Welcome to
Cornell University Graduate School
RESPONDING TO YOUR ADMISSION OFFER
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Graduate School Welcome and Resource Fair | August 22

Fall term instruction begins | August 23
Students of Color Welcoming Reception | TBA

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Welcome to Cornell

Graduate students are an important part of our community. Cornell was one of the first U.S. institutions to offer advanced degrees with the first masters awarded in 1870, and the first Ph.D. awarded in 1872. Today, with nearly 5,200 graduate and professional students and more than 1,800 faculty, Cornell is surprisingly intimate.

Cross Disciplinary by Design

Graduate study at Cornell is cross-disciplinary by design. Graduate fields are composed of faculty members who come together around a shared intellectual interest, not necessarily tied to their core discipline. Nearly 80% of faculty serve in more than one field of study, and more than half of all fields span college lines.

Cornell’s unique field structure ensures that faculty and students across the university can share ideas and work together freely. For example, the graduate field of economics includes faculty from six of the seven undergraduate colleges with research interests ranging from applied microeconomic theory to urban and regional economics.

Graduate Faculty

Cornell graduate faculty are highly accomplished and readily accessible. The 1,800 graduate faculty represent nearly 100 fields of study. Many have been recognized for their outstanding teaching, research, and scholarship. Fourty-four Nobel Laureates have been affiliated with Cornell as faculty members or students. Nearly 150 faculty are members in the National Academies.
Cornell University faculty distinctions from 2011–2013 include:

1. Pulitzer Prize
2. American Academy of Arts and Letters award in Literature
3. Benjamin Franklin Medal in Chemistry
4. Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant
5. American Astronomical Society, Dirk Brouwer Award
6. John D. and Catherine T. Macarthur Fellowships (Genius Award)
7. Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists
8. Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation Young Investigators
9. New Fellows in the National Academy of Engineering
10. Simons Foundation Investigators
11. Fulbright Scholars
12. Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowships
13. New Fellows in the National Academy of Sciences
14. Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers
15. Fellows in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
16. Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Research Fellowships
17. National Science Foundation Early Career Development Awards
18. New Fellows in the National Academy of Sciences
19. Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers
20. Fellows in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
21. Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Research Fellowships
22. National Science Foundation Early Career Development Awards

Research Degrees
Research degree students will select graduate faculty to serve as the Special Committee (thesis committee), often from multiple graduate fields and concentrations. The Special Committee will guide you throughout your program of study, but you will select the majors, minors, and concentrations. You will choose a faculty member from the major subject area to serve as your special committee chair. We encourage research students to choose faculty from across the university.

Professional Degrees
Professional degrees students are typically assigned an advisor by their field and often work closely with faculty project advisors. Professional students do not form special committees.

ANNETTE RICHARDS, music, led an international, multidisciplinary project to build an organ using authentic 18th Century techniques.

AVERY AUGUST, professor in the graduate fields of pharmacology and immunology and infectious disease, researching new strategies for preventing asthma. His team has made seminal discoveries in understanding how key cells are activated to spark an immune response.
Fellowships, Assistantships, and Grants

The Graduate School places a very high priority on providing research degree students with support—whether through fellowships, assistantships, or grants. Cornell currently funds 97 percent of its on-campus doctoral students and 78 percent of its research-oriented master’s degree students. Each year, Cornell’s top-notch graduate students receive NSF, Fulbright, and other prestigious national awards in addition to a significant number of research training grants and national research grants administered by individual faculty. Special fellowships designed to increase the diversity of Cornell’s graduate student population may be available on a competitive basis to U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

Cornell provides a competitive funding package that includes tuition, fees, health insurance, and a living allowance or stipend for nearly all students in research Ph.D. programs. Stipends are set at a rate that assures a comfortable standard of living in Ithaca. The terms of the award may vary according to field of study. For additional information, please contact your field of study.

Professional programs at Cornell provide limited financial assistance. The terms of the awards may vary according to the program. For more information, please contact the individual professional program.

U.S. citizens and permanent residents may be eligible for federal loans. For more information, please contact the Financial Aid Office at 607.255.5145 or finaid@cornell.edu.

