



Food Packaging Division

IFT STUDENT FOOD PACKAGING DEVELOPMENT COMPETITION 2025

Food Packaging Division Sponsored Competition

This is an annual international competition that honors advancements in student food packaging development. Impacts of participating in and/or winning this competition include:

- Participants will solve real-life food problems or needs (e.g., food waste reduction).
- Participants will enhance their knowledge about specific problems that relate to both food and packaging (e.g., development of packaging for a new food product).
- Students will apply the knowledge they have gained within the classroom.
- Participants will improve their teamwork skills.
- Participants will improve presentation skills.
- Participants will gain exposure and prestige.

THE CHALLENGE

Develop a packaging solution to address a problem or need related to food packaging from any of the following points of view (not limited to): food science, engineering, chemistry, marketing, design, legal, and education. Examples of topics are listed below:

- Packaging design of a new or an existing food product
- Food packaging materials
- Food packaging testing
- Food packaging technologies
- Active and Intelligent Packaging
- Nanotechnology in packaging
- Packaging machinery
- Food packaging and the environment, including:
 - Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of packaging
 - Circular economy in food packaging
 - Biodegradable and compostable packaging
 - Sustainable packaging solutions
 - Recycling and reusability of packaging
- Development of a new food product
- Packaging material or format processing
- Food development
- Packaging material or format properties
- Testing procedures
- Methodology
- Package design, including functional and aesthetic packaging design
- Machinery



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- Food economics
- Packaging economics
- Food safety
- Package safety
- Food supply chain
- Regulations
- Consumer perception and preferences
- Food storage
- Anti-counterfeiting packaging technologies
- Extended shelf-life packaging

Alternatively, you may write a short literature review instead of proposing a problem or need and its solution. If that is your choice, split the literature review into two parts: (1) problem or need and (2) proposed solutions by academia and/or industry.

Although it is not required, you or your team are encouraged to ask your professors or industrial professionals for advice on appropriate sources of information (industry practices, publications, and/or videos).

Show us innovation and creativity based on current or future packaging needs!

Guidelines

- Enter names and other personal information on the designated fields in the Entry Form.
- Enter your essay title in the Entry Form box called "Title of Essay."
- Write a concept created exclusively for the IFT Food Packaging Development Competition. See **ENTRY FORM** for specific concept content. Only clear and well-organized concepts that cover all the requested fields will be judged.
- Submission should be minimum 750 words and maximum 1500 words written in English. Full citations are excluded from word count.
- Write your essay using a word processor and upload during submission.
- Place quotes (e.g., any ideas not your own) in the essay's body. Do not use footnotes or endnotes.
- Include full references within the essay document. Reference style: MLA.
- Upload an illustration, image, or video link of a packaging prototype, if applicable.
- Your essay will be judged not only on the science, but also on creativity, innovation (avoid plagiarism and think outside the box!) including proposed problem or need and solution, feasibility, implementation, and how well you express yourself (spelling, punctuation, and grammar). Specifically, the following points should be clearly addressed in your essay:
 - Under "The problem or need":
 - Background of the problem or need
 - Justify why this problem needs to be solved or this need



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should be addressed

- (b) Under “Solution to the proposed problem or need”:
 - a. Propose a solution with evidence (e.g., market data, scientific information) that supports it and its importance to the actual food packaging sector
 - b. Is this solution an original food packaging idea, or is the idea a refinement of an existing one
 - c. Background of the solution
 - d. Feasibility of the solution in context of the current food supply chain
 - e. Thinking outside of the box – tell us why your solution is different
 - f. Possible implementation of the solution
 - g. Possible value created by the solution
 - h. Targeted users of your solution

ENTRY PROCESS

Entry forms will be accepted until April 30, 2025. Winners will be notified via e-mail prior to [IFT FIRST: Annual Event and Expo](#).

AWARDS

A general certificate along with monetary prizes of \$1,000, \$750, \$500 will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners, respectively. The Food Packaging Division may also recognize winners in additional ways, such as via newsletters or social media.

JUDGES AND JUDGING CRITERIA

A panel of experts in food packaging including academic and industry experts will judge the entries. Judges should be IFT Food Packaging Division members.

The submission will be evaluated on the following aspects: presentation, ability to address challenge, feasibility, creativity, innovation, implementation, spelling and grammar.