



GULNARA GULUZHADA

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ABOUT ME

Food Safety Expert with extensive experience in risk assessment and management of animal-based food products, including the re-emergence risks of high-concern pathogens. Skilled in developing and validating test methods, implementing the ISO/IEC 17025:2020 standard, and ensuring compliance with international food safety regulations. Experienced in evaluating laboratory quality audit outcomes, providing actionable feedback, and recommending improvements to enhance operational efficiency. Adept at identifying innovative methodologies and resources to strengthen testing protocols and deliver consistent, reliable results.

WORK EXPERIENCE

🏢 **Azerbaijan Food Safety Institute (AFSI)** – Baku, Azerbaijan

City: Baku | Country: Azerbaijan

Senior specialist at Quality control

[04/09/2020 – Current]

Our team conducts internal audits in Laboratories under AFSI, provides feedback on quality audit results and makes recommendations for improvements, identifying new technology and other resources to achieve greater efficiency and improved results as well as Improvement of the Laboratory quality control system. Additionally, our department prepares reports that relate to Laboratory working duties and annual reports of the Quality Control department, performs research on foreign resources and draws up the scientific review paper.

🏢 **Azerbaijan Food Safety Institute (AFSI)** – Baku, Azerbaijan

City: Baku | Country: Azerbaijan

Leading specialist at Risk Assessment and Scientific Research Department

[19/09/2018 – 04/09/2020]

Our department develops and coordinates research projects in food safety, plant, and animal health. The research group I am working for mainly focused on genomic studies, biosafety & biosecurity of especially dangerous pathogens of animals. We aim to prevent zoonotic diseases and illnesses raised from animal-based food products.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

PhD student in Animal Production and Food Safety at Veterinary Sciences

Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna [01/11/2023 – Current]

City: Bologna | Country: Italy | Website: <https://www.unibo.it/sitoweb/gulnara.guluzade2>

MSc in Biology

Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II [20/10/2015 – 21/03/2018]

City: Naples | Country: Italy

BSc in Ecology

Baku State University [15/09/2011 – 05/06/2015]

City: Baku | Country: Azerbaijan

Three-Module Academic Writing Labyrinth Program

“HAJIYEVA” Education and Business Consulting [30/08/2025 – 13/09/2025]

City: Baku | Country: Azerbaijan

Joint Certificate Program in Climate Smart Animal Production Systems

ADA University-Bologna University [17/02/2025 – 09/05/2025]

City: Baku | Country: Azerbaijan

3-module Certificate Program on the Writing and Publication of Academic Articles

“HAJIYEVA” Education and Business Consulting [09/02/2025 – 23/02/2025]

City: Baku | Country: Azerbaijan

Online Systematic Review Methods Training Workshop

CGIAR-Climate Impact Platform [03/12/2024 – 05/12/2024]

Module 1 – Safety General Training

Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna [22/02/2024]

City: Bologna | Country: Italy

Module 2 – Safety Specific Training - Low risk

Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna [24/02/2024]

City: Bologna | Country: Italy

Validation and quality assurance measures for three diagnostic methods and the quality system requirements for the national diagnostics laboratories

Azerbaijan Food Safety Institute in the framework of the Twinning Project, [10/07/2022]

City: Baku | Country: Azerbaijan

ISO 16140-3 "Food Chain Microbiology -Method Validation",

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Turkey (online) [09/01/2022]

City: Baku | Country: Azerbaijan

Risk analysis and assessment and Pathological material sampling, delivering, storage and handling

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Turkey/Azerbaijan Food Safety Institute [10/11/2021 – 19/11/2021]

City: Baku | Country: Azerbaijan

Science Mentorship

Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), Biological Threat Reduction Program (BTRP) (online) [19/04/2021]

Country: United States

Nucleic acid-based Diagnostic Method

Letgen Biotechnology [05/09/2021]

City: Baku | Country: Azerbaijan | Website: <https://letgenbio.com/en/>

ISO 17025:2017 Quality Management System of Testing and Calibration Laboratories (online)

Azerbaijan Food Safety INstitute/TURKISH STANDARDS INSTITUTION [04/10/2020]

City: Baku | Country: Azerbaijan

NGS Data Analysis (online)

ecSeq Bioinformatics [10/10/2020]

City: Munich | Country: Germany

NGS DNA Sequencing

Alliance Global (AGBL Group) [09/11/2019]

City: Dubai | Country: United Arab Emirates

Linux for Life Sciences

NBIS & SciLifeLab [11/12/2019]

City: Stockholm | Country: Sweden

Sustainable Animal Production and Resource Management for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Safety

Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) and Khon Kaen University [10/06/2019 – 06/07/2019]

City: Khon Kaen | Country: Thailand

BIOTECON Diagnostics and Altigen Bio-Molecular genetics,

Azerbaijan Food Safety Institute [23/09/2018]

City: Baku | Country: Azerbaijan

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): Azerbaijani

Other language(s):

