

UNIVERSITY OF THESSALY SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD SCIENCE AND NUTRITION

Outline of the Professional Rights and Employment Opportunities of Graduates of the Department of Food Science and Nutrition

A. Outline of the Professional Rights of Graduates

Graduates of the Department of Food Science and Nutrition, School of Agricultural Sciences, University of Thessaly, may engage in the professional activities described in the following sections, in accordance with the applicable legal and regulatory framework governing graduates of departments in the field of Food Science and the broader field of Agricultural Sciences.

1. Law 4235/2014 (Government Gazette A 32/11.02.2014), which states that:

“Holders of degrees from Schools, Departments, Divisions or Specializations in Food Science and Technology at Greek universities may, in the course of their professional activities, also carry out and sign chemical, molecular and microbiological food analyses for remuneration, as well as manage public or private laboratories conducting food laboratory analyses.”

2. Law 1697/1987 (Government Gazette 57/A/28-04-1987), under which graduates of the Department of Food Science and Nutrition, School of Agricultural Sciences, University of Thessaly, possess the formal and substantive qualifications required for the issuance of an Oenologist Certificate.

3. Presidential Decree 344/2000 (Government Gazette 297/A/2000, 18-12-2000), concerning the practice of the profession of Geotechnical Scientist, as amended by Article 131, paragraph 1, of Law 5039/2023 (Government Gazette 83/A/03-04-2023), entitled “Practice of the professions of Agronomist, Forester and Ichthyologist – Amendment of Article 1 of Presidential Decree 344/2000.” The graduates eligible to practise the profession of Agronomist include graduates of:

“Any other five-year undergraduate Department of Agricultural Sciences at a Higher Education Institution (HEI) in Greece, designated by a joint decision of the Ministers of Rural Development and Food and Education and Religious Affairs. Such a decision shall be issued following a request by the Senate of the relevant HEI(AEI) to the Ministry of Rural Development and Food, after obtaining the opinion of the Geotechnical Chamber of Greece GEOTEE (ΓΕΩΤ.Ε.Ε.), which must be provided within an exclusive period of sixty (60) days from the date of the request. Failure to provide such an opinion within this period shall not prevent the continuation of the procedure. The opinion of the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education HAHE (ΕΘ.Α.Α.Ε.) is also required.”

B. Employment Opportunities for Self-Employed Professionals

Graduates of the Department of Food Science and Nutrition, based on the theoretical and laboratory training they receive, as well as the specialised scientific knowledge they acquire during their studies, they are equipped to adopt an interdisciplinary approach to and analyse contemporary key challenges, such as ensuring global food security in both quantitative and qualitative terms. They are qualified to work in both public and private organisations, as well as to engage in self-employment.

More specifically:

- a. They may be employed in the public sector and the wider public sector, in food control and management bodies (e.g. the Ministry of Rural Development and Food, Regions, Regional Units, Municipal Enterprises, the General Chemical State Laboratory, the Hellenic Food Authority (EFET), ELGO-DIMITRA, etc.), in cooperative enterprises, as well as in European and international organisations and public education institutions (Vocational Upper Secondary Schools (EPAL), Institutes of Vocational Training (IEK), Centres for Vocational Training (KEK), etc.).
- b. They may be employed in the private sector in businesses involved in the production, processing, standardisation, packaging, storage, and marketing of food products; in business consulting firms specialising in certification, production organisation, quality control, and the implementation of quality and food safety management systems; in laboratories conducting chemical, microbiological, and sensory analyses of food and beverages, as well as analyses for the detection of genetically modified organisms and food adulteration; and in any industry sector involved in the design, development, and production, as well as the inspection, quality assurance, and certification of food and beverages and dietary supplements.

More specifically, the main fields of employment for graduates include:

- a. Research and development of new food products and dietary supplements.
- b. Ensuring the hygiene and safety of food and nutritional products.
- c. Improving, ensuring, and certifying the quality of food and nutritional products.
- d. Conducting analyses, including chemical, microbiological, and sensory analyses of food and beverages, as well as analyses for the detection of genetically modified organisms and food adulteration.
- e. Processing, manufacturing, standardisation, management, distribution, and marketing of fresh, stored, or preserved agri-food products and their by-products.
- f. Implementing appropriate technological innovations in relation to contemporary issues in food and beverage science.
- g. Marketing management in the field of food and nutritional products in general.
- h. Marketing and distribution of raw materials and finished food products of plant or animal origin.

i. Teaching at higher education institutions, primary and secondary education institutions, and public and private technical and vocational training institutions (IEK), at theoretical, technological, and applied levels, in the scientific fields of Food Science and Nutrition.

j. Filling researcher positions in public and private research centres in scientific fields relevant to the Department's areas of study (e.g. ELGO-DIMITRA, FORTH, CERTH, IGEKE, the National Centre for Scientific Research “Democritus”, etc.), at theoretical, technological, and applied levels, in Food Science and related scientific disciplines.