

Dual Ph.D. Position, Flax Genetics and Breeding
UGAS-Iwate University and the University of Saskatchewan

The Flax Genetics and Breeding Program in the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan is seeking a PhD candidate in the area of Plant Breeding (see: <http://www.CDCflax.usask.ca>). Flax is an important crop in Saskatchewan, with over one million acres planted in 2014, however, flax is the latest crop to mature in the Canadian Prairies which limits the latitudes in which it can be successfully grown without risking frost damage. Cultivars with an earlier flowering habit will be able to avoid environmental damage and expand the area where flax can be successfully grown.

The candidate in this funded project will identify genetic factors associated with earlier flowering in flax. They will also identify flax lines with earlier flowering phenotypes and using controlled environment conditions and field testing in Saskatchewan. Candidates eligible to study in Canada with an MSc in plant molecular genetics, bioinformatics, plant breeding, and crop or plant physiology are encouraged to apply.

The successful candidate will be enrolled in one of Canada's leading Plant Science Departments, with 25 faculty and over 60 graduate students at the MSc and PhD level. The Department is well equipped to perform research in molecular genetics, bioinformatics, biochemical, physiological and field studies. Plant growth facilities include controlled environment growth chambers, greenhouse space and the Kernen Crops Research Farm. Access to other facilities and equipment is also possible through collaboration with research institutes on campus such as Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, National Research Council and the Canadian Light Source. For more information about the University of Saskatchewan and the Department of Plant Sciences see <http://agbio.usask.ca/departments/plant-sciences>. The University of Saskatchewan campus is within close walking distance to the downtown area. Saskatoon is the largest city in Saskatchewan and offers a multitude of opportunities to pursue sporting and recreational activities.

The student will spend approximately half of the time at the United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences-Iwate University and at the University. The student will be paid a stipend of \$31,000 CAD per year while residing at the University of Saskatchewan. Under the Dual Ph.D. program, the student will graduate with two Ph.D. degrees from two universities in Japan (Iwate University) and Canada (University of Saskatchewan).

This position will open for a student who enters the UGAS-Iwate University in April 2016. This means, application materials should be sent to UGAS-Iwate University between November 17 and 24 and the entrance examination will take place between January 28 and February 5. To enroll in the dual PhD program, the student must meet requirements that were set by the UGAS-Iwate University and the University of Saskatchewan (see <http://ugas.agr.iwate-u.ac.jp/jp/dualdegree.html>). For all who

are interested in this dual PhD position, encourage as soon as possible to contact Dr. Helen Booker, helen.booker@usask.ca or Prof. Matsuo Uemura, uemura@iwate-u.ac.jp.

