



POOL OF CANDIDATES AS RESEARCH ASSISTANTS AT THE USU SENSORY FACILITY

(<https://caas.usu.edu/facilities/taste-panel-room>)

- **Job description**

Research assistant position at the USU Sensory Facility, which is directed by Dr. Joana Pico and is located at the Nutrition, Dietetics, and Food Sciences (NDFS) department. The selected candidate will assist in the following areas:

- Set up the sensory experiments, which typically includes:
 - ✓ Method implementation, rotation preparation, and label printing, all using SIMS 2000 ®.
 - ✓ Recruitment of panelists (typically via email, social media, and flyers).
 - ✓ Sample preparation for tests, including cups labeling and trays preparation.
 - ✓ Greeting panelists for collecting their signed informed consent.
- Purchase the material necessary to perform the sensory tests.
- Keep the Sensory Facility clean and tidy.
- Assist the instructor during the preparation of the IRB, data analysis, and sensory report.
- Coordinate and supervise the students who will help on the preparation of the samples on the sensory test day.

- **Requirements**

- Undergraduate or graduate student who has already passed the course “Sensory Evaluation of Food” at USU (NDFS 5100/6100) or individual with a BSc in Food Science or related who has already studied Sensory Science or equivalent.

- **Preferences**

- Candidates who have previously taken NDFS 5100/6100 with a minimum grade of B-.
- Candidates in possession of the CITI training for working with humans (*free certificate, see <https://research.usu.edu/irb/training/> for more information*).
- Candidates who have experience designing/performing sensory experiments, preferably using SIMS 2000 ®.
- Candidates with availability from 10 am to 3 pm on the days when the sensory test takes place (the week of the month when the test will happen is not predictable, but the day of the week will be negotiable with the selected candidate, when possible).



- **Stipend and Schedule**

- \$15/hour, pre-fringe.
- Working days will depend on when the Sensory Facility users request for a sensory study. Thus, it is not possible to predict how many times per month the assistantship will be required.
- Expect a workload of around 18-20 hours/sensory test (for typical consumer tests; for more specialized tests, the number of hours will be discussed with the selected candidate before accepting the assistantship for the specific sensory test).

- **Contact information:** Dr. Joana Pico, joana.picocarbajo@usu.edu