

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE  
AND UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO, MAYAGÜEZ CAMPUS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to set forth the commitments and responsibilities of University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus (UPRM) and the United States Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service (henceforth referred to as FSIS) to partner in recruiting and placement in careers of UPRM students in the fields of Agriculture and related sciences.

II. FSIS MISSION

The mission of FSIS is to ensure that meat, poultry and egg products processed in the United States or imported to this country are safe and wholesome for public consumption. In achieving this mission, it is FSIS's employment policy that all employees and applicants are treated with equality, dignity and respect regardless of race, age, gender, color, religion, family, parental or marital status, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or protected genetic information. FSIS also remains committed to maintaining a diverse workforce to enhance our ability to successfully develop effective solutions to today's challenges in the public health arena.

III. AUTHORITY

Pursuant to authorities delegated to FSIS by the U. S. Office of Personnel Management, FSIS agrees in its recruitment efforts at UPRM to expedite internal administrative processes and direct the prompt hiring of applicants.

IV. FSIS RESPONSIBILITIES

FSIS agrees to have recruiters visit UPRM at least twice a year, either in a focused talent search event or by participation in campus job fairs.

FSIS agrees to send subject matter experts in the fields of food safety, microbiology, public health, food science, etc., to speak with students during regularly scheduled class time as visiting professors to address them regarding its public health and food safety mission and interest them in potential careers with FSIS.

FSIS agrees to meet with UPRM student groups in the schools of Agriculture and related Sciences while on campus for recruiting events and/or acting as visiting professors.

FSIS agrees to provide UPRM with copies of job postings for positions for which UPRM students might qualify. These job postings will be provided in a timely fashion so that students will have a sufficient amount of time to apply.

FSIS agrees to simplify its application process for these positions, to return to campus promptly to interview qualified student applicants and to make quick hiring decisions for the positions.

FSIS agrees to maintain lines of communication (either in person or telephonic) between its leadership and UPRM's leadership as issues, concerns or new initiatives arise.

#### V. UPRM RESPONSIBILITIES

UPRM agrees to have its administrators and faculty support and assist FSIS' on campus recruiting and outreach efforts.

UPRM agrees to encourage its faculty to invite appropriate FSIS personnel as guest speakers to their classes to address them on current public health and food safety issues relevant to course objectives and career disciplines.

UPRM agrees to encourage its faculty to present, on behalf of FSIS, employment information regarding career opportunities at FSIS, or to permit FSIS personnel in-class time to present such information to students.

UPRM agrees to post and publicize through appropriate on campus and alumni sources the job announcements provided by FSIS.

UPRM agrees to facilitate visits and interviews by FSIS personnel with qualified student and/or alumni applicants.

UPRM agrees to identify points of contact for appropriate student groups, faculty and career center staff with whom FSIS can work with and rely on for support.

UPRM agrees to keep FSIS informed of any changes in educational and degree programs related to FSIS' public health mission.

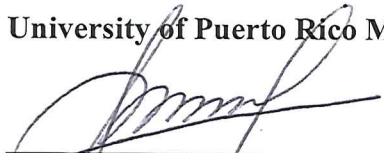
UPRM agrees to provide FSIS with appropriately requested statistical information regarding student enrollment, racial makeup, and degrees bestowed in disciplines related to FSIS' mission.


In furtherance of this partnership, both UPRM and FSIS agree to work cooperatively in placement efforts of UPRM students with FSIS.

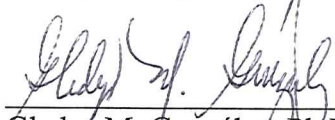
Signed this 14 day of April, 2008

**Recommended by:**


**University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez**

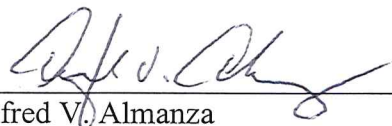
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Fernández Van Cleve, Ph.D.      Date  
Dean and Director  
College of Agricultural Sciences

  
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Anand D. Sharma, Ph.D.      Date  
Director of Graduate Studies  
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs

  
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Gladys M. González, Ph.D.      Date  
Associate Dean for Academic Programs  
College of Agricultural Sciences

**Approved by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jorge Iván Vélez Arocho, Chancellor  
University of Puerto Rico  
Mayagüez Campus

  
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Alfred V. Almanza  
Administrator  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture