

A certification unique in its kind in Europe

With the certification, the PSC has a vision: offering postdoctoral fellows accredited training components as groundwork for future appointments. Emerging scholars may thus build up a strong portfolio that articulates the knowledge, experience and competencies they have acquired. As scholars move from one postdoctoral position to the next, documenting achievements in a researcher's development becomes essential.

Unique in its kind, the program can be finished with an accredited certification. By carrying out activities offered by the program the 180 hours necessary for the certification can be completed.

The certification gives evidence of continuous education and career development activities of the fellows and follows the recommendations for life-long learning in the European Qualification Framework and the European Framework for Research Careers. The certification is issued by the University of Zurich and the host organization of the fellow.

GENERAL INFORMATION

PLANT FELLOWS is an international postdoctoral fellowship program in the field of plant sciences co-funded by the SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME (FP7) Marie Curie Actions – People, Co-funding of Regional, National and International Programmes (COFUND).

PLANT FELLOWS is centrally managed at the Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center (PSC). The PSC is a competence center linking and supporting the plant science research communities of the University of Zurich, ETH Zurich and the University of Basel in strong collaboration with other leading European universities and research organizations.

The PSC promotes both fundamental and applied research in the plant sciences. We seek creative approaches to research mentoring and coursework for students and post docs, and we provide platforms for interactions with peers, policy-makers, industry and stakeholders. We help match students and principal investigators with appropriate funding sources to take on some of society's most important questions.

www.plantsciences.ch

Training board

- Dr. Melanie Paschke, Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center
- Dr. Gerlind Wallon, EMBO Young Investigator Programme
- Prof. Elena Conti, Institute of Systematic Botany, University of Zurich

Certification

The PLANT FELLOWS program certification has been approved by the following host organizations: the Faculty of Science at University of Zurich, ETH Zurich and University of Basel, University of Cologne, University of Steierling, Gregor Mendel Institute of Molecular Plant Biology in Vienna, Academy of Science Czech Republic, Umeå Plant Science Center, Pohang University of Science and Technology, and Netherland Institute of Ecology as part of the Graduate School of Experimental Plant Sciences.

Length of the program

2 years

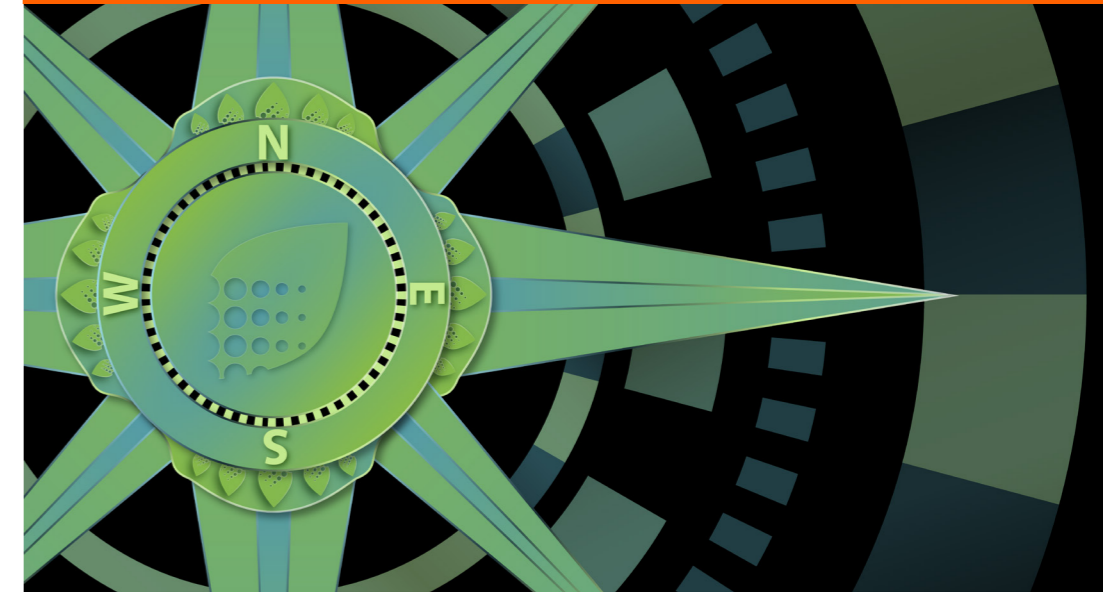
Help desk

info@plantfellows.ch



www.plantfellows.ch

PLANT FELLOWS CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR POST DOCS



Managed by
Zurich-Basel
Plant Science Center



This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme under grant agreement no GA-2010-267243 – PLANT FELLOWS.

