students are in the graduate Food Studies program?

At any given time, approximately 90 students (full or part-time) are enrolled in the Food Studies program. An average of 20-30 students matriculate each fall, and 10-20 join in each spring.

28. How many students are in the classes?

We limit most classes to 25 students; however seminar, writing, and research classes are often smaller.

29. How long does it take a typical student to complete the master's program?

Most graduate Food Studies students attend part-time and take between 2 and 3 years to complete the degree. Full-time students can complete the program faster, but we do not recommend this. Students get more out of the program and receive stronger job opportunities by enrolling only part-time and working/interning while studying.

30. How much does the program cost?

Costs for the program are on a per-credit basis, plus basic registration fees. In general, cost per credit is reduced slightly as credit load increases. For current cost structures, visit [www.nyu.edu/bursar/tuition.fees/rates.07/springfall.gr.tuitionGe.html](http://www.nyu.edu/bursar/). Additional information is available at NYU’s Office of the Bursar ([www.nyu.edu/bursar](http://www.nyu.edu/bursar)).

31. How do I find out about financial aid?

Generally students apply for federal student aid through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, known as FAFSA ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)). Students apply directly to Steinhardt, not through the Department. In order to qualify for full-time financial aid, which covers tuition plus expenses, you must be taking at least 12 credits. To qualify for part-time financial aid, which generally covers only tuition, you are required to take 6 or more credits. Steinhardt’s financial aid webpage has more information about financial aid options ([steinhardt.nyu.edu/financial_aid](http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/financial_aid)).

32. How do I apply for scholarships?

A limited number of scholarships are available to students who have completed at least one year of graduate school. As with financial aid, students apply directly to Steinhardt ([steinhardt.nyu.edu/financial_aid](http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/financial_aid)). Many outside organizations offer scholarships for graduate students. Listings for some of these can be found through the Department website ([steinhardt.nyu.edu/nutrition/resources/jobs](http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/nutrition/resources/jobs)), but we encourage students to search elsewhere for funding opportunities, as many available options are not posted. Be certain to check the organization’s website for application deadlines.
33. Do I need health insurance? Where can I get it?

All graduate students are required to have health insurance. NYU offers a range of health insurance plans, depending on students’ needs and credit load. If you have health insurance from another company or organization outside of NYU, you may opt out of the university plan. For more information, visit the Student Health Center’s health insurance webpage (www.nyu.edu/shc/about/insurance.html).

34. What are the housing options available for students?

While on-campus graduate student housing is available, it remains very limited. The Off Campus Housing Office assists students in finding accommodations outside of the University (www.nyu.edu/housing/offcampus). A variety of other lists are also available to students in need of housing in New York, including the Village Voice (www.villagevoice.com), Craigslist (www.craigslist.org), and The New York Times (nytimes.com/pages/realestate). For more information about housing options, visit NYU’s Department of Housing (www.nyu.edu/housing).

35. What transportation is available for students?

Most students take advantage of New York’s vast public transportation system while studying at NYU. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority’s (MTA) website has information about available subways, buses, and trains, including maps and relevant schedules (www.mta.info). NYU also provides shuttle and trolley services between all dorms and major education centers throughout the city. For more information about these services, visit the campus transportation section of NYU’s Office of Public Transportation (www.nyu.edu/public.safety/transportation).

36. How do I get an ID card?

Student IDs are available at the 7 East 12th Street (between University Place and Fifth Avenue), Tel: 212-443-2273. For more information, visit www.nyu.edu/oiss/unilife/explore/id.html.