The plant biotechnology program builds a broad, interdisciplinary plant science expertise around a strong biotechnology core. Embedded within the University of Illinois graduate programs, the PSM students enjoy the charged atmosphere of scientific discoveries for which the University of Illinois is globally recognized. Plant Biotechnology PSM students are encouraged to pursue research, forging the unique skills and credentials from direct participation in graduate scientific inquiry with ties to practical applications.

Along with a sound footing in biotechnology-related disciplines, students will be introduced to the modes by which scientific discoveries are translated to the commercial realm. This program fosters students’ efforts to cultivate meaningful relationships with industry partners, from whom they can learn about the directions and needs of biotechnology enterprises. To prepare students to function successfully at the interface of science and business, the PSM provides essential real world experience through team consulting projects with industry partners that build professional skills in key areas of communication, project management, and leadership.

By merging biotechnology-focused training with business knowledge and professional skills, the Plant Biotechnology program equips students for diverse entry points into agricultural, medical, and environmental enterprises that demand sound scientific thinking with business acumen.

The program can be completed in 16-months of full-time study on the Urbana-Champaign campus. Summer enrollment is required while completing the internship. A thesis is not required.

Applications may be submitted online. For additional information, visit the University of Illinois PSM website at [psm.illinois.edu](http://psm.illinois.edu) or email [PSMdegree@illinois.edu](mailto:PSMdegree@illinois.edu).
**SAMPLE PROGRAM OF STUDY**

**Year 1: Fall**

*Science Curriculum (select 2-3 in consultation with advisors)*
- IB 421 Photosynthesis
- IB 424 Plant Development
- IB 478 Evolution Genetics & Genomics
- IB 477 Genomics for Plant Improvement
- IB 524 Plant Biochemistry
- IB 510* PSM Discussions in Plant Biotech
- IB 590 Team Consulting Project

*Business Curriculum*
- Two 2-hour courses in
  - Teamwork and Leadership, and
  - Management and Marketing
- PSM 501 Industry Seminar I

**Year 1: Spring**

*Science Curriculum (select 2-3 in consultation with advisors)*
- IB 420 Plant Physiology
- IB 440 Plants & Climate Change
- IB 507 Statistical Genomics
- IB 503* Methods/Applications in Biotech.
- IB 524 Plant Biochemistry
- CPSC 566 Plant Gene Regulation
- IB 505 Bioinformatics & Systems Biology
- IB 510* PSM Discussions in Plant Biotech
- IB 590 Team Consulting Project

*Business Curriculum*
- Two 2-hour courses in
  - Project Management, and
  - Finance
- PSM 502 Industry Seminar II

**Summer Internship**

**Year 2: Fall**

*Science Curriculum (select 2-3 in consultation with advisors)*
- IB 472 Plant Molecular Biology
- IB 473 Plant Genomics
- IB 474 Plant Proteomics & Metabolomics
- IB 478 Evolution Genetics & Genomics
- IB 542 Environmental Plant Physiology
- CSPC 440 Applied Statistical Methodology
- CPSC 477 Genomics for Plant Improvement
- IB 510* PSM Discussions in Plant Biotech
- IB 590 Team Consulting Project

*Business Curriculum*
- One 2-hour course in Science and Regulatory Policy
- PSM 503 Industry Seminar III

*Required

This is a sample curriculum; your courses will depend upon your individual interests and career plans. For additional course offerings, visit: [http://psm.illinois.edu/plant-biotechnology](http://psm.illinois.edu/plant-biotechnology) or [http://life.illinois.edu/plantbio/PSM](http://life.illinois.edu/plantbio/PSM)

Students have interned at:
- Eurofin
- KWS
- Monsanto
- Genectiv
- AGCO
- Amcol International
- USDA-ARS
- University of Illinois

Graduates have been hired by:
- AGCO
- DuPont
- University of Illinois

**PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

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Coordinated by the University of Illinois Department of Plant Biology in cooperation with the Graduate College.