

## Applications open for 2026 International Product Safety Week

### Student Mentorship Programme

7-10 September 2026, Brussels

The European Commission and the International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization (ICPHSO) are pleased to announce that applications are now open for the **2026 International Product Safety Week Student Mentorship Programme**.

The programme aims to attract motivated and talented students to the consumer product safety field. It provides a structured, tailored and comprehensive programme, to give a holistic introduction to product safety. The student mentorship programme runs alongside and complements the official programme for the International Product Safety Week.

#### What does the mentorship programme offer?

Successful applicants will be part of a small, selective cohort of exceptional students that will participate in a tailored programme designed specifically by the European Commission and ICPHSO for the students. Some of the highlights of the programme include:

- Attend in-person the **International Product Safety Week (IPSW)**, from 7-10 September 2026 in Brussels. This includes sessions organised by the European Commission and the International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization International Symposium.
- Pairing with an **experienced mentor**<sup>1</sup> to provide personalised guidance, support and knowledge transfer on product safety, before, during and after the IPSW.
- Networking opportunities with a broad range of product safety experts from all around the world, including national authorities, international regulators, consumer organisations, economic operators, law firms, test laboratories, researchers and more as part of conference networking and mentoring-programme specific events.
- Ramp up webinars delivered by well-regarded product safety experts on product safety, related business skills and the discussions during the IPSW.
- Opportunity to organise and take part in group team learning tasks, like joint activities with other mentees at a dedicated exhibitor booth, focusing for example on your research on pertinent and potentially novel issues in product safety to a large, international audience.

#### What is expected from the mentees before, during and after the IPSW?

- Participation in all meetings during and surrounding the IPSW, including preparatory meetings with mentors and ramp up meetings, in person participation at the IPSW from 7- 10 September, as well as Post-IPSW sessions to debrief on the in-person events and programme.

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<sup>1</sup> Mentors volunteer to participate and are not compensated for their mentorship

- Active dissemination of product safety knowledge and mentorship experience of the IPSW through professional/academic channels such as social media, university presentations, or workshops. Participants will be required to draft and submit a short activity report.

The organisers will arrange for the mentees' travel and accommodation in Brussels and will provide them with an additional stipend (EUR 200) covering transport and food expenses during the conference, to the extent there are additional food/travel costs outside those already provided to conference participants as part of the conference.

### Who can apply?

The Programme is open to **full-time students**:

- **Based in the European Economic Area** (the 27 EU Member states plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway)<sup>2</sup>
- **At any stage of their academic education:**
  - Bachelor students (provided they have **completed at least one full academic year** by the start of the conference, i.e. 7-10 September 2026)
  - Master students
  - PhD students
- **Studying any academic discipline** (e.g. law, data science, engineering, business and marketing, communication studies, sociology, information technology, medicine etc.), provided they are interested in consumer product safety. Please note, given the focus of IPSW and the participants in it, we are unfortunately unable to accommodate students with singular focuses on medical devices and food safety at this stage.

Special attention will be given to inclusivity, equity and diversity ensuring a **broad representation of students**.

### How to apply?

**The countdown has started: interested students should apply [here](#) by 26 April**

The application process will require the following:

- Completion of the online form, in which students will need to provide their academic and extracurricular background, their future product-safety related career aspirations, their preferences for their paired mentor as well as explaining their relationship to product safety and their motivation for applying.
- If shortlisted, attendance at a brief online-interview (between 18 and 21 May) with the selection committee running the programme.

All applicants will be informed of the results of their application at the earliest opportunities during the various stages of the application process above, as follows:

- In respect of their online written application by 11 May
- In respect of one-to-one interview and final acceptance into the programme by 4 June

For more information, please contact [just-EU-IPSW-MENTORSHIP-PROGRAMME@ec.europa.eu](mailto:just-EU-IPSW-MENTORSHIP-PROGRAMME@ec.europa.eu).

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<sup>2</sup> The programme is open to applicants of any nationality but travel can only be arranged from countries of the European Economic Area.