

Participant Expectations and Responsibilities

The purpose of the United Fresh 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 Jennifer McEntire at jmcentire@unitedfresh.org

1. What is the time commitment?
 - a. Over the course of a year, 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 spend an hour getting to know each other and the selected mentors during a virtual reception at the 2021 FreshStart Conference. Selected applicants will participate in three 3-day experiences or weeks of virtual education sessions (format is TBD based on company and governmental travel restrictions). If in-person meetings are possible, two of the experiences will be held independently, and one held in conjunction with the 2021 Washington Conference.
 - c. In addition, participants will join several supplemental webinars (which will be available on demand). A pre-read may be required (no more than 1 hr. each) for some meetings/webinars.
 - d. Each participant will present either a “journal club” style discussion, or present a short research report, each of which will require 10-12 hours of preparation. The initial presentations will be given halfway through the program and participants will receive feedback from their mentors and peers. The revised presentations will take place at the concluding meeting. 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 month).
3. What is the fee?
 - a. The \$8995 fee includes registrations for the 2021 virtual FreshStart Conference, Annual Convention & Expo, and the Washington Conference. Additionally, the program will cover hotel and meals during the meetings. Participants will be responsible for their own transportation and related travel expenses.
4. Will a specific mentor be assigned to me?
 - a. Yes, we will pair you with one mentor, but encourage developing relationships with all mentors to grow your network.
5. How long is the program?
 - a. The program runs approximately one year, beginning in January 2021. The hope is that the connections that are made through the program are long lasting.
6. Can I participate more than once?
 - a. No.