Career Development Program

PLANT FELLOWS established a Career Development Program in the area of life-long learning that supports postdoctoral fellows in building a strong portfolio of competencies. Important questions the program addresses: How can I develop my research career? What competencies do I need on an international level? What skills should I develop?

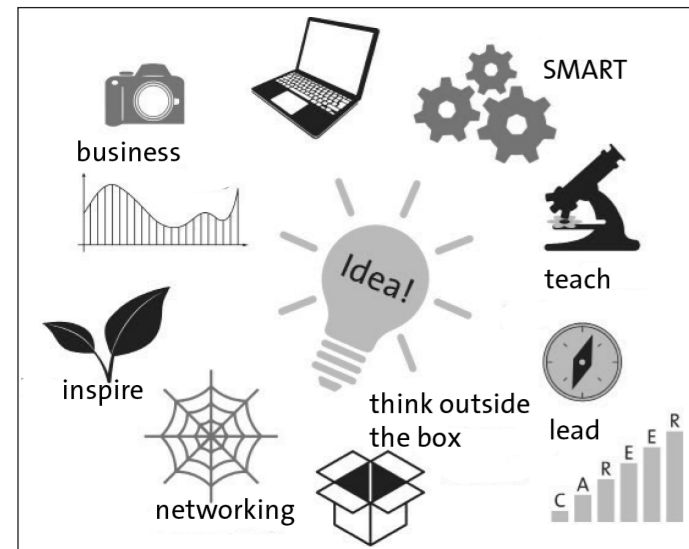
The program is advancing the postdoctoral continuous education with the following components:

TRAINING

MENTORING

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

NETWORKING



TRAINING

A fully established international training program of advanced transferable skill courses rooted in the competency framework of VITAE Researcher Development Framework.

PLANT FELLOWS courses

Leading and developing a research group	Oct 2014	repeated in Sep 2015, open to all
Advanced publication strategies	Oct 2015	
Advanced fundraising strategies	Oct 2013	repeated in Autumn 2015, open to all
Entrepreneurship	Oct 2014	
Career management	Oct 2013 Oct 2014	repeated in Spring 2015, open to all New title: Making effective career choices
Responsible conduct / IPR	Oct 2015	

MENTORING

The mentoring accompanies the PLANT FELLOWS coursework. Experts from academia or industry share their experiences with the fellow. They offer guidance in understanding key factors for research careers in the highly competitive international landscape but also to move jobs between academia and industry and provide orientation during a critical phase.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Continuously evolving the Personal Development Plan is part of the assessment of the program. It includes tools for the self-assessment of skills and competencies, an action plan to establish SMART actions to reach the fellow's needs: **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ction-oriented, **R**ealistic, and **T**ime-oriented. Skills, competencies and experiences are documented in a portfolio, making development visible.

NETWORKING

The fellows profit from a international network in plant sciences. For example, idea labs with representatives from industry provide the platform for brainstorming and collaboration during the PLANT FELLOWS annual meetings.

CERTIFICATION

Fellows obtain a certification after successfully completing the curriculum, which has a workload of 180 hours.

Course title	Hours
4 of the PLANT FELLOWS courses	48
<i>Affiliated courses:</i> 10 course days offered at the host organization for the individual fellow. These courses can be part of the regular continuing education offer of the host organization. Accreditation needs to be clarified before visiting the course.	80
Attendance of 2 PLANT FELLOWS annual meeting and active participation through presentation of research work.	12
The Personal Development Plan (PDP) is regularly revised by the fellow and will be evaluated by the PLANT FELLOWS Training board as part of the certification process.	40
Total necessary for program completion	180

The PLANT FELLOWS course offer is complemented by affiliated continuous education courses at the following host organizations:

University of Zurich	14 course days per annum
ETH Zurich	20 course days per annum
University of Basel	10 course days per annum
University of Stirling	10 course days per annum
University of Cologne	10 course days per annum
Umeå Plant Science Center	Courses on different technologies
GMI Vienna	12 course days per annum

The complete course catalogue is available at:

www.plantfellows.ch/node/503