Dear [Prospective Student],

We are pleased you requested information regarding graduate studies at Washington State University while attending the Murdock Conference, and we are excited to share with you the many opportunities we offer. WSU is ranked among the top institutions with very high research activity by the Carnegie Foundation; it has earned recognition as a leader in energy, environment, and health research, and ranked as one of the best quintessential college towns in the nation by MSN.

We understand the challenges you face as a graduate student, including how to pay for your degree, the reputation of your degree program, length of time it will take to earn your degree, and whether you will receive the support you need to navigate through your program. Below, we address many graduate students’ concerns and questions about attending graduate school.

# Our Degree Programs

WSU offers over 120 graduate degrees, led by many of the nation’s top faculty scholars. Our [research](http://research.wsu.edu/Public/feature.castle) helps solve many of the critical problems in the world. To learn more detailed information about these degrees, visit [gradschool.wsu.edu/degrees.](http://gradschool.wsu.edu/degrees)

Of the graduate programs mentioned above, three are ***interdisciplinary degrees***: Materials Science Engineering, Molecular Plant Sciences, and ***our unique Individual Interdisciplinary degree (IIDP)****,* which enables students to combine three different disciplines to develop their own program of study. For example, one IIDP student combined political science, veterinary science, and communication to prepare her for addressing the threat of zoonotic bioterrorism. Another combined economic sciences, civil and environmental engineering, and natural resource sciences to learn how forest residuals may be converted to bio jet fuel. These scholars forged unique pathways unavailable at other institutions.

# Financial Assistance

A large percentage of our graduate students are supported by research, teaching, and staff assistantships. Most assistantships come with some level of tuition waiver, and departments often make early offers to qualified students. The Graduate School also partners with the Office of Grants and Research to offer workshops for graduate students on how to apply for grants, fellowships, and internships. Many of our doctoral students are fully funded by grants. You will also find that the cost of living in Pullman is the lowest of all the PAC-12 schools, and that here you can practice a green, sustainable lifestyle.

# What’s it like in Pullman?

Pullman is a welcoming, diverse community with the comforts of a small town and big city opportunities. Your cultural needs will be met with a culmination of events and activities at WSU, the University of Idaho (8 miles away), Lewis-Clark State College (30 miles away), and Spokane, Washington, (80 miles north). In addition, this region provides a multitude of recreational opportunities, like hiking, camping, fishing, whitewater rafting, skiing, and golfing. An extended bike path connects many of our local communities, and our statewide campuses offer green bikes, [Zipcars,](http://www.parking.wsu.edu/TransportationAlternativesZipcar.html) and [Zimride](http://www.parking.wsu.edu/TransportationAlternativesZimride.html), plus a full transit system. Our award-winning [student recreation center](https://urec.wsu.edu/facilities/student-rec-center/) has over 200 pieces of equipment, seven courts, a five-lane lap pool, and a four-lane walking/running track. More than 3,000 students use the facility every day!

# Quick Facts about WSU Graduate School in 2019

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Number of graduate students: | 4262 |
| Average age of graduate students: | 32 |
| Total assistantships awarded | 1,736 |
| Total degrees awarded | 990 |
| Graduate Diversity: |  |

Minority students 789
International students 1134

Washington state residents 2177

Out-of-state students 951

Gender M/2191; F/2017

As you explore your graduate school possibilities, we invite you to find out more about Washington State University by visiting our [website](http://gradschool.wsu.edu/interdisciplinary-degrees/). Please let us know if you have any questions. We would love to see you here.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Gloss
Dean, Graduate School

