

Frequently Asked Questions

(updated on 05 July 2022; changes are in red colour)

Most matters relating to the procedures for participation in the Cadre Competition are covered in the brochure. However, there might be certain questions that might still come up in the mind of candidates. We have attempted to answer such questions in the following set of FAQs and we propose to update these on a regular basis. In case there are still some questions or concerns that remain unanswered, please do not hesitate to write to us at any of the following email IDs and we shall respond as early as possible:

- (i) safefoodcadre2022@gmail.com
- (ii) Generic.INHRDCADRE01@RD.nestle.com

S. No.	Question	Answer
Questions of General Nature		
1.	What is the purpose of creating the Cadre ?	The purpose is to create a pool of best experts in food safety to lead food businesses anywhere in the world.
2.	How does it benefit me as an individual ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Through mentoring, further training and certification as a talented safe food business professional, you have excellent opportunities for personal growth;• As a certified competent individual, you are ready to be absorbed by government departments, private companies and other national and international organizations;• Better opportunities and rapid career growth;• Enhance your leadership skills in safe food business.
3.	Is such a programme being implemented by any other institution in India or abroad ?	As far as we know, there is no such programme being implemented by any other institution in India or abroad.
4.	Why NFSI and NIFTEM are jointly implementing this programme ?	Nestle Food Safety Institute is a premier institute in India, with global headquarters in Switzerland; <i>and</i> NIFTEM is the only institution in India that is recognised as the Institute of National Importance in the area of Food Science and Technology. Both the leading institutions have collaborated to implement such a unique programme.

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5.	Can a non-science stream candidate compete ?	The competition is open only to science stream (<i>Food Tech./ Food Engg. / Nutrition / Microbiology / Chemistry / Zoology / Botany / Biochem. / Biotech.</i>) Graduates / Post-Graduates. Students in the final year of the under-graduate programme are eligible to compete.
6.	Can any Indian living in India or abroad participate in the Cadre Competition ?	Yes, in 2022, any Indian citizen residing in India or abroad can compete; from 2023, we plan to open the competition to citizens of all South-Asian countries.
7.	How many times can I participate in the Cadre Competition ?	There is no limit as long as the applicant is within the prescribed age limit for that year.
Questions relating to Registration for the Competition		
8.	How should I register for this competition ?	Interested candidates may apply online via the link on the websites of NIFTEM and NFSI given below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIFTEM -- www.niftem.ac.in • NFSI -- www.nfsi-india.in
9.	What is the Registration Portal URL ?	https://sfc2022registration.icalibrator.com https://sfc2022registration.icalibrator.com/nestle/index.html
10.	How much time will I get to apply ?	Please refer to the schedule in the brochure on the websites. The registration deadline has been extended to 15th July, 2022.
11.	How can I pay the application fee ?	Fee can be paid using the registration process. Candidates need to keep proof of the fee paid.
11a.	Who receives the fee ?	The amount paid by you goes to NIFTEM, who is responsible for conducting the exams.
12.	What should I do if I do not receive a confirmation after the online registration ?	Please email to: safefoodcadre2022@gmail.com While sending an email, you must mention the registered email ID and the mobile number.
13.	What if I have paid the fee and was not able to appear for the exam.?	Fee once paid for the registration is not refundable.
14.	Can I use somebody else's email ID and mobile number for registration ?	No. All communications including Certificates will be sent to your registered email ID and all SMS messages will be sent to your registered mobile number. This email ID and mobile number cannot be used by another applicant for her / his registration.

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15.	If I have made any mistake(s) while registering, can I make changes in the application form at a later date ?	Except the email ID and mobile number, all other corrections in the particulars of Registration Form can be made before the date of your Objective Exam. Payment of registration fee should be made within a period of 7 calendar days from the date of first registration but before close of the final registration date (<i>30 June 2022</i>).
16.	What will happen if my uploaded documents are found to be wrong ?	You will get disqualified at any stage of the Competition.
Questions relating to the Identification Stage (<i>Objective and Subjective Exams.</i>)		
17.	Will the objective and subjective exams. be conducted on-line ?	Yes, both objective and subjective type exams. will be conducted on-line.
18.	What is the Exam. Portal URL ?	https://sfc2022exam.icalibrator.com
19.	What will be the language medium of the exams ?	English
20.	Do I have to go to a centre to give the online exams. or can I give them from home ?	You can give the exams. (<i>both objective and subjective type</i>) from home or any place of your choice. Just make sure that you have internet access of the 2 Mbps (<i>upload and download</i>) bandwidth.
21.	Will there be a fixed time for taking the exams. ?	You can give the exams. (<i>both objective and subjective type</i>) by selecting a date and time slot during the registration process according to your convenience and availability of the desired time slot.
22.	What if I am unable to appear in the exams on the scheduled date or time due to any unavoidable circumstances ?	Yes, change of date and time is allowed only once during the registration process. In case no time slot is available, you will lose the opportunity to appear in the competition in this year.
23.	Can I cancel the exam.?	It is your choice not to appear in the exam. However, the registration fee shall not be refunded.
24.	Will there be any monitoring of the candidates during the online exams ?	Yes, video proctoring of every candidate will be done during objective as well as subjective type exams. In case any unethical behaviour is observed by the Examination Committee in respect of any candidate, such candidate(s) will be disqualified from the Cadre Competition of that year.

