

THRIVE Impact Summer School

29th August - 4th September 2025

2025 Focus: Future of Food Systems

Application for Admission

Introduction

About THRIVE

As we edge closer to planetary boundaries, there is an urgent need to question our default ways of being, thinking, and doing. To realize a future in which humanity can thrive, we will need to work quickly and collectively towards systemic change across all levels and sectors of our global society. We can't continue the path that got us here – we must co-create a new way forward.

THRIVE convenes the leaders of tomorrow, empowering them with the tools and mindset to co-create a regenerative future.

Grand challenges are complex and interconnected. As a global society, we are not all equally vulnerable to the worst effects of climate change, nor have we been equally responsible for causing them.

Alongside the race to Net Zero, people and communities impacted by climate change grapple with fear, loss, and transformation. They carry with them knowledge, experience, questions, families, livelihoods and hopes for the future. These human elements are crucial as we seek to navigate the evolving landscape of food systems.

To realize a regenerative future, we need to bridge the discourses around emissions, nature and people. This requires us to change the rules of engagement, shift the conversation, and transform ourselves. Systemic change across our global society is essential for creating resilient food systems that can withstand the challenges posed by climate change.

That's why in 2025, THRIVE will focus on the **Future of Food Systems**.

This initiative will aim to foster dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders to develop innovative solutions that address food security while promoting sustainability and equity. By bringing together diverse voices and perspectives, we can work towards a food system that not only nourishes but also sustains our planet and its people.

Together, we can create a food system that reflects our shared values and aspirations for a better world.

Benefits

You will:

- spend inspiring days in the Swiss Alps with an **international group** of like-minded changemakers
- gain **key knowledge**, inspiration, skills and tools to lead regenerative change and embark on an impact career
- expand professional **networks** and encounter opportunities for future **employment**
- learn the **collaborative methodologies** of strategic foresight and **participatory leadership**, and have the opportunity to support the facilitation of future University Summer Schools and **Impact Camps for school-age students**
- have the opportunity to qualify for the **Global Leadership Challenge** (cooperation between Oxford University and St.Gallen Symposium) to continue working on ideas, prototypes and initiatives
- receive a **certificate as a THRIVE Young Impact Leader** from the University of St.Gallen

Programme Cost

THRIVE is free of charge for successful applicants.

However, a registration fee of CHF 200 (Early Bird 150) is required upon successful acceptance, that needs to be paid within a week after the approval.

Accommodation costs for the week are not included. Due to the vacation and summer time student collocations are largely available. Additionally, all St. Gallen-based students are invited to participate in hosting students from outside St. Gallen.

Limited financing is available for income-restricted applicants (please reach out to csi@unisg.ch for further information)

Selection Process

THRIVE is for currently enrolled bachelor's, master's, and doctoral students from across disciplines and nationalities. Successful applicants have a strong commitment to personal growth, collaboration, and are driven by impact. Selection is also based on group composition; THRIVE is committed to diversity of backgrounds, nationalities, gender / gender identifications and disciplines of study.

Notification of acceptance will be given till the end of May, 2025.

Application form

The Basics

Family Name:

First Name:

Date of Birth (Age):

Nationality:

Street Address:

Postal Code / City / Country:

Phone:

Email:

University / Enrolled Programme:

Bachelor / Master / PhD:

Allergies:

Hosting (I could offer another participant a place to sleep in St.Gallen): YES/ NO

Essay

Question 1. Please write a brief essay (0.5 – 1 page) in which you describe what the future of food systems means to you, and what you think will be key in the transition towards a more sustainable and resilient food system?

Question 2: Your fears, hopes, and personal impact journey. Please share with us in 0.5 – 1 page: what “aha” moments in your life have shaped your understanding of food security and sustainability? Can you recount a specific experience or moment that inspired your commitment to support food system transitions? How have these moments of personal transformation impacted your journey as a changemaker?