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Announcing the 2021/22 HQP Scholars



Alliance Innovations

A collaboration between OMAFRA and the University of Guelph

Welcome to a special edition of Alliance Innovations produced in partnership with Food from Thought.

This special edition newsletter features the [Highly Qualified Personnel \(HQP\) Scholarship program](#) that supports the development of highly skilled graduates at the University of Guelph who become future researchers, policy-makers, business leaders and innovators to meet the changing demands of the agri-food and rural sector.

The program is jointly funded by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs through the [Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance](#) and the Canada First Research Excellence Fund through [Food from Thought](#) at the University of Guelph.

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Congratulations to the 2021/22 Highly Qualified Personnel Scholars!

Meet the 2021/22 HQP Scholars

The University of Guelph is training the next generation of agri-food innovators, thanks to the Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) Scholarship program. The HQP program is a competitive scholarship program jointly funded by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs through the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance and the Canada First Research Excellence Fund through Food from Thought at the University of Guelph.

“The University of Guelph is a global leader in agri-food and rural research,” says Malcolm Campbell, vice-president (research) at the University of Guelph. “We are proud to work with our partners at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and the Food from Thought program to train the next generation of agri-food leaders and professionals who will have a profound positive impact on how our food is produced, processed, manufactured, and how it reaches consumers.”

“Education and innovation are fundamental to the agri-food sector thriving in the future so we’re proud to support the Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) Scholarship program,” said Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. “Developing agri-food leaders who are able to take innovation and research to the next level, will result in greater competitiveness, new technology development, and will grow our sector. These future leaders will help us build a resilient, and robust agri-food sector for generations to come.”

The HQP Scholarship program targets students with the potential to make significant contributions to the agri-food sector and to excel in their research and careers. Recipients are selected based on their academic achievements and strong initiative, leadership, and entrepreneurship qualities. Past recipients confirm the HQP program has helped them develop the skills to excel in the agri-food sector.

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Thank You Videos from 2020 HQP Scholars

Watch the ‘thank you’ videos from the 2020 HQP’s outlining the impact the scholarship has had – and will continue to have – on their lives.

Aarsha Surendren Thank You Video



HQP Scholar Recognition Event

On December 2, 2021, the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance and Food from Thought will host an online recognition event to highlight the achievements of the 2020/21 HQP scholars and to announce the 14 new 2021/22 HQP recipients.

During the event, 2020/21 HQP scholars will have the opportunity to present their industry-partner work. Each year HQP scholars and their [Arrell Food Institute](#) peers are paired with an organization or business to build new skills through experiential learning. Together, these teams tackle an agri-food problem and develop a solution that draws on the expertise of the participating students.

RSVP for the HQP Scholar Event

Explore the 2020/21 Community Partnership Projects

2022/23 HQP Scholarship Applications

The annual HQP Scholarship application process is currently underway. Highly skilled graduates who are looking to meet the changing demands of the agri-food and rural sector are invited to apply to the 2022/23 HQP Scholarship program.

Applications will be accepted from November 17, 2021 to January 18, 2022.

Learn more about the HQP Scholarship Program

Make an Alliance Connection



Visit the Alliance website

Comments? Feedback? Events or content to include? Email kttadmin@uoguelph.ca.



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