

Funding for botanical research projects in partnership between academia & industry

Botanists looking to collaborate with their counterparts in industry or academia can take advantage of the MITACS Accelerate program which co-funds short and medium-term research projects between companies and universities.

Under Accelerate, the conduit between a company is a graduate student or post-doctoral fellow – an intern – who spends approximately half of her/his time over the duration of the project onsite with the company, collecting data and interacting with staff; the balance of her/his time is spent at the university, developing innovative approaches to solve the research challenge which is of interest to all parties.

While the partner company involved in an internship contributes \$7,500 for each four-month period of the project, this funding is matched dollar-for-dollar by MITACS through the support of the federal and provincial governments. This results in \$15,000 in funding for a four-month project, \$10,000 of which goes to the intern as a stipend.

Project eligibility is very broad. In last two years, Accelerate has funded projects focused on controlling the biennial bearing of apple trees, investigating new ways to control the Canola flea beetle, understanding the importance of timing in pesticide application and researching the effect of plant condition on bumble bee pollination in greenhouse tomatoes.

Interested companies or individuals are encouraged to contact Alison Ewart at 416.650.8439 or visit www.mitacsaccelerate.ca.

Accelerate is administered by MITACS, a national, not-for-profit research corporation which connects academia and industry through collaborative research projects. For more information, visit ww.mitacs.ca.