

Student Application Presentation and Submission Guide

Context

The Biofood Summit (*Assises sur l'alimentation durable*) organized by the Pôle bioalimentaire in September 2026 will bring together a diverse group of stakeholders from research, industry, citizens, and public policy to explore innovative solutions to major challenges in the biofood sector. To contribute to this significant event, we are offering 16 graduate students (master's to postdoctoral level) the unique opportunity to participate in international missions within hubs of expertise in sustainable food. These missions will allow participants to discover and analyze exemplary initiatives related to food sustainability abroad while strengthening the links between their research projects and the strategic priorities of the Pôle bioalimentaire.

Objective

The goal of these missions is to gather information on structuring and innovative initiatives that can be adapted to the Quebec context and showcased during the *Assises sur l'alimentation durable*. Each mission will also aim to strengthen ties with at least two of the [Pôle bioalimentaire's priority projects](#).

Destinations and Themes of the Missions

1. **Netherlands and Belgium** (*October 19 to 30, 2025*)
 - Circular economy and food waste reduction
 - Inclusion, social acceptability, and combating misinformation
2. **Denmark and Sweden** (*September 23 to October 1, 2025*)
 - Decarbonization and adaptation to climate change
 - Territorialized food systems
 - Quality and accessibility of food supply (food policies, combating inequalities)
3. **Brazil** (*October 20 to 31, 2025*)
 - Quality and accessibility of the food supply
 - Inclusion, social acceptability, and combating misinformation
4. **California** (*September 2 to 10, 2025 **)
 - Food transition
 - Supporting supply chain competitiveness (including artificial intelligence)



* Dates may be adjusted based on the evolving situation between Canada and the United States (California).

Expected Deliverables

At the end of each mission, the student team will be required to produce the following deliverables (to be submitted no later than 3 months after the mission):

1. A 2-page summary
2. A 12-15 page report
3. A 30-45 minute webinar

Roles and responsibilities of students:

Students will be responsible for the following tasks before, during, and/or after the missions:

- Attend preparatory meetings and a debriefing session.
- Write and submit a scholarship application to LOJIQ and/or any other financial sources for which you are eligible to help support certain aspects of the mission.
- Prepare the interviews assigned to them individually or as a team.
- Conduct technological monitoring prior to visits by researching innovations in Quebec and gathering information on the organizations to be visited.
- Be responsible for documenting results and learnings on-site (note-taking, photos, videos, etc.).
- Conduct interviews and collect the necessary data.
- Write, as a team, a report and a summary.
- Prepare, as a team, an oral presentation in the form of a webinar.

Financial Support

Financial support will be provided to cover expenses related to participation in the mission (airfare, internal travel, activities, meals, etc.). As previously mentioned, by submitting your application, you agree to contribute by submitting a LOJIQ scholarship application and/or other financial sources to which you are eligible.



Application Submission

The mission is open to all students from Quebec educational institutions, at the master's to postdoctoral level, without discrimination. Applications can be submitted in English or French.

A complete application must include the following elements:

1. Application Form

Complete and submit the form via the Microsoft Forms application.

2. Motivation Letter (1-2 pages)

*The letter should reflect the candidate's commitment and motivation to contribute to the mission's objectives. It should also demonstrate the candidate's writing skills, especially for report preparation, and their interest in participating in the 2026 Assises sur l'alimentation durable. **This letter must be signed by the research program supervisor to attest to the relevance of the application and the candidate's commitment.***

3. Curriculum Vitae (CV)

The CV should highlight prior experience in research or relevant projects in at least two thematic areas of the Pôle bioalimentaire, as well as teamwork and communication skills.

The motivation letter and CV must be submitted by email to the address pole@inaf.ulaval.ca by **May 4, 2025, 11:59 PM (UTC-4)**. Successful applicants will be notified within 4 weeks after the application deadline.



Eligibility Criteria and Guidelines

- The student must be enrolled full-time in a graduate program (master's or doctoral level) or postdoctoral program at a recognized Quebec higher education institution.
- A student can only participate in one mission with the Pôle bioalimentaire but is encouraged to express interest in each relevant mission.
- The student must ensure that their status allows them to obtain a visa for the country or countries concerned by the mission they are applying for, and this must be done within a reasonable timeframe (2-3 months before the scheduled departure).
- An initial scholarship will be provided to cover airfare costs, followed by a second scholarship within thirty days after the mission, upon receipt of the expense report.

Evaluation of Applications

Eligible applications will be submitted to the Pôle bioalimentaire's Missions Committee, which includes the mission organization committee and the accompanying persons. Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Relevance of academic and professional background (30 points):** Education related to the mission's theme, relevant past experiences, ability to mobilize knowledge to analyze international biofood issues.
- **Motivation and commitment to the mission (30 points):** Clarity and relevance of the motivation letter, understanding of the objectives of the international missions and the 2026 *Assises sur l'alimentation durable*, commitment to contributing to knowledge transfer, interest in participating in the 2026 *Assises sur l'alimentation durable*, signed letter of interest attesting to the relevance of the application.
- **Analytical and synthesis skills (20 points):** Ability to analyze complex information and draw relevant conclusions, experience in scientific writing or communication, ability to structure and communicate ideas clearly and rigorously.
- **Communication and teamwork skills (20 points):** Experience in interdisciplinary collaboration or group projects, fluency in French and English.