Dear [Prospective Student],

We are pleased you inquired about graduate studies at Washington State University while at the Murdock Conference, and are excited to share with you the many opportunities we offer. Not only is WSU ranked among the top institutions with very high research activity by the Carnegie Foundation, it has also earned recognition as a leader in energy, environment and health research and ranked 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, the length of time it will take to earn your degree, and whether or not you will receive the support you need to navigate through your program. Below we will address many graduate students’ concerns and questions about attending graduate school.

**Our Degree Programs**

Washington State University offers more than 120 graduate degrees, led by many of the nation’s top faculty scholars. Our research is helping solve critical problems in the world. To learn more detailed information about these degrees, visit [http://gradschool.wsu.edu/degrees](http://gradschool.wsu.edu/degrees).

Of those graduate programs above are three *interdisciplinary degrees*: Materials Science Engineering, Molecular Plant Sciences, and our unique [Individual Interdisciplinary Degree (IIDP)](http://gradschool.wsu.edu/degrees), which allows students to combine three different disciplines to develop their own program of study. For example, one IIDP student has combined political science, veterinary science, and communication to prepare her to address the threat of zoonotic bioterrorism. Another has combined economic sciences, civil and environmental engineering, and natural resource sciences to learn how forest residuals can be converted to biojet fuel. These scholars are able to forge their unique pathways not possible at other institutions.

**Financial Assistance**

A large percentage of our graduate students are supported by research, teaching, and staff assistantships. Most of these 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, and many of our doctoral students have been 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 warm, inviting, diverse community with all the comforts of a small town combined with some big city opportunities. Events at WSU, the University of Idaho just 8 miles away, Lewis-Clark State College 30 miles away, and the city of Spokane 80 miles north will meet all your cultural needs. Step outdoors and you’ll find a multitude of recreational opportunities, including hiking, camping, fishing, whitewater rafting, skiing, and golfing. An extended bike path connects many of our local communities, and our residential campus offers green bikes, Zipcars, and Zimride, plus a full transit system to help you get around. Our award-winning [student recreation center](http://gradschool.wsu.edu/degrees) has more than 200 pieces of equipment, 7 courts, a 5-lane lap pool, and a 4-lane walking/running track. More than 3,000 students use the facility every day!
Quick Facts about WSU Graduate School in 2014

Number of graduate students: 3,932
Average age of graduate students: 32
Total assistantships awarded 1,736
Total degrees awarded 990

Graduate Diversity:
- Minority students 590
- International students 868
- Washington state residents 1,794
- Out-of-state students 1,270
- Gender M/2016; F/1916

As you explore your graduate school possibilities, we invite you to find out more about Washington State University by visiting our website. Please let us know if you have any questions. We would love to see you here.

Sincerely,

William Andrefsky, Ph.D., Dean
Graduate School