

NSF Arabidopsis Program: International Research Experience for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows

Website: www.arabidopsis.org/portals/masc/NSF_Arabidopsis_research_program.pdf

U.S. and German scientists are active in broad-based Arabidopsis functional genomics programs funded by the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Arabidopsis 2010 program and the German Arabidopsis Functional Genomics Network (AFGN), respectively, as well as through other scientific programs from these government agencies. In an effort to establish collaborations between U.S. and German functional genomics groups, an NSF grant has been awarded to fund graduate students and/or postdoctoral fellows from NSF-supported U.S. laboratories engaged in Arabidopsis functional genomic projects to spend up to three months in a host German laboratory. Note- the U.S. lab does not need to have a 2010 grant to be eligible but MUST possess an NSF grant awarded in the general area of Arabidopsis gene function. If the student or post-doc is associated with an NSF-funded Arabidopsis gene function project, even if it is not their primary lab, they would also be eligible provided the association is clearly documented.

In order to provide maximum opportunity and to represent as many projects as possible, the program will provide for airfare (up to \$1000) and a nominal subsistence allowance during the stay (up to \$1500/mo). The program has sufficient resources to send 8-10 students per year to Germany and is funded for three years beginning May 1, 2005. Of course individuals may wish to use, and are encouraged to secure, additional funding to supplement the expenses of their stay, to stay longer than the maximum 3 month period, or provide other research related opportunities. All travel must be completed by December, 2008.

Awardees will be selected from those submitting a completed application package including:

1. A letter of nomination from the leader of the U.S. research group, including the basis for candidate selection and the value of the experience for the cooperating laboratories. There is a limit of one application per group and consideration of women and underrepresented minorities is strongly encouraged.
2. A letter of agreement by the proposed German host laboratory approving the proposed visit.
3. A two-page description of the research topic and suitability of the research to the goals of *both* the sponsor and host research groups,
4. A brief (2 page, NSF format) biographical sketch for the applicant including information on past and current education and relevant research and employment positions. (Follow the "Senior Personnel" guidelines, parts a-d, located at http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/gpg/nsf04_23/2.jsp#IIC2f.)
5. A letter of application which should include how this proposed experience addresses longer-term career goals of the applicant. A valid email address for notification of application status must be included.
6. A draft itinerary including the estimated dates for the proposed research visit.

Final selection will be determined by recommendations from The Multinational Arabidopsis Steering Committee (MASC; http://www.arabidopsis.org/info/2010_projects/MASC_Info.jsp) based on the following criteria:

Eligibility:

1. This program is targeted to postdoctoral fellows and graduate students without substantial previous international research experience. Applicants who have previously conducted research at the undergraduate or graduate level outside of the United States will have lower priority.
2. Only postdoctoral fellows and graduate students who have completed at least their first year of studies and have initiated their research project expected to lead to the PhD (or its equivalent), will be considered. Level of attainment of the applicant (*i.e.*, how far along in their scientific career) should be addressed by the PI in the letter of nomination.
3. Students must be working on a dissertation topic in the broad area of Arabidopsis functional genomics and associated with a research group where this is a significant part of the research goals of an NSF-funded program.

Evaluation criteria:

1. Suitability of the research to the goals of both the sponsor and host research groups and its potential for longer-term interactions.
2. The potential for the candidate to contribute substantially to the field of Arabidopsis during their career, as determined by accomplishments, current research efforts, and longer-term goals.

US scientists interested in locating a German group and young German scientists interested in a research exchange in the US are encouraged to visit the DFG Arabidopsis Functional Genomics Network web site at <http://www.uni-tuebingen.de/plantphys/AFGN/> (select the 'Young Researcher Exchange Program' link.)

Proposal Deadlines:

2007: August 2nd, November 2nd

2008: January 2nd, April 2nd

Application packages should be submitted electronically, either in MSWord or Adobe PDF format, to Joanna Friesner, Coordinator of the Multinational Arabidopsis Steering Committee (jdfriesner@stanford.edu). Applicants will receive email acknowledgements of successful submission and notification of the status of their application by the last day of the month following submission.