Assistantships

If you are awarded an assistantship, you will be notified at the time of admission. Tuition is typically processed in August and stipend checks are issued twice a month. Assistants are expected to maintain academic performance constituting good standing in the graduate field and satisfactory performance in teaching and research assignments.

Fellowships and Training Grants
If you are awarded a fellowship or training grant, your admission letter will contain the details. Tuition is typically processed in August, and fellows and trainees receive a single check in a lump sum at the beginning of each semester.

Fellows and trainees are expected to maintain satisfactory progress toward the degree, as defined by the field, during the tenure of the award. Fellowships or supplements granted by a field or college are contingent on continued registration in that field or college; transfer to another field may result in loss of all or part of the fellowship or supplements from the field or college.

Cornell does not allow the duplication of awards (holding both a major outside fellowship and a Cornell award concurrently). If you have been awarded an outside fellowship and a university award, please contact your graduate field to discuss arrangements.

**Disability Services**

Cornell was founded on the principles of diversity and inclusiveness and has a proud legacy of serving the needs of students with a wide range of disabilities in every college and academic program. Examples of conditions that qualify for disability services are blindness or low vision, deafness and difficulties with hearing, chronic medical conditions, psychiatric conditions, mobility impairments, and learning disabilities, among others. Information shared by a student about his or her disability is confidential and is not shared with any academic department or unit.

If you are a prospective student, knowing more about the disability services and federal requirements will help you make an informed graduate school choice. Staff in the Student Disability Services Office can confidentially answer your questions about services, documentation requirements, and campus accessibility. Contact them at:

Student Disability Services  
420 CCC, Garden Avenue Ext.  
Ithaca, NY 14853-6601  
Phone: 607.254.4545 (voice)  
For TDD use 711 Relay  
Fax: 607.255.1562  
Email: sds_cu@cornell.edu  
Web: www.sds.cornell.edu

**Tuition**

At Cornell University, the tuition you are charged depends on your graduate field and degree program. Please visit the bursar’s website for field-specific rates and policies, www.dfa.cornell.edu/treasurer/bursar/studentsparents/tuition/index.cfm.

I hope we have laid the foundation of an institution which shall combine practical with liberal education, which shall fit the youth of our country for the professions, the farms, the mines, the manufactories, for the investigations of science and for mastering all the practical questions of life with success and honor.

—Ezra Cornell, Oct. 7, 1868
PINSHANE HUANG

Degree: Ph.D.
Field: Applied and Engineering Physics

Highlight: Huang’s research is the intersection of materials science and physics, where she investigates what happens when atoms go rogue. She studies some of the thinnest materials in the world, including graphene and the thinnest pane of glass. She uses an electron microscope to zoom in and look at the individual atoms that have gone haywire, are out of place. Her latest work uses the microscope to watch what happens on an atomic scale when you bend and break glass.

Notable: Huang’s work has been published in major research journals including Science and Nature. She has been invited to give talks across the country and around the world, including in Beijing, Nice, and Sydney. She has received a National Science Foundation Graduate Student Research Fellowship, and a Cornell University 2013 William Nichols Findley Award for Exceptional Research.

CHAN SUH

Degree: Ph.D.
Field: Sociology

Highlight: Sociology Ph.D. student Chan Suh investigates why and how nation-states use torture, and his research seeks to answer questions he developed while growing up in South Korea and the United States. For part of Suh’s childhood, South Korea was under a military dictatorship, which ended when a university student activist was tortured to death by the National Police Agency in June 1987, triggering a massive democratic movement.

Notable: Suh will conduct fieldwork on human rights policies in South Korea and China with the support of a research travel grant from the Graduate School. His comparative study will help identify “critical steps towards the demise of torture,” and will involve data collection from the Korean Bar Association and the National Human Rights Commission.
A Reputation for Excellence

Cornell is one of the top research institutions in the world with more than $764 million devoted to research spending. In the most recent report, we ranked third in funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The Graduate School is committed to supporting graduate education and provides significant funding for the majority of our Ph.D. students.

