

## Chinese American Food Society (CAFS)

### CAFS 2026 Call for Student Scholarship and IFT Travel Awards

The Chinese American Food Society (CAFS) is pleased to announce the **2026 Student Scholarship and IFT Travel Awards** competition. These awards are intended to encourage academic excellence, leadership, and professional development among students in food science and technology.

For 2026, CAFS plans to support up to **three student travel awards** for attendance at the IFT Annual Meeting, with a **\$500 award per student**. The committee anticipates supporting one undergraduate student and two graduate students, although the final distribution may be adjusted depending on the applicant pool and application quality.

#### All award recipients will receive:

- A commemorative certificate
- An invitation to the award ceremony at the CAFS Annual Banquet
- Recipients of the Student Scholarship and IFT Travel Awards will also receive a cash award of \$500 each.

#### The CAFS Student Awards aim to:

- Encourage students to pursue academic and professional excellence in food science and technology
- Support undergraduate and graduate students in their educational and research development
- Promote high-quality scientific research, communication skills, and professional engagement through participation in the IFT Annual Meeting and other professional activities

#### Eligibility:

For undergraduate students, applicants must:

- Be enrolled in a reputable food science and technology undergraduate program
- Preferably be in their senior year
- Be a current CAFS student member, or plan to become one before the 2026 IFT Annual Meeting
- Demonstrate strong academic performance, leadership, and extracurricular involvement

For graduate students, applicants must:

- Be enrolled in a reputable food science and technology graduate program
- Be a current CAFS student member, or plan to become one before the 2026 IFT Annual Meeting

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- Have involvement in scholarly or professional activities, such as a poster, oral presentation, or other academic activity at the 2026 IFT Annual Meeting or another relevant professional conference
- While applications are open to all graduate students, preference may be given to more senior graduate students
- Additional consideration may be given to applicants who have actively participated in CAFS activities, including the CAFS Student Committee.

### Applications will be evaluated based on:

- The applicant's career goals and how they align with the purpose of the CAFS student awards
- Academic achievement and evidence of diligence and excellence
- Research, leadership, and extracurricular activities demonstrating motivation and dedication to food science and technology
- Strength of recommendation letters from faculty members or professionals

### Applicants should submit the following:

- A letter of application
- A brief essay describing career objectives
- A current resume or CV
- Academic records or unofficial transcripts
- Two recommendation letters
- For graduate students, an abstract accepted for presentation at the 2026 IFT Annual Meeting or another relevant professional conference, if available

### Please submit all application materials by e-mail to the CAFS Award Committee:

Dr. Qing Jin (qing.jin@maine.edu)

Dr. Jun Yang (Jun.Yang@pepsico.com)

Dr. Haiqiang Wang (harrywang101829@gmail.com)

### Application deadline: May 10th, 2026

After the application deadline, the Award Committee will review all applications and supporting documents. Each committee member will evaluate applicants and assign numerical ratings based on the established criteria. Awards will be given to the highest-ranked applicants. In the event of a tie, the committee chair may call for a re-vote. Awards will be made only when qualified applicants are identified.

