

---

# Call for applications 2021

---

The logo for 'plant B+B' features the word 'plant' in a green, lowercase sans-serif font. To its right, 'B+B' is written in a bold, orange, uppercase sans-serif font. A stylized orange leaf or branch graphic is positioned above the 'p' in 'plant'.

The VIB logo consists of a stylized human figure composed of three colored shapes: a teal circle for the head, a purple triangle for the torso, and an orange triangle for the base. To the right of this icon, the letters 'VIB' are written in a bold, black, uppercase sans-serif font.

International Plant  
Biotechnology Outreach

The Ghent University logo features a blue icon of a classical building with a pediment and columns. Below this icon, the words 'GHENT UNIVERSITY' are written in a blue, uppercase sans-serif font.

## Contents

The objectives of the Plant B+B Grants .....	3
Conferences and Courses Grants (CC) .....	4
Science on the Road Grants (SoR) .....	6
Short Research Stays Grants (SRS) .....	8



[www.plantbb.org](http://www.plantbb.org)



## The objectives of the Plant B+B Grants

The collaboration fostered under the Plant Biotechnology and Breeding (Plant B+B) International Thematic Network (ITN) shall open a new window to connect academic programs, researchers, and institutions worldwide. Hence, the Plant B+B ITN intends to unite human capacity, expertise and resources for education, research and outreach in the field of plant biotechnology and breeding. Our platform comprises biotechnologists, geneticists, bioinformaticians, breeders, economists, journalists, experts on bio-regulatory affairs, and philosophers. Such a collaborative network shall create an enabling environment for joint fundraising, learning and scaling up innovations to sustainably intensify agriculture and enhance food and nutrition security and safety.

The Plant B+B network has three primary objectives to which partners will contribute with activities. These are:

- **Promote education for strengthening researchers' and stakeholders' scientific and technical capacity** to drive advances on plant biotechnology and breeding.
- **Research for the global advancement of plant biotechnology and breeding** through cross-disciplinary research projects, and joint development and implementation.
- **Service to society** to increase awareness about plant biotechnology and breeding contributes to developing resilient and innovation-based food systems, both in industrialised and lower-income countries. Partners and collaborators will further help discuss and address socio-economic and communication aspects required to convey this message to our society.

As part of the Plant B+B action plan, our project has allocated funds to support our partners on these objectives' achievements. Our network will provide grants yearly (2021-2025) for Plant B+B members under competitive action calls. This document presents the guidelines **for three different types of grants aimed at connecting research groups, enhance the capacity of early-career scientist and increase the visibility of our partners and their research**. The forms required to complete these applications are available as word templates on our website <https://plantbb.org/> in the section 'Activities' and 'Funding Opportunities'.

The Plant B+B ITN is a UGent funded project awarded to The UGent- VIB International Plant Biotechnology Outreach. The VIB-IPBO is a non-profit scientific organisation established in 2000 as a partnership of the Vlaams Instituut Voor Biotechnologie (VIB), a world-leading life sciences research institute based in Flanders (Belgium), and Gent University (UGent).

For further general information, please contact the Plant B+B coordination office at [IPBO@vib-ugent.be](mailto:IPBO@vib-ugent.be) or visit our website.



[www.plantbb.org](http://www.plantbb.org)

## Conferences and Courses Grants (CC)

### Definitions and objectives

The Plant B+B intends to increase the network's members' capacity and support them on gaining visibility while sharing their work on plant biotechnology and breeding. This call targets the attendance to specialised international fora or specialised pieces of training, including online conferences and courses. This grant intends to support young scientists (MSc, PhD) mainly. Women are highly encouraged to apply.

- **Call openings:** Every year on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 10<sup>th</sup> April, 10<sup>th</sup> July, and 10<sup>th</sup> October.
- **Application deadlines:** Every year on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 10<sup>th</sup> May, 10<sup>th</sup> August, 10<sup>th</sup> November (17:00 CET).

### Allowance

The grants will be allocated after a competitive procedure and are accessible to members of the Plant B+B network only. Every year, the Plant B+B will support **four grants of 850€/ each to cover registration fees + travel or online registration for specific training pieces.**

### Eligibility criteria

#### *The applicant and the host institution*

- The grants will be allocated after a competitive procedure and are accessible to members of the Plant B+B network only.
- The applicant should be registered on an MSc or PhD program at the date of application.
- Recipients of this bursary are not eligible to benefit from another CC grant during the same year. They are allowed to submit applications for subsequent years.

#### *Implementation period*

The grant must be spent **before 31<sup>st</sup> December every year in which the grant was allocated.** No budget transfers will be allowed for the following year.

#### *Thematic area*

Applicants must justify how the conference or the training will increase their knowledge and international visibility in their research field and of the Plant B+B network.

### Application procedure

Applications must be submitted by the applicant, in English and consist of:



[www.plantbb.org](http://www.plantbb.org)

- Application form (imposed format forms) provided at <https://plantbb.org/>.
- A brief curriculum vitae (CV) of the candidate (max. two pages).
- MSc and PhD students must submit a softcopy of their official registration in an ongoing MSc and PhD program at a university.
- A recommendation letter from the applicant's supervisor.
- The programme of the training/conference.