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25.	How will this proctoring be done ?	You will be required to give your exam on a computer or a mobile device with a camera. The exam. portal will not work if there is no camera. If you need to do some calculations on a rough sheet, you must place your device at a minimum distance of 1.5 feet so that the camera can capture your desk space. In case the candidate fails to do this, she/he would stand disqualified.
26.	Can I use an external calculator for any calculations?	Yes, you may use it. The calculator (or any rough sheet) must be kept at a minimum distance of 1.5 feet from the laptop/desktop/mobile screen so that the camera can capture your space. In case the candidate fails to do this, she/he would stand disqualified.
27.	In case there is a dispute over disqualification, what will be done ?	A Committee will take a decision
28.	How many questions will be asked in the objective and subjective exams.?	(a) Objective: There is no limit to the number of questions you can answer. You should continue until the end of the allotted time for each of the two areas, namely, (i) Non-Technical areas (<i>one hour</i>); and (ii) Technical areas (<i>two hours</i>). There will be a 10 minutes break between the two areas of the exams. (b) Subjective: (i) Two questions in Non-Technical areas; and (ii) Four questions in the Technical areas. - This will be a three hours exam. - There will also be a choice to select. - All questions will be case-study type, but one question in each area will be compulsory. - The compulsory questions will be on: (i) Business Management in the Non-Technical areas; and (ii) National / Global Food Regulatory matters in the Technical areas.
29.	What kind of questions should I expect in case of English comprehension area ?	These will be essay type questions in any field. There will be a word limit of 500 words for the essay. The subject should be analysed and argued while writing it. Basically, we need to assess your writing skills.
30.	Will all candidates get same questions in the exams.?	Questions in both areas (<i>Non-Technical and Technical</i>) will randomly pop-up on your screen in the Objective exam. In the Subjective exam, all six questions will be displayed together. However, the questions will not be the same across the candidates.

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31.	The syllabus in Technical areas is very wide. Why has this been done ?	The objective of the programme is to select professionals with an over-all understanding of the subjects in broad terms and to assess the extent and depth of knowledge.
32.	In which Technical areas should we focus more ?	You should study all the subject areas of the syllabus and focus on the subjects relevant to food science and the broad regulatory areas of countries in the syllabus.
33.	In which Non-Technical areas should we focus more ?	The selected professionals are expected to be leaders in food businesses. You should have a broad understanding of Business Management and current affairs. Also have a general awareness in other subject areas of the syllabus.
34.	How do I submit the answer for Objective type and Subjective type questions in the online exam. system ?	You should submit the answer sheets at the end of the allotted time. In case you do not submit your answer sheets, the software will automatically submit your answer sheet as soon as the allotted time is over.
35.	How many marks are allotted to each question ?	(i) Objective: There will be questions at four levels of difficulty. Level-1 questions will carry one mark and Level-4 questions will carry four marks. The software will automatically raise the level of difficulty as soon as you correctly answer the questions in different areas. (ii) Subjective: The compulsory questions will be of 20 marks each and the others will be of 15 marks each. In case you do not answer the compulsory question and attempt another one in its place, the last one will not be evaluated. Total 100 marks covering both areas.
36.	How will the difficulty levels in the Objective type questions change?	After you have given correct answers to a pre-determined number of questions at a particular level in different subject areas, the software will automatically upgrade you to the next level of difficulty.
37.	Can I review any of my previous questions or change my answer ?	You have no possibility to go back to review / revise answer of a previous question. You can only go forward in the exam. by answering or by passing it.
38.	Will the software display marks allotted to the objective questions as per the level of difficulty ?	Yes. This information will also be embedded in the software.
39.	Will the software display the total marks obtained by the candidate at the end of the Objective exam.?	Yes, your total score in the Technical as well as Non-Technical areas will be displayed on the screen after the answer sheet is submitted and you can take note of it.

