

Food Scientist

What is it?

A food scientist, also known as a food technologist or food researcher, is responsible for studying the physical, chemical, and biological properties of food to ensure its safety, quality, and nutritional value. They work in various sectors of the food industry, including food manufacturing, research and development, quality assurance, and regulatory compliance.

Qualifications/Experience Required:

As well as related A Levels you will need a degree in food science, food technology, or a related field such as nutrition, chemistry, or microbiology. Some roles may require a postgraduate qualification or specialized training in areas such as food safety, sensory evaluation, or food engineering. Relevant work experience can also be beneficial.

What the Work Involves:

Conducting research to develop new food products or improve existing ones, considering factors such as taste, texture, appearance, and nutritional content. Analysing food samples to assess their composition, quality, and safety using laboratory techniques and equipment. Ensuring compliance with food safety regulations and industry standards, conducting audits and inspections as needed. Keeping up with advancements in food science and technology through ongoing training.

Future Prospects – Labour Market Information:

The demand for food scientists is expected to remain steady, with opportunities available in various sectors of the food industry.

Average annual Salary - £20,000 - £45,000

Typical weekly hours – 39 – 41 per week

You may be required evenings and weekends.

Type of person who may be suited to this job:

This job may be suited to individuals who have a strong interest in food science and technology, as well as excellent analytical and problem-solving skills. Food scientists need to have a keen attention to detail, a scientific mindset.

Money/Wage Guide:

Entry-level Food Scientists can expect to earn around £20,000 to £25,000 per year. With experience and expertise, this can increase to £25,000 to £35,000. Senior positions will earn £45,000 upwards.

Related Opportunities:

- Food technologist
- Quality assurance manager
- Research and development scientist.
- Regulatory affairs specialist

Further Information:

Institute of Food Science & Technology (IFST):

<https://www.ifst.org/>

Food Standards Agency (FSA):

<https://www.food.gov.uk/>