

Your Career as a Food Safety Officer *in Scotland*



Introduction

In the early 1990's, following the introduction of the Food Safety Act 1990, the government determined that all non-Environmental Health Officers working in food safety law enforcement must be competent and be qualified to an agreed standard. The Scottish Food Safety Officers' Registration Board was established in 1994 to ensure that an agreed standard was set and maintained for Food Safety Officers working in Scotland.

What do Food Safety Officers do?

Food Safety Officers (FSOs) are employed and authorised by Scottish local authorities to enforce a range of food safety legislation in a variety of food production premises. They work under the direction of each local authority's Head of Food Safety.

Is a career as a Food Safety Officer right for me?

The academic knowledge, technical skills and competencies needed to qualify as a FSO in Scotland will be acquired at college or university and during practical training with a local authority. On qualifying, a FSO will need to apply their knowledge, skills and competencies to the assessment of how safely food is being produced in a wide variety of food premises. FSOs need to be good communicators and be able to apply the food safety legislation in a fair and reasonable manner.

How do I become a Food Safety Officer?

Individuals intending pursuing a career as a FSO must meet the Board's pre-registration academic standard for the respective qualifications. For the Higher Certificates in Food Premises Inspection (HC in FPI) and Food Standards Inspection (HC in FSI), applicants will require a minimum of an HND in Food Science or Food Technology. For the Ordinary Certificate in Food Premises Inspection (OC in FPI), applicants will require a minimum of an HNC in Food Science or Food Technology. The HC in FPI is required for a FSO to undertake inspections of high risk food premises.

A minimum of six months' structured practical training with a Scottish local authority must be undertaken. The Board administers and maintains the scheme of practical training and is responsible for appointing and training the examiners who will carry out the examinations. On successful completion of the practical training, a food premises case study (OC/HC in FPI) or five reports (HC in FSI), and an oral examination, the candidate will be awarded the appropriate qualification. The launch of a Higher Certificate in Food Control is currently being discussed with our partners.

The Scottish Food Safety Officers' Registration Board

The Board, a committee of the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland, was established in 1994 to determine the pre-registration academic standard to be attained by persons applying for the award of the Higher Certificate in Food Premises Inspection, the Ordinary Certificate in Food Premises Inspection and the Higher Certificate in Food Standards Inspection qualifications in terms of the Food Safety Act 1990 and the Code of Practice made thereunder. The Board appoints examiners to assess the professional competence of candidates for each of its qualifications and liaises with the Food Standards Agency, the Environmental Health Registration Board and the Institute of Food Science and Technology to ensure common standards of qualifications across the United Kingdom.

The Board comprises nine members, five of whom are Institute appointees. The remaining members are nominated by the Food Standards Agency Scotland, the Institute of Food Science and Technology, the Scottish Food Safety Officers' Association, and the Association of Meat Inspectors.

Academic qualifications currently approved by the Board as meeting its pre-registration academic standard are listed below:

Glasgow Metropolitan College	HNC/HND	Food Technology
Glasgow Caledonian University	BSc (Hons)	Human Nutrition and Food Science
Glasgow Caledonian University	BSc (Hons)	Food Bioscience
Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh	BSc	Food Science, Technology and Management
Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh	MSc	Food Science, Safety and Health (by distance learning)
Scottish Agricultural College, Ayr	HNC/HND/ BSc/BSc (Hons)	Food Science & Food Technology
University of Birmingham	University Diploma	Food Safety and Food Legislation (by distance learning)
University of Birmingham	Postgraduate Diploma	Food Safety, Hygiene and Management (subject to the applicant completing module 10: food law enforcement)

Academic qualifications other than those listed may also meet the Board's pre-registration academic standard. Advice can be obtained from the Board Secretary who is located at the Institute's office, the address of which can be found overleaf.

The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland



The Institute was incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee on 16th February 1983, to give effect to the amalgamation of The Royal Sanitary Association of Scotland and The Scottish Institute of Environmental Health. The Institute was Incorporated by Royal Charter on 8th March 2001, following which the company was wound up.

The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland is a Registered Scottish Charity, Number SC009406

The objects for which the Institute is established, contained in Article 3 of the Charter, are for the benefit of the community to promote the advancement of Environmental Health by:

- a. stimulating general interest in and disseminating knowledge concerning Environmental Health;
- b. promoting education and training in matters relating to Environmental Health; and
- c. maintaining, by examination or otherwise, high standards of professional practice and conduct on the part of Environmental Health Officers in Scotland.

The Institute's affairs are managed by a Council which is elected by members.

The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland is a founding member of the International Federation of Environmental Health.

On occasion, the Institute uses the acronym: REHIS®.

For further information on how to become a Food Safety Officer in Scotland, and for details of membership of the Institute, contact:

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