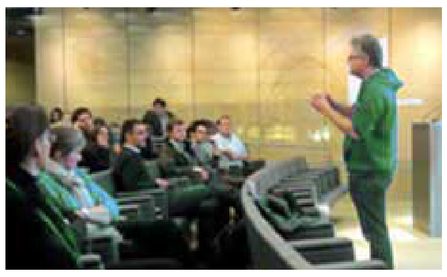
Studying plants within Natural Sciences

IB Plant and Microbial Sciences covers the fundamentals of plant biology and microbiology, as well as how these relate to current world issues. It provides essential background for Part II Plant Sciences but also leads to Ecology, Zoology, Genetics and Biochemistry.

Year I

Three biological courses will introduce you to these areas of plant biology, together with a suitable course in Maths.

IA Biology of Cells
Photosynthesis
Cell biology and metabolism
Plant genetics



IA Physiology of Organisims
Plant physiology
Responses of plants to their environment
Plant—microbe interactions

IA Evolution and Behaviour
Plant diversity
Phylogenetic progression
Plant evolution
Population genetics

Careers

Opportunities arising from our Part II course offer an unrivalled channel into the Department and the new Sainsbury Laboratory in the Botanic Garden. We also have collaborations and links with local research institutes (Rothamsted Research, Harpenden and Brooms Barn, John Innes Institute, Norwich, and NIAB, Cambridge) and the plant breeding industry through the Cambridge Partnership for Plant Sciences. Other opportunities include conservation, teaching, environmental law or publishing.

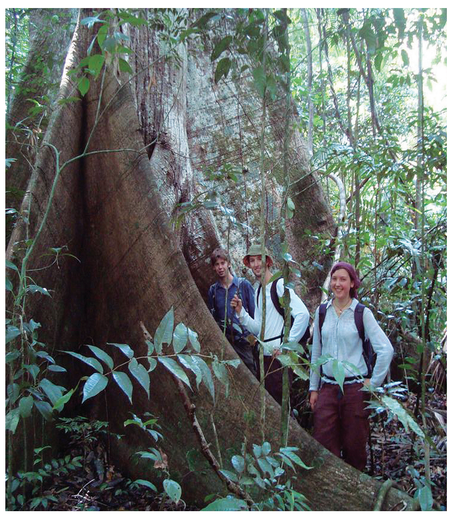
Visit www.plantsci.cam.ac.uk or scan the smartbarcode on the left to read more about the career paths of our recent graduates.

Athena SWAN Charter for women in science
Recognising commitment to advancing women's careers in STEMM academia

Year II

You take three subjects, which could also include Animal Biology or Cell and Developmental Biology.

IB Plant and Microbial Sciences
How do you transform a plant?
How do mediterranean plants survive drought?
How do plants control pest and pathogen attack?
Can we feed the world sustainably?



IB Ecology
How does plant succession shape communities?
What will be the impact of climate change?
How do fire and invasions affect plant distribution?

Year III

Allows you to specialise in plant and microbial Sciences as a Molecular Biologist, Ecologist, or a general expert across the discipline.

Part II Plant Sciences
This modular course allow you to specialise in a range of options including;

Genes, organelles & microbes
Metabolism & bioenergy
Development & evolution
RNA silencing & epigenetics
Transport & signalling
Impacts of climate change

You will also perform an original research project and write a scientific review, which together contribute 36% of your final mark.

Department of Plant Sciences