

Produce Safety Immersion Program

Participant Expectations and Responsibilities

The purpose of the Produce Safety Immersion Program is to help further develop produce safety professionals. Ten-fifteen promising produce safety professionals will benefit from instruction, experiences, and mentoring through this program. This document provides more details on the program and expectations of participants. Questions can be directed to Katie McGowan at kmcgowan@unitedfresh.org.

1. What is the time commitment?
 - a. Over the course of eleven months, participants should plan to spend approximately 3 weeks participating in immersion experiences, depending on the extent to which they take advantage of optional enrichment activities.
 - b. Participants will travel to an in-person meeting in early 2022. This trip will include site visits and a welcome reception. Throughout the year participants are expected to join virtual education sessions (format includes webinars, “hang out”, peer presentations, etc.), with an average of two events per month covering topics indicated on the tentative schedule. A pre-read may be required (no more than 1 hr. each) for some meetings/webinars. Participants will also attend an in-person meeting in fall 2022 to present their final projects.
 - c. Participants will complete two projects to demonstrate their growth and critical thinking skills. In the first project, participants will work together in small mentored teams to present a short research report, which will require 5-8 hours of preparation. The group presentations will be given halfway through the program and participants will receive feedback from their mentors and peers. Each participant will also present a final solo project to the group (roughly another 5-8 hours of work). This will take place at the concluding in-person meeting in the fall of 2022. Mentors are assigned to support participants through each of the two projects.
 - d. Participants are encouraged to set aside additional time each month to connect with their assigned mentor.
2. Do I need to participate in all activities?
 - a. Yes, full participation is required, with the exception of optional networking and enrichment activities (approximately 1 optional opportunity per quarter).
3. What is the fee?
 - a. The \$7995 fee includes registrations for the 2022 Washington Conference and 2022 annual meeting. The fee also includes sixteen virtual sessions and two larger in-person events in 2022. The program will cover hotel and meals during these trips, as applicable. Participants will be responsible for their own transportation and related travel expenses.
 - b. The fee must be paid prior to the beginning of the Class Three launch in January 2022.
4. Will a specific mentor be assigned to me?
 - a. We will pair you with two mentors, one for the group presentation and the other for the final presentation but we encourage developing relationships with all

Produce Safety Immersion Program

mentors to grow your network.

- b. Participants will also be assigned a “peer connection” from the Immersion Program Alumni group to provide informal guidance, support, and a different perspective of the industry.
5. How long is the program?
 - a. The program begins in January 2022 and concludes in the fall of 2022. The hope is that the connections that are made through the program are long lasting.
6. Can I participate more than once?
 - a. No.
7. What happens if a participant changes jobs?
 - a. Participants are expected to complete the program regardless of employment. Refund will not be provided due to change in employment. It is the responsibility of the participant to work with employers to determine how to allocate the program fee.
8. Is there a limit to the number of participants from an individual company?
 - a. No, applicants are judged on their own merit, so there is no restriction on the number of applicants from a single company.
9. Is participation limited to participants in the US?
 - a. No, participation is not limited to individuals in the United States, however the program is delivered in English, and virtual sessions are generally held between 11 am – 6 pm Eastern (New York) time

Produce Safety Immersion Program