

2021 Student Connections Application

Due to info@betterseed.org by March 5, 2021

The American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) and Seed Science Foundation (SSF) proudly announce an exciting program for college students, *Student Connections*. *Student Connections* provides students the ability to network, engage and promote the seed industry at ASTA's annual Policy and Leadership Development Conference.

Student Connections is offered through ASTA and SSF to provide students an opportunity to network with industry professionals who represent diverse seed backgrounds including seed breeders, sales, marketing, agronomy and senior leadership of seed companies from the United States, Mexico, Canada and beyond.

Students in an undergraduate and graduate degree program with an interest in joining the seed industry upon the completion of their studies are encouraged to apply.

Selected students will have the opportunity to:

1. Attend ASTA's Policy and Leadership Development Conference (with financial assistance). This conference will be held in Washington D.C. and is one of the most important seed industry meetings in the world, attended by many seed industry professionals from all over the world. You will have the opportunity to participate in discussions and decision-making forums on some of the most important issues effecting U.S. and world seed trade.
2. Each selected student will be matched with a seed company representative who will act as a mentor during the conference and a resource after the conference.
3. Students will have an opportunity to network with seed industry leaders throughout the conference.
4. Students will have the opportunity to present a summary of their research project in a poster session and possibly in an oral presentation.
5. Students will be candidates for the Roger Krueger Scholarship with the winning student being asked to make an oral presentation during the conference.
6. ASTA student membership will be granted to students who are a part of *Student Connections*. Benefits of student membership include access to seed industry news and job and internship notifications.
7. Student Connections participants will be able to participate in the Seed Science Challenge (a program for students to practice employable skills by managing a project associated to relevant seed industry issues).
8. *In the event that the conference moves to a virtual platform for students, all students who submit an application will be granted complimentary student membership and registration to the virtual conference. ASTA and SSF will select finalists for the Roger Krueger Scholarship and participation in the Seed Science Challenge from the submitted applications.*



Personal Reflection Statement (100-200 words, All Applicants)

1. What do you do outside of your academic studies and university involvement?

Open-Ended Response Essay (~250 words, All Applicants)

Required

1. Part 1: From your perspective, what is the largest issue in the seed industry today?
2. Part 2: How do you plan to help solve this issue after graduation?

Pick one

3. How could your attendance at ASTA's Annual Policy & Development Conference be used to better your own experience and influence those at the conference?
4. What motivates you to be a part of the seed industry? How will you use this to make an impact in the future?

Documents to include with application (All Applicants)

1. Resume or CV
2. Personal Reflection Statement
3. Open-Ended Response Essay
4. Professional Headshot

Commitments (All Applicants)

1. Attend the Policy and Leadership Development Conference in Washington D.C. or virtual. In person, conference dates are June 19-23, 2021. Selected applicants will be told required dates of attendance.
2. Approximately 3 conference calls and web meetings prior to the conference.
3. Contact your mentor prior to the conference.
4. Be an ambassador of the seed industry!

Agreement and Signature

By submitting this application, I affirm that the facts set forth are true and complete.

Signature:

Date:

Application Deadline: March 5, 2021

