

Food Science



Human Existence is maintained on the basis that we give our bodies access to sufficient nutrition. An understanding of food at a scientific level is vital to better understand its impact on our health and our economy's health, as New Zealand relies heavily on exporting food.

INDUSTRY ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To become a food scientist/technologist, most employers require you to have a Bachelor's degree in food science or food technology that is approved by the New Zealand Institute of Food Science and Technology (NZIFST).

HOW MUCH COULD I EARN AFTER MY DEGREE?

Pay varies depending on the region where they work and their level of experience. Graduates usually earn between \$40,000 and \$45,000 a year and after two years may earn up to \$65,000 a year.

WHAT ARE THE CHANCES OF GETTING A JOB?

Job opportunities for food scientists/technologists are on the rise, because the number of food science/technology graduates is falling while demand for their skills is increasing. A Department of Labour report showed the number of food scientist/technologist vacancies grew by 37% between 2004 and 2006, as manufacturers focused on developing more innovative products.

WHAT TYPE OF EMPLOYERS CAN I WORK FOR?

Most food scientists/technologists work at large food companies, such as Heinz Wattie's or Fonterra in product development. Food scientists/technologists can also work in the government sector to conduct research at organisations such as:

- HortResearch
- Plant and Food Research
- AgResearch

CAREER PROGRESSION

Food scientists/technologists usually progress to more senior roles after five or six years. At the senior level, they may work as product development, quality assurance or technical managers. They may also move into marketing and sales roles with food companies or work for food safety authorities.

Information Source: www.careers.govt.nz

Rebecca's decision to study food science as a major in her science degree at AUT wasn't a hard one to make. "The food industry in New Zealand and globally offers so many opportunities for food scientists and technologists, in a wide range of areas such as nutrition, quality management, quality assurance, food safety, product development, education – the list goes on and on. I wanted a sustainable career that could take me anywhere and offered variety. Food science was a logical choice."



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