

# 2026 Student Connections Application

Due to [kcrawford@betterseed.org](mailto:kcrawford@betterseed.org) by March 13, 2026

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 Leadership Summit.

*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 or 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 Leadership Summit (with financial assistance). This conference will be held in Milwaukee, WI and is one of the most important seed industry meetings in the world, attended by many seed industry professionals from all over the globe. 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 may have the opportunity to present a summary of their research project in a poster session.
5. 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, job and internship notifications, complimentary conference registration, and more.



**Application Deadline: March 13**

Due to [kcrawford@betterseed.org](mailto:kcrawford@betterseed.org)

## Program Application

### Personal Information (All Applicants)

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Gender:</b> M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to disclose <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Address:</b>		
<b>Main Phone:</b>	<b>Date of Birth:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>		
<b>Emergency Contact:</b>	<b>Relationship:</b>	<b>Phone #:</b>
<b>LinkedIn Profile:</b>		

### Educational Information (All Applicants)

<b>Current University:</b>	<b>Department:</b>
<b>Degree Sought:</b>	<b>Anticipated Graduation Date:</b>
<b>City, State, Zip of University:</b>	
<b>Cumulative GPA (Undergraduate Students Only):</b>	

### Educational Information (All Applicants)

<b>Description of Current / Future Academic Focus (can include research focus if applicable):</b>
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### Educational Information (All Applicants, if applicable)

<b>Previous University:</b>	<b>Previous Degree:</b>
<b>Previous University:</b>	<b>Previous Degree:</b>

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

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1. What is one achievement you are most proud of?

### **Open-Ended Response Essay \*Use of AI will be identified, and applicant will be disqualified (~250 words, All Applicants)**

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#### **Required**

1. In your opinion, which of the following has the largest impact on seed companies and how can they overcome it? 1) significant R&D challenges; 2) increasingly restrictive regulatory environment; or 3) competition from outside the traditional agriculture space entering the market.

#### **Pick one**

2. How could your attendance at ASTA's Leadership Summit be used to better your own experience and influence those at the conference?
3. 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)**

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

### **Commitments (All Applicants)**

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1. Attend the Leadership Summit in Milwaukee, WI in-person. Conference dates are June 9-12, 2026. Selected applicants will be notified of required dates of attendance.
2. Attend a virtual meeting prior to the conference to meet the other participants and cover logistics.
3. Contact your mentor prior to the conference.
4. Be an ambassador of the seed industry. Presentation assistance is available.

### **Agreement and Signature**

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

**Signature:**

**Date:**

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