Our philosophy of academic freedom with responsibility helps our students become flexible, collaborative, and cross-disciplinary thinkers. With a field structure that is interdisciplinary by design, and truly unique, Cornell’s graduate and professional students have the freedom to innovate and pursue new pathways to knowledge.

HELEN TREJO • NIDIA TREJO

Degree: M.A., Ph.D.
Field: Fiber Science and Apparel Design
Highlight: Helen explores the local apparel supply-chain in New York, and how it can be used to foster development of rural economies and textile industries in Upstate and Central New York. A survey of fiber-animal farmers will help determine resources available, annual yield, and marketing strategies. Nidia is determining the best way to put tiny magnetic beads, or nanoparticles, onto nanofibers that are hundreds of times thinner than a human hair. Eventually, the bead coated fibers may be used to detect and remove pollution from water or for anti-counterfeiting applications.

Notable: Helen was a teaching volunteer at the local non-profit organization, SewGreen, part of the Youth Mentorship Program. Nidia tutors for Cornell’s Upward Bound program.

GEOFFREY BOMARITO

Degree: Ph.D.
Field: Civil and Environmental Engineering
Highlight: While receiving his B.S. from Cornell and his M.Eng. from MIT, Bomarito found himself drawn to studying the materials that we use to build structures. As a Ph.D. student he continues to pursue his research interest in the ductile failure of metals. Bomarito has always loved building things and figuring out how structures stay up. When asked why he returned to Cornell, Bomarito says he felt that it would be a great learning environment, noting that his peers influence him as much as his advisor. In the future, he sees himself working at a national lab, but remains open to other possibilities, noting his professional interests are always evolving.

Notable: As a third-year Ph.D. candidate, Bomarito received a Judges’ Choice Award in the 2013 IGERT Video and Poster Competition, hosted by the National Science Foundation. His project, A Physics Based Model for the Ductile Failure of Metals uses computational rather than experimental testing methods to develop models that predict how metals fail.
Ph.D. Recognition Ceremony

What is Cornell Like?

Cornell attracts some of the world’s best researchers, thinkers, scholars, inventors, scientists, humanitarians, and overall idea leaders. A genuine sense of camaraderie – particularly between faculty and students – fosters collaborations and community, while supportive staff help guide students through their life at Cornell. Students develop cross-disciplinary friendships and partnerships that will last a lifetime.

The Cornell community is intimate enough that you can run into friends at the grocery store. But with nearly 5200 graduate and professional students and 1000+ clubs, you can make friends beyond your field. You can get involved in the community by joining an outreach program, intramural sport, or one of the more than 300 student organizations that specifically support graduate and professional students.

The Big Red Barn Graduate and Professional Student Center offers many events throughout the year including the opportunity to invite your faculty/chair to the Annual Faculty/Student Wine and Cheese Reception, enjoy pumpkin carving or the popular Friday happy hour, T.G.I.F.
What is Ithaca Like?
Cornell’s Ithaca campus sits on a hilltop overlooking Cayuga Lake, the largest of the Finger Lakes. With gorges on two sides and a small lake, the campus features numerous jogging trails, overlooks, and places to relax and enjoy the spectacular scenery in all seasons.

Ithaca’s four season, continental climate offers a colorful temperate fall, a cold and sometimes, snowy winter, beautiful spring, and warm summer. In all seasons, Ithacans love to be outdoors with numerous state parks, swimming holes, ski resorts, and lake activities. Graduate students often enjoy learning new outdoor activities, including sailing, ice hockey, and cross country skiing.

Ithaca Facts
- Ithaca is famous for its many waterfalls, more than 100 within 10 miles of downtown.
- Ithaca takes its name from the Greek island of Ithaca in Homer’s Odyssey.
- Cayuga Lake is named after the Cayuga Indian Nation, one of the six nations of the Iroquois Confederacy.
- Ithaca has more restaurants per capita than New York City.

