

What is the Food from Thought Policy Fellowship Program?

The Food from Thought Policy Fellowship program is intended to bring the best and most relevant research directly to government, non-profit and industry organizations in the agri-food and biodiversity sectors, supporting decision-makers to build relationships with academic experts and make decisions informed by cutting-edge research.

This three-day intensive program at the University of Guelph is modelled after the University of Cambridge's highly successful Policy Fellowship Program and will allow decision-makers to ask world-class researchers their burning questions, providing them with the opportunity for unstructured dialogue and exchange of information. Each experience will be entirely customized based on each Fellow's key needs and priorities, allowing us to provide you with the most relevant and applicable information for your organization.

What are the benefits of participation in the program?

Decision-makers who participate in the program will be provided with a customized series of bilateral meetings with a team of world-class researchers, exposure to research institutes and programs at the University of Guelph, and ongoing linkages with research conducted by the Food from Thought project.

This program is an exceptional opportunity for Fellows to learn about current research that is highly relevant to their key challenges, connect with researchers working in relevant disciplines and sectors, and network with other participants from federal and provincial ministries, industry and civil society who will also be attending the program.

Additionally, this offers a key platform where Fellows can share information about their organization's urgent challenges and priorities with faculty, stimulating the emergence of new research targeted to address these challenges and creating opportunities for collaborative partnerships for joint benefit.

What commitments will be required from Fellows?

The Fellowship program consists of a three-day visit to campus, followed by ongoing opportunities for communication and engagement with University of Guelph research and activities throughout the year.

University of Guelph Campus Visit

Fellows will be required to commit three consecutive days to spend on the University of Guelph campus. Fellowship programs will be offered during October and February of each calendar year; the inaugural cohort of Fellows is expected to occur in early October 2018.

In advance of your visit, we ask that you prepare 4-6 questions that capture the key challenges that you and your organization are facing and participate in a brief call with the organizing team to discuss these challenges. These should be broad questions that can be informed by research, and we will use these questions to match you with interdisciplinary researchers at the University.



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Food from Thought will cover your travel costs, accommodation, and dining expenses during your stay, and will book your accommodations and travel (or reimburse your economy travel expenses if preferred).

Ongoing Engagement with Fellowship Program

For the duration of this Fellowship program and subject to your availability, you will also be invited to major food-related events on campus, including an informal networking reception to bring together all Fellows with key researchers to reconnect and learn more about new and emerging research.

Fellows will be provided with regular updates on Food from Thought research and innovations; if you would like to continue to work with researchers you met during your Fellowship, exploring opportunities for collaborative research or learning more about their programs of study, we encourage you to do so in a way that will be most beneficial to your organization. Food from Thought is happy to convene additional meetings or facilitate connections as desired by each Fellow.

Who is eligible to be a Policy Fellow?

Senior-career professionals (Director level and above) working in the interface between science and policy and who make or influence decisions about major issues relating to agri-food and biodiversity are eligible for this program. We expect most participants will come from the public sector but participants from NGOs and industry may also participate.

This may include federal, provincial and local organizations working in food production, processing, retail, food security, or environmental sustainability and biodiversity. Participants should have an interest in improving your understanding in a research area(s) and an interest in forging professional relationships with researchers.

What is Food from Thought?

Food from Thought is a \$76.7 million research project at the University of Guelph, funded by the Canada First Research Excellence Fund. This initiative intends to exponentially increase our ability to leverage big data for the benefit of food production and biodiversity at three scales of research and innovation: global (transforming agriculture's impact on biodiversity), landscape (sustainability intensifying production) and micro-scale (enhancing food and livestock health).



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