

POSTGRADUATE STUDIES IN

# FOOD PACKAGING

3 Tracks: Materials - Food - Sustainability

2023 – 2024





# This hands-on postgraduate programme prepares you for the packaging challenges of tomorrow. You choose a specialization in Food, Materials or Sustainability.

Food packaging is omnipresent in our daily lives, making it possible to better **protect** food, ensure its desired **quality**, and **reduce food waste**. Unfortunately, a lot of packaging is designed as single-use, and certain forms of packaging use a lot of resources to produce. Consumers and governments are therefore increasingly demanding **innovative and sustainable packaging**, driving companies towards more **socially responsible packaging strategies**. But at the same time, consumers expect food packaging with high standards to offer **high quality and safe** foods with an acceptable remaining **shelf life**. Creating the right packaging strategy requires **food packaging expertise**.

**Food packaging science** is a discipline that applies principles from **four major scientific fields (material science, food science, information science, and socioeconomics)** to understand packaging **material properties**, **food packaging requirements**, and the **packaging system**. While the linked advanced master's programme on Sustainable Food Packaging combines all elements in a holistic manner ([www.sfp.ugent.be](http://www.sfp.ugent.be)), this postgraduate programme allows students to **focus on either the side of Materials, Food, or Sustainability**.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Professionals and recent graduates holding at least a bachelor's degree, with a keen interest in Sustainability, Food and/or Packaging, basic knowledge of Microsoft Excel, and sufficient background in chemistry and mathematics.

## CERTIFICATE

After successful completion of the programme, you receive the Postgraduate Certificate: Food Packaging, awarded by Ghent University.

## SCIENTIFIC COORDINATION

Prof. dr. ir. Peter Ragaert

## TEACHERS

Prof. dr. ir. Peter Ragaert  
Prof. dr. ir. Frank Devlieghere  
Prof. dr. ir. Bruno De Meulenaer  
Prof. dr. ing. Imca Sampers  
Prof. dr. ir. Jo Dewulf  
Prof. dr. ir. Steven De Meester  
Prof. dr. Roos Peters  
Prof. dr. ir. Liesbeth Jacxsens  
Prof. dr. ir. An Vermeulen  
Prof. Cynthia Linclau  
Dr. ir. Pieter Nachtergaele  
Dr. Lotta Kuuliala  
Dr. ir. Sophie Huysveld  
Ir. Amber Van Reepingen

MORE INFO AND REGISTRATION

[WWW.UGAIN.UGENT.BE/FOODPACKAGING](http://WWW.UGAIN.UGENT.BE/FOODPACKAGING)

## Graduates of the programme will be able to:

1. Acquire knowledge and insights in food packaging systems (materials, equipment and packaging conditions) and their selected effect on the packaging chain and related aspects
2. Make evidence-based decisions in food packaging based on relevant and recent scientific evolutions in food and packaging systems.
3. Support in the selection of a packaging system for a certain food product considering different perspectives.
4. Develop interpersonal skills to participate and collaborate in multidisciplinary teams to control and develop advanced packaging systems.
5. Professionally communicate inside and outside an organisation, when designing and/or optimising a food packaging system.
6. Contextualise the impact of socio-economic tendencies on food packaging systems towards society and to adapt professional goals in a future perspective, this within an international context.

Courses are evaluated as part of an individual integrative assignment in which students have to integrate and apply knowledge and competences from all the different courses making up the specific track of the postgraduate certificate Food Packaging. The student (qualitatively) evaluates a food product-packaging concept. The product-packaging concept will be predetermined before the start of the lectures. The student should demonstrate s/he is able to apply the course in an interdisciplinary way, and explain the concept from a course specific perspective.

The product of the assignment is a report (including a self-reflection) which will be presented to a jury.

### PGOP Food Packaging track Food (20 ECTS)

Sept – Oct – Nov	Nov – Dec – Jan	Feb - Mar
Food Packaging Materials, Machines and Conditions (7 ECTS)	Quality of Packed Food Products (6 ECTS)  Food Packaging: Business, Economics and Society (4 ECTS)	Packaging Materials: Food Safety Aspects (3 ECTS)
<b>7 ECTS</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>	<b>3 ECTS</b>

### PGOP Food Packaging track Materials (21 ECTS)

Sept – Oct – Nov	Nov – Dec – Jan	Feb - Mar
Food Packaging Materials, Machines and Conditions (7 ECTS)	Food Packaging: Business, Economics and Society (4 ECTS)	Packaging Materials: Food Safety Aspects (3 ECTS) End-of-life Strategies for Packaging (4 ECTS) Food Packaging: Quality Management (3 ECTS)
<b>7 ECTS</b>	<b>4 ECTS</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>

### PGOP Food Packaging track Sustainability (21 ECTS)

Sept – Oct – Nov	Nov – Dec – Jan	Feb - Mar
Sustainability in Food Systems: Theory and Concepts (4 ECTS)  Food Packaging Materials, Machines and Conditions (7 ECTS)	Quality of Packed Food Products (6 ECTS)	End-of-life Strategies for Packaging (4 ECTS)
<b>11 ECTS</b>	<b>6 ECTS</b>	<b>4 ECTS</b>

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### Fee

Track Food (20 ECTS)	€ 3.800,-
Track Materials (21 ECTS)	€ 3.990,-
Track Sustainability (21 ECTS)	€ 3.990,-

### Training vouchers

Ghent University accepts payments by KMO-portefeuille (www.kmo-portefeuille.be; authorisation ID: DV.0103194).

### Time and location

- Depending on the chosen track and the respective courses, classes take place on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays from 16:15 – 20:30, and on Fridays from 08:30 – 12:30 and/or 13:30 – 17:30. For a complete overview of classes per track, please consult [www.ugain.ugent.be/foodpackaging](http://www.ugain.ugent.be/foodpackaging)
- Classes on Tuesdays/Thursdays take place online.
- Classes on Fridays require physical presence on campus (Ghent University, Campus Kortrijk. Sint-Martens-Latemlaan 2B, 8500 Kortrijk)

### Language

English is used in all presentations, exercises and documentation, so ready knowledge of English is necessary.

### Organisation

#### Ghent University

UGain (UGent Academie voor Ingenieurs)

Ewout Ramon

Coördinator Lifelong Learning West Flanders

[Ewout.Ramon@UGent.be](mailto:Ewout.Ramon@UGent.be)

[www.ugain.ugent.be](http://www.ugain.ugent.be)

MORE INFO AND REGISTRATION

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