



PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY

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.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Product development and marketing
- Government and public relations
- Design and Implementation or regulatory strategies
- Market analysis and feasibility studies
- Application of new customer support models
- Technology transfer and intellectual property ventures

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited U.S. Institution or a comparable degree from a recognized institution abroad,
- Grade point average of 3.0 or higher (4.0 scale) for the last 60 hours of undergraduate work and for any graduate work,
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE),
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) for non-native speakers of English, and
- Letters of recommendation.

Applications may be submitted online. For additional information, visit the University of Illinois PSM website at psm.illinois.edu or email 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
CPSC 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

*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>*

Students have interned at:

- AGCO Corporation
- AgReliant
- Amcol International
- Eurofins Agroscience Services
- Genective S.A.
- Illinois Corn Marketing Board
- KWS Cereals USA, LLC
- Monsanto
- USDA-ARS
- University of Illinois

Graduates have been hired by:

- Agilent
- Archer Daniels Midland (ADM)
- AGCO Corporation
- DuPont
- Eli Lilly and Company
- United Suppliers Inc.
- University of Illinois

Contact

Natalie Bosecker
Illinois PSM Director
317 Coble Hall
PSMdegree@illinois.edu
(217) 265-5363

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

**Required*