

## Seeding the Future Food Systems Sustainability Challenge

Presented by Food and Nutrition Innovation Institute at the  
Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy  
Fall 2021 – Spring 2022

### The Food Systems Sustainability Challenge:

We are excited to announce that the [Seeding the Future Foundation](#), whose vision is “a global food system that always provides equitable access to safe, nutritious, affordable, appealing, and trusted food for everyone and improves the health of people and our planet by being sustainable, resilient, and regenerative”, has provided funding for our students to tackle food systems sustainability. With concerns of climate change, social inequities, and increasing populations becoming ever more omnipresent in the conversation relating to food systems, there is an urgent need for impactful solutions. Led by the [Food & Nutrition Innovation Institute](#) at the Friedman School at Tufts University, this program aims to support the development of innovative solutions for a more equitable and sustainable food system by providing a cross-discipline group of students the relevant training and resources they need to propose new solutions.

During the fall semester, students will be selected from across the Friedman School divisions. These students will work to research and identify challenges, gaps, and areas of opportunity at varying levels of the food system. The team will receive human-centered design training, access to mentors and networking, as well as time and space to develop ideas. Students will push boundaries, receive professional insight, and propose real solutions. By the end of the semester, Friedman students will narrow down their focus areas and present their work to faculty, industry leaders, and Tufts Engineering students.

The spring term will build off of the research done in the Fall, but in partnership with students from the Engineering School’s [Master of Science in Innovation & Management program](#). Not only will this collaboration encourage a cross-discipline approach, but it will drive the creation of innovative solutions through market identification, product testing, and business planning.

In addition to participating in the program’s components, students will have the ability to shape the program for the coming years.

### Who we are looking for:

Are you insatiably curious? Entrepreneurial in spirit? Have a fervent desire to make a difference? Do you love innovation?

We are looking for current Friedman School students to take on the challenge of creating a better food system. This program will bring together keen minds from across-disciplines to tackle various issues within the food landscape. Though there is no set skillset necessary, students should bring a variety of interests and expertise – exposure to areas such as business, agriculture, nutrition, policy, STEM may be most relevant.

Qualities that we are looking for:

- Self-motivated – *we're talking that internal drive factor*

- Ability to dive into the details while also maintaining the big picture
- Interest in making a positive impact, sustainably
- Desire to learn about areas outside of current studies
- Passion for food, agriculture, nutrition, or related topics
- Collaborative
- Willingness to fail
  - *Because we're aiming high and creating the next "big ideas", not every innovation is going to be a success.*
- Thrive in ambiguity
  - *The program will provide students with the appropriate resources but will let them take the lead; though there will be set events and some structure, there is no syllabus like a traditional course. This encourages taking initiative to collaborate and develop solutions while also providing critical feedback to the implementation and development of the Seeding the Future program.*

***If this sounds like you, please apply by the August 25th!***

*We are asking for a commitment of both semesters—a **full academic year**. To compensate for the time and work, participants will receive **\$22/hr**.*

**About Seeding the Future Van Lengerich Foundation:**

Seeding the Future is the vision of Dr. Bernhard van Lengerich. After several decades with various food companies focusing on the intersection of science, technology, and innovation, Dr. Van Lengerich now seeks to help feed the next one billion people by helping to support innovative solutions for a more equitable and sustainable food system.

For more information about Dr. Van Lengerich and the Seeding the Future Foundation, visit <https://www.seedingthefuture.org/>

Please send a resume and statement of interest to Morgan Springer ([morgan.springer@tufts.edu](mailto:morgan.springer@tufts.edu))

For additional information, please visit: <https://innovation.nutrition.tufts.edu/about-us/seeding-the-future/>