

Rootstock 2025

22nd – 25th July 2025

The Sainsbury Laboratory, Cambridge

Calling all plant enthusiasts! Delve deeper into the fascinating realm of plant science. Learn how to communicate your passion and explore the next steps in your journey.

- **Listen to talks from top plant science researchers**
- **Network with plant scientists in a world class lab**
- **Learn how to effectively engage different audiences with plant science**

"It's a great opportunity to engage with and be inspired by leading plant scientists and other students."

Rootstock 2022 student attendee

Taking part in the bright and spacious Sainsbury Laboratory within Cambridge University's Botanic Garden, Rootstock kicks off with a series of mini-lectures from distinguished UK plant scientists, sharing how their research tackles the world's big questions and challenges. You'll then have an opportunity to question the speakers and meet the researchers based at the Sainsbury Laboratory over an informal networking buffet session, to really immerse yourself in lab life and create invaluable connections.

Over the following days you'll hear from industry professionals, PhD students and experience the inner workings of a world class plant science research institute. You'll develop essential careers skills, build confidence, make connections with students and scientists, and develop the digital prowess needed in modern academia. The Rootstock summer school highlights the importance of effectively communicating plant science. You'll be encouraged to flex your creativity as you explore story-telling, script-writing and videography eventually producing your own digital content themed around contemporary plant science.

"Transferrable skills that won't be taught during your degree that will be very helpful during and after it",

Rootstock 2024 student attendee

The social side definitely isn't forgotten - you'll meet fellow biosciences students from across the UK, making new friends in a lively but relaxed environment. In terms of accommodation, you'll be staying in a private room in the historic Trinity Hall College (est 1350) in the heart of Cambridge.

"The most exciting experience about plant science you will ever get to experience",

Rootstock 2023 student attendee

Grants and how to apply

This opportunity is funded by the Gatsby Charitable Foundation, including all sessions, all accommodation, and food for the duration - you only need to cover the cost of your travel. Grants towards travel costs up to £125 are available for students on low incomes.

If you'd like to be considered for a place, contact the lecturer at your university known as your Gatsby Mentor, and let them know you're interested (see www.gatsbysummerschool.org.uk for the name of your Mentor). There are 40 student places, selected from 30 UK Universities. Your mentor will select the most suitable first year (or second year for Scottish universities) undergraduate students from your university. Don't be put off that it's competitive; it's worth telling your mentor if you're interested, as they may be able to put other local opportunities your way too.

The 2025 Experience



Talks

Prominent speakers from the Sainsbury Laboratory and John Innes Centre and many more to confirm.

Along with talks from plant science researchers, you'll hear from industry professionals in a careers Q&A session. There'll also be an opportunity to ask a panel of PhD students anything and everything you need to know about postgraduate journeys and what a PhD entails. You'll hear from people at all stages of their careers, hear their top tips for success and fulfilment, and get practical support with your next steps.

Tours

Rootstock will include tours of the architectural award-winning [Sainsbury Laboratory](#), with visits to the microscopy suite and glasshouses. You'll also have free time in the historic [Cambridge University Botanic Garden](#).

See digital content from Rootstock 2023 and 2022 on the GPSEP YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/GatsbyPlantScienceEducationProgramme>