



## Industrial Mentorship program for PhD students 2018

As a graduate student, it may be difficult to create an accurate picture of working life outside academia and its opportunities after the PhD defence. To give students a better picture of working in industry or in non-academic organizations, PlantLink is hosting an industrial mentorship program for PhD students and Post Docs in the area of plant biology. This is also a chance for those who work outside academia to gain more insights into PhD students' education and Post Doc work. We want to create a meeting platform between students and industry.

PlantLink's mentorship program is aimed at PhD students and Post Docs in plant biology or related research. The mentor is supposed to work in a company or institution outside Lund University and SLU active in the plant and agricultural area.

A mentorship program is based on the personal relationship between mentor and student, with the goal of creating a mutually beneficial relationship in which experiences, thoughts and ideas are exchanged. To increase chances for a successful partnership, the mentor and graduate student have been matched based on common interests and research/work areas.

The program increases the opportunities for developing cooperation between universities and companies. It also leads to an increased awareness and understandings of doctoral students' knowledge of the companies in the labor market.

The PhD students and Post Docs get a chance to create a good contact for their future profession, and get the chance to share experiences and knowledge from people who have similar training and interests.

The mentors work at a plant research related enterprise or organization in the Skåne region. The mentor should serve as a sounding board and give inspiration on issues concerning working life, career and development. As a mentor, one should feel joy in being able to provide the inspiration and guidance for a PhD student/Post Doc.

The mentor program extends over roughly half a year, starting with a joint informal meeting (in May and finishes in November). During the program, an additional meeting over lunch or dinner with inspirational lecture and mingle and a study visit in the region together with the other students and mentors in the program will be arranged. It is thought that the student and mentor meet every other / every three months during the program.

## Prerequisite:

Doctoral students and Post Docs *must* want to get together and allocate the time and energy required to maintain and keep in contact and relationship with the mentor during the program. If the student lacks motivation the whole idea behind mentoring falls.

The mentor participates voluntarily without compensation.

## Matching and first meeting:

### Mentor to think of:

What can you as a mentor contribute with?

What aspects do you find interesting as a mentor?

What were your experiences of the transaction between studying and working?

### PhD student/Post doc to think of:

What do you want out of the program, and interaction with your mentor?

What aspects of working life outside the universities are you interested in?

Important! If the chemistry between the student and the mentor does not work, they both have the choice to stop and / or replace the mentor and student.

## Policies:

- It is the PhD student's/Post Doc's responsibility to book meetings
- Recurring appointments / meetings organized by PlantLink about 3 times (incl. Start-up and closure) - mingle + dinner / lunch. Study visit. Relevant lecture.
- The PhD student/Post Docs should have the chance to visit the mentor's working place.

## Participants will receive:

Certificate of participation

Exposure for their company / research

Meet future possible colleagues / collaborators

Get new thoughts and ideas, and perspectives

## Participants will receive:

To apply, contact PlantLink's Erik Alexandersson ([erik.alexandersson@slu.se](mailto:erik.alexandersson@slu.se)). After a go-ahead from us, we will ask you to present your research, background and interests in no more than 2500 characters including blanks (roughly half A4). Please be careful in your description and pay attention to your written English since this is the text the companies will see in the matching process. We will of course do our best to find the most suitable match.