Ithaca Top 10 Accolades
- Most Exciting College Towns (9th), MSN Real Estate, May 2014
- Must-visit Spot on the “Wine Tours of the World” (5th), ABC News, April 2014
- Best New York Arts Spots that Aren’t NYC (10th), Huffington Post, March 2014
- America’s Most Romantic Town, Travel + Leisure, January 2014
- Top 25 Youngest Best Places to Live, CNN Monday, August 2013
- Ten Coolest Schools (5th), Sierra Magazine, August 2013
- Must-Visit Farmers Market’s around the U.S. (4th), Zagat.com, July 2013
Cornell University Library is one of the 10 largest academic research libraries in North America and a national leader in the use of digital technologies and electronic resources. Its holdings include outstanding special collections on Asia, the history of science, 19th-century kinematic models and machines, beekeeping, American history, women’s history, and gender issues.

**arXiv**
Twenty years ago, physicist Paul Ginsparg developed an electronic database to let fellow physicists share unpublished academic manuscripts without photocopying and paper mail.

Over the past two decades, this project has revolutionized the way scientists share information. Today, arXiv—a free scientific repository of research in physics, mathematics, statistics, computer science, and related disciplines—boasts 700,000 “preprint” articles, a million downloads a week, and hundreds of thousands of contributors.

**IT Infrastructure**

Graduate student Apoorva Kiran (mechanical and aerospace engineering), shows a 3D-printed speaker in the Creative Machines Lab.
CHESS), a half-mile long particle accelerator ring, situated below the track and varsity soccer fields

- Cornell Institute for Translational Research on Aging (CITRA)
- Cornell NanoScale Science and Technology Facility
- Cornell University Center for Advanced Computing
- Computational Materials Institute
- David R. Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future
- East Asia Program
- Institute for Biotechnology and Life Science Technologies
- Institute for European Studies
- Laboratory for Elementary-Particle Physics (LEPP)
- National Biomedical Center for Advanced Electron Spin Resonance Technology (ACERT)
- Plant Genetic Resources Unit (PGRU) in Geneva, NY
- Society for the Humanities
- U.S. Plant, Soil, and Nutrition Laboratory
- Weill Institute for Cell and Molecular Biology

The Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research fosters research to understand and discover solutions to human problems across multiple levels of analysis (individual, interpersonal, community, organizational, governmental), and to identify, evaluate, and disseminate evidence-based and cost-efficient practices and programs.

Cornell NYC Tech offers a distinctive model of graduate technology education in the heart of New York City that fuses educational excellence with real-world applications and commercializes technology rooted in the latest academic research. Currently, the tech campus offers a master of engineering (M.Eng.) degree in computer science. Additional master’s degree programs will be offered in fields such as information science, operations research, and electrical and computer engineering.

The David R. Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future (ACSF) is a bold initiative to focus the brightest minds spanning all disciplines—from the humanities to engineering—on creating new approaches, techniques, and technologies to find solutions to some of society’s most complex challenges and pressing problems.

The Einaudi Center provides logistical and financial support for overseas research. It has been designated by the U.S. Department of Education as a National Resource Center for programs in East Asia, South Asia, and Southeast Asia.

Cornell’s New Life Sciences Initiative (NLSI), the most comprehensive and integrated science effort in Cornell’s history, includes the addition of research facilities geared to enable the increasingly collaborative nature of the advancement of knowledge and technology. Three new NLSI facilities were constructed on the Ithaca campus: Duffield Hall (advanced materials and nanoscience), Weill Hall (biological, computational, engineering, physical, and social sciences), and the Physical Sciences Building (chemistry and physics).

Computing and Information Science at Cornell, funded with a $25 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, will help make Cornell a model for education in the age of digital information. Cornell's “information campus” includes a new signature building, William H. Gates Hall, which enhances and focuses interdisciplinary creative interaction throughout the Cornell community.

HEALTH SERVICES

Gannett Health Services is an accredited ambulatory health care facility that provides primary care medical services, counseling and psychological services, physical therapy, and health education for all students. Located on central campus, Gannett serves as the primary care provider for Cornell students. Student spouses, same-sex partners, and children over the age of 14 also are eligible for medical care at Gannett. Fees are charged for most services, but many expenses will be covered by the Cornell University Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP). Medical care and counseling services and records are confidential.