Applications must be submitted electronically to [IPBO@vib-ugent.be](mailto:IPBO@vib-ugent.be) (The application form must be named as follows: "**Applicant's last name last name\_ CC\_PlantBB\_application**"). Send the application form and annexes as separate PDF files.

## Selection

### *Selection commission*

The Plant B+B steering committee will evaluate applications.

### *Selection criteria*

The selection will be made on the following criteria:

- The relevance of the conference/training to the work of the candidate. International conferences and courses will be prioritised.
- Applicants that can provide proof of acceptance of their abstracts by the scientific organising committees of the intended conferences will be prioritised.
- Abstracts selected for oral presentations will be prioritised vs other participation modalities.
- Eligible participants that have not been selected in previous calls will be prioritised in front of other candidates who have been recipients of this grant in previous editions.

### *Selection outcome*

Applicants will receive an e-mail with the selection outcome 15 working days after every call's deadline of every year with feedback on their application. The final list of the selected candidates will be made available at Plant B+B website upon written communication.

## Reporting and acknowledgement guidelines

Selected applicants must acknowledge the Plant B+B network's support in their presentations or posters using the official logo of the project, that is available on the Plant B+B website. For Twitter posts, the acknowledgement should be provided to the [@plantb+b](https://twitter.com/plantb+b) IPBO or on LinkedIn through the #VIB-IPBO.

Whenever the CC activities contribute to a publication such as a brief, flyer, policy brief, poster, report, working paper or workshop report, the official acknowledgement should be provided in writing on the publication as



[www.plantbb.org](http://www.plantbb.org)

follows: 'This (research, activity, workshop, report) was undertaken as part of, and funded by, the Plant Biotechnology and Breeding (Plant B+B) International Thematic Network and supported by Ghent University'. Note: A hyperlink should be added for Plant B+B website or the URL used for print documents: <https://plantbb.org/>

A report of activities must be provided, latest, one month after completion of training/conference. Reports must be presented on the required forms, which will be available on the Plant B+B website. All the reports must be sent electronically in PDF format to [IPBO@vib-ugent.be](mailto:IPBO@vib-ugent.be)

Awardees will complete a survey questionnaire to determine the impact of the intervention.

---

## Science on the Road Grants (SoR)

### Definitions and objectives

The Plant B+B project intends to support the network to communicate and disseminate their work in plant biotechnology and breeding, among the general public in their own countries or internationally. These grants aim to create awareness and raise interest in the latest scientific advances in the fields of breeding and biotechnology and their impact on our society. The activities can occur in diverse scenarios and contexts (e.g. exhibition, science contest, school, theatre). Physical and virtual/online events are both eligible under this call.

- **Call openings:** Every year on the 10<sup>th</sup> January
- **Application deadlines:** Every year on 28th February (17:00 CET)

### Allowance

The Plant B+B network offers **six grants** every year of **350 Euros/each** to cover our partners' dissemination activities that aim to open their institutions to the general public in non-scientific set-ups.

### Eligibility criteria

#### *The applicant and the host institution*

The applicant is affiliated to a partner institution of the Plant B+B network at the time of application.

#### *Implementation period*

The recipients must spend the grant before the end of the year in which it was awarded, until 31<sup>st</sup> December. The unspent budgets cannot be transferred to subsequent years.

#### *Eligibility: thematic area*

The science on the road event should aim to communicate concepts and scientific discoveries in the fields of plant biotechnology and breeding to non-scientific audiences while increasing the applicant's visibility and institution.

### Application procedure

Applications must be submitted in English and consist of an **application form (imposed format forms) available at <https://plantbb.org/>**

Applications must be submitted electronically to [IPBO@vib-ugent.be](mailto:IPBO@vib-ugent.be) (please use a pdf converted from the Word document and not a scanned pdf). The electronic document should be named as follows: "**Applicant's last name\_SoR\_PlantBB\_application**". Send the application form and annexes as separate PDF files.

### Selection

#### *Selection commission*

The Plant B+B steering committee will evaluate applications.

#### *Selection criteria*

The selection will be made on the following criteria

- The motivation of the applicant.
- The relevance of the proposed topic to the Plant B+B dissemination outputs.
- The originality of the idea and the creativity in communication channels will be highly valued.
- The intended targeted audience; activities targeting boys and girls of primary and secondary schools, smallholder farmers and policymakers are highly encouraged.
- Events that aim to target a wider audience (e.g. online events) or promote 'hands-on- training' with practical and participatory activities will be prioritised.
- Events that promote gender equity and foster the participation of most vulnerable groups will be prioritised.

#### *Selection outcome*

Applicants will receive an e-mail with the selection outcome **15 working days** after the call's deadline of every year with feedback on their application. The final list of the selected candidates will be made available at Plant B+B website upon written communication.

### Reporting and acknowledgement guidelines

Selected applicants must acknowledge the Plant B+B network's support in their presentations and any dissemination material (e.g. flyers, posters, manuals) using the official logo of the project, that is available on



[www.plantbb.org](http://www.plantbb.org)

the Plant B+B website. For Twitter posts, the acknowledgement should be provided to the [@plantb+b IPBO](#) and on LinkedIn through the #VIB-IPBO.

