



# Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center



## Advancing Plant Sciences Research • Education • Outreach

### Broadening the reach of plant sciences

#### Research synergies

The Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center (PSC) leverages its cross-university mission and organization to advance ambitious research initiatives. Our 600 member scientists represent a wide spectrum of plant-related disciplines, and the PSC is a nexus for approaching questions in the plant sciences that require coordinated effort. The PSC provides platforms for intellectual interaction and PhD and post-doctoral fellowships. We also support our members at the grant-preparation stage to develop coherent strategies for extending the reach of their work to society and policy.

#### Research fellowships

In recent years, PSC staff, in close collaboration with faculty members, have co-ordinated 140 PhD and postdoctoral fellowships for Swiss and international students. Financed by public, private and non-governmental organizations (both national and international), the fellowships have applied innovative approaches to course and project work, stakeholder outreach and mentoring structures. The fellowships not only promote world-class science, but also help ensuring that plant science research benefits society and policy.

PIs, PhD students and postdoctoral fellows supported by PSC programs have access to service-oriented research management structures throughout the lifecycle of their fellowships. This includes candidate selection processes, research contract administration, EU-project management, financial management and reporting and impact analysis both at European and national level.

#### Ongoing Programs

[RESPONSE – DOCTORAL PROGRAM \(MSCA COFUND H2020\)](#)

[PLANTHUB – EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL DOCTORATE \(MSCA ITN H2020\)](#)

[MERCATOR – PSC FELLOWSHIPS \(MERCATOR FOUNDATION SWITZERLAND\)](#)

[SYNGENTA – PSC FELLOWSHIPS \(SYNGENTA CROP PROTECTION AG\)](#)

[JOINT RESEARCH CENTER – PSC FELLOWSHIPS \(EUROPEAN COMMISSION\)](#)



# Opening doors for students

## Courses for Master's and PhD students

The career perspectives of students entering graduate schools have changed through the years. Now, many students – and their future employers – expect graduate training to instill fundamental science, plus strong skills in applying and communicating science, in working with policymakers, stakeholders and the public while assimilating elements of multiple disciplines to solve complex problems.

To address these expectations, the PSC offers graduate classes that complement the degrees awarded by the University partners at the Master's and PhD level. Currently the PSC organizes about 40 graduate courses each year, carried out in English. More than 160 PhD students are enrolled in our programs.

## PhD programs

We offer two accredited structured PhD programs for students enrolled at our partner institutions. The **PhD Program in Plant Sciences** provides training in frontier topics of molecular plant biology, ecology and agronomy, as well as opportunities to acquire transferable skills following international qualification frameworks.

The **PhD Program in Science and Policy** is designed for natural scientists seeking tools to work at the interfaces between research, policy, and stakeholders. Both programs offer access to special workshops and summer schools that address environmental challenges from a systemic perspective. PSC students also take an active role in organizing workshops, international seminars and networking events.

Registration: <https://www.plantsciences.uzh.ch/en/teaching/registration.html>

## Mentoring and career development

PSC offers mentoring in carrying out science-policy dialogue, science communication and public engagement. The PSC facilitates internships in policy organizations and advises PhD students in choosing the right tools and formats for impact generation. Since 2017, the PSC is organizing the feminino career development program for female life scientists at the science-innovation interface.

# Bringing science to society

The PSC plays a unique role in linking plant science researchers with society. We organize various events where latest research results become tangible.

**Conferences and symposia** – The PSC hosts international conferences in the fields of plant and environmental sciences as well as expert conferences, public round tables and stakeholder workshops.

**Plant science at school** – Our education specialists develop experiments and learning materials and organize lab visits, workshops, project weeks for school classes as well as continuing education opportunities for Swiss school teachers.

**Informal science education** – Our outreach programs engage youth with the fascinating world of being a plant scientist. We develop creative and inquiry-based workshop activities fostering children's own interests and explorations. Social aspects of learning focus on children's role as citizens, highlighting science and environmental awareness as part of their life. The PSC collaborates with holiday camp providers and afterschool programs to facilitate the use of the workshop materials.

## Follow us on Social Media



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[https://blogs.ethz.ch/Science\\_and\\_Policy/](https://blogs.ethz.ch/Science_and_Policy/)

About Us

## Plant Science Center

The Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center (PSC) is a competence center linking and supporting the plant science research community of the University of Zurich, ETH Zurich and the University of Basel.

The PSC promotes plant science research, education and outreach. We seek creative approaches to research mentoring and coursework for students and postdocs, and we provide platforms for interactions with peers, policymakers, industry and stakeholders. We help graduate students put together the right package of classes in the plant sciences, statistics, policy, communication and other transferable skills. And, we help match students and PIs with appropriate funding sources to take on some of society's most important questions.

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