Gannett Health Services
Ithaca, NY 14853-3101
607.255.5155
gannett@cornell.edu
www.gannett.cornell.edu

Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP)

Cornell's SHIP has been developed especially for Cornell students and is reviewed annually by a committee of students, faculty, and staff members. The plan meets or exceeds all F-1 and J-1 visa requirements, as well as all health insurance standards developed by the American College Health Association.

The university pays the premium for all graduate students registered with the Graduate School who are receiving full tuition and a full stipend from or through Cornell. SHIP participants can enroll dependents in the plan for an additional fee. Optional dental and vision plans are available.

Student Insurance Office
409 College Avenue
S-211
Ithaca, NY 14850-4694
607.255.6363
sicu@cornell.edu
studentinsurance.cornell.edu
Graduate Student Services
The Student Services Office is your primary administrative resource at the Graduate School. You will find assistance with forms, registration, petitions, and guidance on Cornell policies.

To contact the Student Services Office, please email gradstudserv@cornell.edu, call 607-255-5820, or visit 143 Caldwell Hall.

Graduate School and Related Offices
The Big Red Barn Graduate and Professional Student Center (BRB) is located in the center of campus. The BRB is the heart of student life for graduate and professional students, hosting more than 200 events per year, including the ever-popular TGIF (Tell Grads It’s Friday), International Conversation Hour, Trivia Night, Nerd Nite, pumpkin carving, and the Second Chance Prom.

The Office of Graduate Student Life directs services for student crisis management and programs related to student life. The assistant dean helps students, faculty, and staff with co-curricular questions and develops programming to support a healthy study-life balance.

The Office of Student Engagement and Inclusion supports the recruitment, retention, and professional development of graduate and professional students, postdoctoral fellows, and associates and fosters inclusion, engagement, and achievement. This office supports student organizations, the Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society, and the Graduate Diversity Council. The office develops programming for all graduate and professional students, including professional development workshops, panels on navigating graduate school, and the Graduate Students Mentoring Undergraduates program.

The Office of Postdoctoral Studies monitors the status and needs of the postdoctoral campus community and serves as an advocate for postdoctoral issues with Cornell’s administration and the vice provost for research. The office supports the Postdoc Advisory Committee, creates and coordinates professional development workshops, and provides one-on-one career counseling.

The Office of Student Services and Admissions works with graduate students to maintain their registration, enroll in courses, and receive support on other administrative requirements of their academic career. Graduate students work closely with their fields of study throughout the admission process. Most questions should be directed to individual graduate fields until matriculation.

The Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) offers a wide array of research-based programs and services that support teaching and reflective practice. Programs include the GET SET workshop series, the Graduate Teaching Assistant Fellow Program, the Graduate Research and Teaching Fellowship Program, and Teaching in Higher Education.

Cornell University’s Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CU-CIRTL), part of a national network of 25 universities, prepares graduate students and postdocs for the future professoriate with a focus on three areas: evidence-based practice of teaching in higher education, inclusive teaching and learning, and mentoring undergraduates, graduate students, and postdocs. In addition to online courses and seminars through the national CIRTL Network, CU-CIRTL programs include a workshop series on building mentoring skills for a career in academia, learning communities on course-based assessment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), and panel discussions on the academic job search process, diversity in the college classroom, and effective teaching with technology.

Cornell Career Services helps students through the career development process: understanding strengths, interests, and values; exploring career options; and taking action through developing job search skills. Programs include the Non-Academic Job Search Workshop, Preparing for the Career Fair, and Envisioning Yourself Outside of Academia.
Student is under no obligation to respond to offers of financial support prior to April 15; earlier deadlines for acceptance of such offers violate the intent of this resolution. If in those instances a student accepts an offer before April 15, and subsequently desires to withdraw that acceptance, the student may submit in writing a resignation of the appointment at any time through April 15. However, an acceptance given or left in force after April 15 commits the student not to accept another offer without first obtaining a written release from the institution to which a commitment has been made. Similarly, an offer by an institution after April 15 is conditional on presentation by the student of the written release from any previously accepted offer. It is further agreed by the institutions and organizations subscribing to the above resolution that a copy of this resolution should accompany every scholarship, fellowship, traineeship, and assistantship offer. A list of other universities that are signatories to the charter is at www.cgsnet.org.