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40.	Will there be negative marking in the objective exams.?	There is no negative marking.
41.	Will there be any guidance provided about the online system of exam. ?	Yes, a detailed set of instructions will be provided on the exam. portal on 01 July 2022 and can be downloaded. A video will also be available for ease of understanding.
42.	Will there be any possibility for us to take mock practice exams.?	Yes, the link for mock practice sessions for the objective type exams will be available to the registered candidates from 01 to 31 July 2022 on the exam. portal. It is meant to familiarize you with the operation of the exam. and to see the kind of questions that you can expect. These mock practice sessions can be taken as many times as you wish. Similarly, sample questions in respect to subjective type exams. will also be available to the short-listed candidates from 21 to 31 October 2022.
42a.	Where do I log-in to take the mock-practice sessions ?	The URL is: https://sfc2022exam.icalibrator.com You should log-in by using your registration log-in ID and Password.
42b.	What are the timings to take the mock practice sessions for the Objective exam ?	Dates: 01 - 31 July, 2022 (<i>you can practice twice a day on all days</i>). Timings (IST): (a) 1330 - 1400 hours; (b) 1930 - 2000 hours Please log-in at 15 minutes in advance. Duration: Total 30 minutes as follows – (a) Non-Technical: 10 minutes (b) Break: 5 minutes (c) Technical: 15 minutes
42c.	What should I do in case I have problems in taking the mock-practice sessions ?	Please study the Instructions Manual carefully. Still, if you have any difficulty, please contact Mr Anil Arora at +91 98118 12307
43.	Will I get a Certificate of Participation in the Cadre Competition ?	A computer generated signed Certificate of Participation can be downloaded by each candidate after appearing in the first level of the exam. (<i>objective type exam.</i>).
44.	How will I be informed if I have been shortlisted after the objective / subjective exams.?	A list of the shortlisted candidates will be published on the websites of NIFTEM and NFSI after each exam. An email will also be sent to your registered email ID.

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45.	The brochure states that 500, 250 and 100 candidates will be short-listed / selected at different stages of the selection process. Are these numbers subject to change ?	Yes, these numbers can change depending upon the competence, scores and number of the candidates.
46.	What should I do in case of any technical problems with the software ? Will I lose any time ?	You will not lose any time in case of any technical problems with the exam. software. The support staff (<i>contact number will be provided in the instructions</i>) will be available to fix it. The time lost will be extended after validation of the problem by the support staff. Please review the set of instructions that will be provided on the exam. portal. However, if the problem is due to internet or your device, then you will lose time.
47.	How will I know when the exam time has ended ?	There will be a count-down timer on the top on your screen. Candidates are advised to observe the time available to you.
48.	Do we need to download any software before taking the Objective-type and Subjective-type exams.?	There will be a requirement. Please review the Instructions on the exam. portal on or after 01 July 2022 . An email will also be sent to the registered candidates.
Questions relating to the Mentoring and Selection Stages		
49.	Will the Mentoring, Group Discussion (GD) / Interview be also conducted online ?	Mentoring will be conducted online for the short-listed candidates after the subjective-type exams. However, the GD and Interview will be conducted with physical presence of the candidates (<i>subject to Covid situation</i>).
50.	Is it mandatory to attend the mentoring process ?	Yes, it is mandatory to attend the mentoring programme, In fact, it is meant to prepare candidates for the GD and Interview, bring them to a level-playing field, and also for developing the soft skills.
51.	How many candidates will participate in one GD ?	There will be 6 - 8 candidates in one group.
52.	What will be the nature of subjects for the GD?	The subjects for GD could range from any of the technical subject areas or national / international politics, current affairs or trade.

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Questions relating to the Business Leadership Enhancement Programme (BLEP)		
53.	Will the Business Leadership Enhancement Programme (BLEP) be conducted virtually ?	BLEP will be an in-person residential programme at NIFTEM, Sonepat (<i>subject to Covid situation</i>). Currently, consideration is being given to conducting BLEP on a virtual mode for two weeks instead of one month.
54.	How can a selected working professional manage to attend the BLEP for 4 weeks ?	Selected working professionals need to take leave from their employers in order to attend the BLEP programme. NIFTEM / NFSI will make necessary recommendations to the employers, if required.
55.	Is there a separate fee for BLEP ?	Yes, decision on the fee structure is still to be taken and will be communicated to the selected candidates well in time. The expenses will be funded either by the candidates themselves or sponsored by organizations. Financial support / scholarships by NFSI / NIFTEM other organizations is under consideration.
56.	What kind of training will be provided in BLEP ?	This programme is aimed at the career growth and enhancement of business leadership with a focus on the food sector and food safety. It will also develop the candidates in global regulatory affairs in the food sector and enhance negotiation skills at the international level.
Questions relating to Accession to the Cadre		
57.	Will the Certificate of Accession be presented to the selected Food Business Professionals or posted ?	The Certificate of Accession to the Cadre will be presented to the selected Food Business Professionals at a special function that will be organized in New Delhi in March 2023 (<i>subject to Covid situation</i>). CEOs of companies and Heads of national / international Organizations will be invited to interact with members of the Cadre. There could be a possibility to get selected.
58.	Will any support be provided by NFSI / NIFTEM for selection of the selected candidates by companies ?	Yes. NFSI / NIFTEM will also approach the CEOs of companies and Heads of national / international Organizations.
59.	Is there any validity to the Certificate of Accession ?	The Certificate of Accession will be valid for ever.
60.	Will any medals and prizes be given to the members of the Cadre on accession ?	Yes medals and several prizes are under consideration. However, a decision is still to be taken.
