



Conference 2010
7-9 April Gent (Belgium)

Doctoral and postdoctoral professional development in Agricultural and Life Sciences - Challenges for the next decade

Full programme presented on the website

29 presentations from the Europe and the US, including 6 keynote,

Register Now at the Conference website – reduced fee for doctorate students

http://www.fbw.ugent.be/APLU_ICAconference2010

**registration is open until 1 April but that an extra fee of 50 € will be charged
from 15 March onwards.**

THE CONFERENCE THEMES

The problems and issues in agriculture and life sciences are becoming more and more global, international and multi-disciplinary as proven, among others, by the recent food crisis, the climate and other environmental problems, the globalization of food standards, the increased interactions between commodity and energy markets, the globalised risks of plant and animal diseases, and contaminations.

This requires the development of a more interdisciplinary and international perspective in doctoral and post-doctoral, early stage researchers, in agricultural and life sciences, as well as more interaction with non-academic stakeholders. Increased mobility, cooperation among higher education institutes and exchange with non academic stakeholders may provide opportunities in this respect, but also pose important challenges to higher educational institutes and for the organisation of graduate schools.

Conference themes and keynote speakers:

Research careers and doctoral education in Europe

The Marie Curie Actions: Best practices for European research careers, *Florent Bernard (European Commission)*

Doctoral education in Europe: Trends and challenges, *Alexandra Bitusikova (EUA Council for Doctoral Education)*

University strategies for doctoral training

University strategy for doctoral training: the Ghent university doctoral schools, *Luc Moens (vice-rector of Ghent University)*

Skills set development of doctoral graduates and post docs

Skills set development of doctoral and post-doctoral graduates in life sciences, *Rameshwar Kanwar (Iowa State University)*

Innovative models for doctoral and graduate research schools

Building Transatlantic Graduate Education Programs in Bio-renewables, *Lawrence Johnson (Iowa State University)*

Internationalization of doctoral training programs

An example of an Erasmus Mundus Doctoral school experiment in forestry and nature management, *Niels Strange (Copenhagen University)*

In all there will be 29 presentations, 18 from Europe, 10 from the US and 1 from Asia – see the full programme at the conference website

GOAL OF THE CONFERENCE

The goal of the conference is to learn from the shared experiences of institutions both in the EU and US on how to engage in the professional development of doctoral graduates and post doctoral staff. The conference will provide innovative ideas and models for inclusion in university strategic plans.

The conference will address the challenges posed by such developments in terms of doctoral schools organization, interdisciplinary training, transferable skills learning, recognition of training periods at other academic and non-academic institutions and mutual development and recognition of double degrees and diplomas.

APLU - the Association for Public and Land Grant Universities in the US