Turkish

LISTENING C1 READING C1 WRITING C1

SPOKEN PRODUCTION C1 SPOKEN INTERACTION C1

English

LISTENING C1 READING C1 WRITING B2

SPOKEN PRODUCTION B2 SPOKEN INTERACTION B2

Russian

LISTENING C1 READING B2 WRITING B1

SPOKEN PRODUCTION B1 SPOKEN INTERACTION B1

Italian

LISTENING B1 READING B1 WRITING A2

SPOKEN PRODUCTION A2 SPOKEN INTERACTION A2

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user

SKILLS

Microsoft Office package: Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access / Beginner Level Linux/Ubuntu / Internal Audit/ISO17025 / Food microbiology molecular analysis

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

[09/2020] Baku

"Decision on the establishment of field commissions for the development of skills" According to the Rules of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the preparation, re-drafting, approval, registration, and extension of the professional and qualification standard, as well as the "Decision on the establishment of field commissions for the development of skills" on behalf of the Azerbaijan Institute of Food Safety, participated active in field commission meetings and contributed to professional and qualification standards

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

[10/09/2025 – 12/09/2025] Parma, Italy

XXXIV CONVEGNO NAZIONALE A.I.V.I. IL VETERINARIO IGIENISTA TRA SICUREZZA ALIMENTARE E MERCATO GLOBALE Poster presentation: "PROFILO DI RISCHIO DI CEPPI DI STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS IN FORMAGGI A LATTE CRUDO: RISULTATI DI UN'INDAGINE PRELIMINARE LUNGO LA FILIERA"

[10/06/2025] Bologna, Italy

Securing Agriculture in a Changing Climate: Water-Energy-Food Nexus Solutions for Global Sustainability Presented preliminary research findings on *S. aureus* and its impact on public health and food system resilience at a strategic collaboration event between the University of Bologna and North American institutions, including Michigan State University, focused on sustainability and innovation.

[01/09/2020 – 03/09/2020] Turkey

II. International Conference on Agricultural, Biological and Life Science

[24/05/2019 – 25/05/2019] Baku

One Health Conference/Khazar University

[04/04/2019 – 05/04/2019]

The 1st International Conference on Air – Land – Sea Interaction /ICALSI2019/Khazar University

PROJECTS

[15/11/2023 – Current]

Model farm - SustMilk4IT As a research collaborator on the SustMilk4IT – Stalla Modello project (University of Bologna), I support efforts to enhance sustainability and food safety in the dairy supply chain. My work involves microbiological sampling and molecular assays (e.g. WGS) to detect pathogens in milk and environmental samples, contributing data to decision-support tools for microbial risk assessment and sustainability analysis.

Link: <https://site.unibo.it/stalla-modello-sustmilk4it/en>

[28/09/2019]

"TEMPORARY SANITARY STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS ON ENERGY DRINKS" of the Azerbaijan Republic I worked in the working group to establish a national standard for the energy drinks imported to Azerbaijan and made my contributions as a leading specialist of the Scientific Research and Risk Assessment Department of the Scientific Research Center at the Azerbaijan Food Safety Institute

Link: <https://e-qanun.az/framework/43360>

HONOURS AND AWARDS

[01/10/2025] Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna

"Giordana Masetti" 2025 FOR DOCTORAL INTERNSHIP AWARD The Giordana Masetti 2025 Doctoral Internship Award, issued by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in collaboration with Europass and the University of Parma, offers paid internships for PhD students enrolled in Emilia-Romagna universities. I will carry out a guest traineeship at EFSA's headquarters in Parma, focusing on the topic: "Application of new approach methodologies, omics and bioinformatic approaches in regulatory science (or risk assessment)"

[01/11/2023] The Ministry of Science and Education

Doctoral scholarship of State Program on Increasing the International Competitiveness of the Higher Education System in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2019-2023 Implemented by the Ministry of Education and financed by the State Oil Fund, this program aimed to modernize higher education in Azerbaijan, align it with global standards, and strengthen international collaboration.

[20/10/2015] Sponsored by “Compagnia di San Paolo”

Master’s Degree Fellowship – University of Naples Federico II Awarded a two-year scholarship for international students in English-taught degree programs, supporting study and research in Italy.

[15/09/2011] Baku State University

State-Order Scholarship by the Government of Azerbaijan Republic (distinguished/top-performing student) Awarded a State-Order Scholarship by the Government of Azerbaijan as a distinguished/top-performing student, covering full tuition and a monthly stipend for Bachelor’s studies based on national entrance exam results

PUBLICATIONS

[2025]

Assessment of the Anti-Listeria Effect of Citrus limon Peel Extract In Silico, In Vitro, and in Fermented Cow Milk During Cold Storage

Volume, Issue and Pages: Volume 14, Issue 4 | **Publisher:** MDPI-Foods 2025

Wafa Mkadem, Khaoula Belguith, Valentina Indio, Olfa Oussaief, Gulnara Guluzade, Halima ElHatm, Andrea Serraino, Alessandra De Cesare and Nourhene Boudhrioua

MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Substitute for the head of the division of Bioengineering

I was substituted for the head of the division Bioengineering role for about 9 months. During this period I had a chance to be a supportive leader and a motivated team player. I motivated the teams to develop new projects and deliver better results for ongoing projects during the first stages of the global pandemic. I have good research skills and I am a hardworking person who continuously proposes project ideas, conducts research, and arranges collaborations and funding sources. Besides these, my responsibilities also include attending meetings, writing academic articles for local journals, and presenting our research works on TV programs.