A report of activities must be provided, latest, two weeks after completion of training/conference. Reports must be presented on the required forms, which will be available on the Plant B+B website. Awardees will complete a survey questionnaire to determine the impact of the intervention.

The outcomes of these activities will be disseminated through the Plant B+B website.

---

## Short Research Stays Grants (SRS)

### Definitions and objectives

The Plant B+B intends to connect research groups within the network that are working on complementary research projects or that intend to establish mid-to-long-term collaborations, in the fields of plant biotechnology or breeding. The Short Research Stays (SRS) program's objective is to **promote the mobility and exchange of early-career scientists, including PhD students, between partners across continents and institutions**. The expected outcomes of the 'Short Research Stays' Program are:

1. Strengthening scientific connections among Plant B+B partners.
  2. Valorisation of existing research collaborations.
  3. Expansion of existing lines of research.
  4. Build the capacity of the early-career scientists under the SRS program.
  5. Development of new joint research projects and capacity building activities (joint MSc and PhD mentoring).
- **Call opening:** Every year on the 10<sup>th</sup> January.
  - **Application deadline:** Every year on the 10<sup>th</sup> February (17:00 CET).

### Allowance

Every year, the Plant B+B will award **five grants of 2,500€/ awardee for short research stays**. The grant can be utilised to cover costs related to travel, housing, visa, insurance.

### Eligibility criteria

#### *The applicant and the host institution*

- The grants will be allocated after a competitive procedure and are accessible to members of the Plant B+B network only.

- PhD students must be registered in a Doctoral program and undertaking their PhD research when the mobility program will take place.
- Both the applicant and the receiving institution should be affiliated as a partner institute of the Plant B+B network at the time of application.
- The candidates shall not be in the country of the host institution before the start of the SRS. Exceptions may be applied in exceptional cases.
- Recipients of a Plant B+B Short Research Stays Grant are not eligible to submit a second application, as the grant can be awarded only once.
- The hosting institution should support each application.
- Awardees are expected to be present at the institute, to take part in its scientific activities and to contribute to its intellectual community.
- Women are highly encouraged to apply.

### *Thematic area*

The proposed research activities should aim at:

- Enhance the technical and scientific capacity of the grants' awardees and their hosting teams.
- Promote new scientific approaches and technologies' development.
- Start, improve, or expand collaboration among partners on a field of expertise relevant to the Plant B+B network.

Furthermore, the research activities should lead to one of the targeted outputs:

- Scientific article or research paper.
- Transfer of technology to the applicant's host institution.

### *Implementation period*

The SRS grant **can commence until 15th December** of the calendar year when the application was successfully selected. The SRS shall last for a minimum of 1 month. No budget transfers will be possible for the next year.

### Application procedure

Applications must be submitted in English with the following supporting documents:

- Application form (imposed format forms) available on the Plant B+B website <https://plantbb.org>.
- A 2-page curriculum vitae (CV).
- A support letter from the applicant's supervisor.
- A letter of acceptance from the hosting institution.

Applications must be submitted electronically to [IPBO@vib-ugent.be](mailto:IPBO@vib-ugent.be) (please use a pdf converted from the Word document and not a scanned pdf). The document must be named as follows: "**Applicant's last name\_SRS\_PlantBB\_application**". Send the application form and annexes as separate PDF files.

## Selection

### *Selection commission*

The Plant B+B steering committee will evaluate applications

### *Selection criteria*

The selection will be made on the following criteria

- The qualifications of the applicant for the SRS Grant.
- The overall scientific quality of the intended research and the relevance to the Plant B+B.
- The justification and feasibility of the research plan.
- Proposals that complement matching funds to maximise the research outcomes or extend the duration of the research period of the SRS will be prioritised.

### *Selection outcome*

Applicants will receive an e-mail with the selection outcome 15 working days after every call's deadline of every year with feedback on their application. The final list of the selected candidates will be made available at Plant B+B website upon written communication.

## Reporting and acknowledgement guidelines

A report of activities must be provided one month after completion of the short research stay. Reports must be presented on the required forms, which will be available on the Plant B+B website. The reports must be sent electronically to [IPBO@vib-ugent.be](mailto:IPBO@vib-ugent.be).

Whenever the SRS activities contribute to a publication such as a brief, flyer, policy brief, poster, report, working paper or workshop report, the official acknowledgement should be provided in writing on the publication as follows: *'This (research, activity, workshop, report) was undertaken as part of, and funded by, the Plant Biotechnology and Breeding (Plant B+B) International Thematic Network and supported by Ghent University'*. Note: A hyperlink should be added for Plant B+B website or the URL used for print documents: <https://plantbb.org/>

Awardees will complete a survey questionnaire to determine the impact of the intervention.

---

Disclaimer: All these guidelines were issued in January 2021 and are valid for the applications submitted during this year. Guidelines will be reviewed annually and may be adjusted in the following years.



[www.plantbb.org](http://www.plantbb.org)