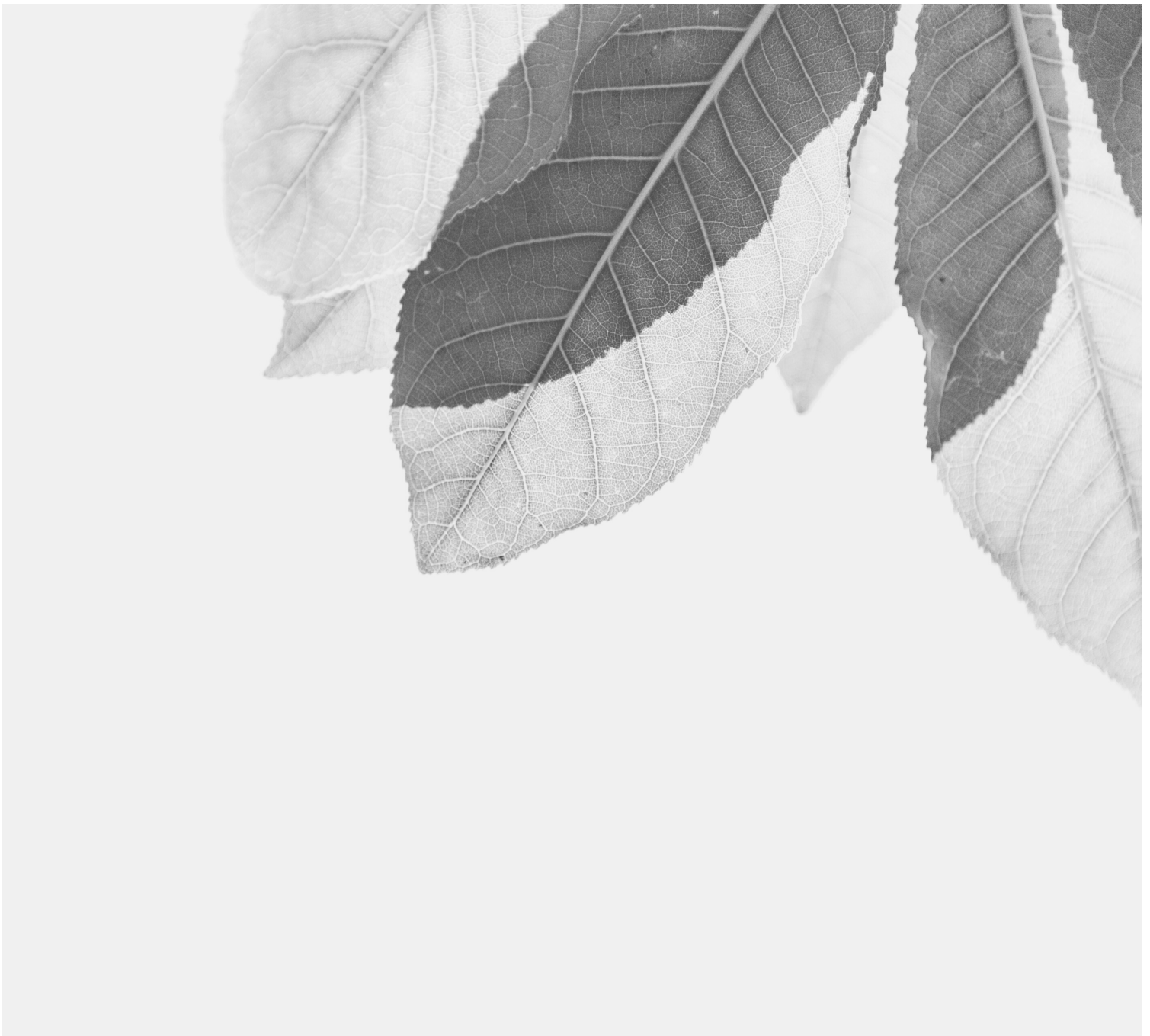


2021

# **PSGSA INTERNSHIP PROPOSAL**



# OVERVIEW

The University of Manitoba's Department of Plant Science is a multicultural department, made up of students from different backgrounds and different experiences. There are currently 57 graduate students working on a variety of research projects, with over half of them having a non-Canadian background. Therefore, these students have not had the same access and opportunities to participate in summer jobs, connect with industry through in-person networking events, etc. that students who completed their undergrad in Canada would have. Many of these students wishing to stay in Canada would be at a disadvantage in job searches because of their lack of Canadian work experience.

As well, Canadian and non-Canadian students alike would benefit from greater interactions with industry and potential employers and the opportunities for professional development this provides, increasing the visibility and connections for the Plant Science as a department as well.

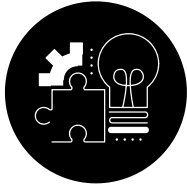
The aim of an internship program, in whatever form, would be not only to create competent scientists, but to develop students into well-rounded future professionals in agriculture by also growing their skills of communication, time management, working as a team, understanding diversity in the workplace, etc.

# OBJECTIVES



## Objective 1

To provide students with experience in the Canadian agricultural industry, including provincial and federal



## Objective 2

To have students experience corporate work and office culture



## Objective 3

To improve student's official communication, networking and project accountability skills



## Objective 4

To develop a professional network for future endeavours

## POSSIBLE IDEAS TO FACILITATE

Therefore, the PSGSA proposes to explore the following ideas:

-Exploring the idea of a four-month internship program option for graduate students to acquire Canadian work experience and to develop a network for their future employment opportunities

OR

-A hybrid internship model that connects students with industry partners and requires them to volunteer and fulfill professional development activities during their degree

OR

-Building a bank of mentors (industry and government) to match students with and providing professional development opportunities/events for mentors and students alike

## EXTERNAL PROGRAMS WITH SIMILAR OBJECTIVES

- STEP Student position with Manitoba Agriculture or Manitoba Government
- Federal Student Work Experience Program and Internship program with AAFC
- Summer intern to different industries such as Bayer, BASF, Corteva Agriscience etc.
  - Variation: 1-2 day a week internship at any time of the year with the industry/NGO's/government
- Mitacs-Student Accelerate Program
- FAFS Mentorship Program (<http://cwse-prairies.ca/pages/mentorship/docs/MentorshipHandbook.pdf>)
- CREATE Climate-Smart Soils Student program ([smartsoils.ca](http://smartsoils.ca))

## NEXT STEPS

- Meet with Plant Science department to discuss possibilities and what is feasible
  - Brainstorm objectives and the pros and cons of each option
  - Ensure that the concerns of each party are answered
- Create a plan together with Plant Science department to implement
  - Discuss breakdown of tasks and responsible parties