



DATE: February 27, 2025

TO: Chancellors, Deans, Chairs and Directors

FROM: Tammy Barry, Ph.D., Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Education

SUBJECT: Kim Christen, Ph.D., Vice President for Research

Distinguished Graduate Research Program Call for Applications

As part of an ongoing strategic partnership with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), the WSU Office of Research and the WSU Graduate School are pleased to announce the call for applications for the ninth cohort of the Distinguished Graduate Research Program (DGRP).

The DGRP is intended to increase the quality and quantity of STEM Ph.D. students across the WSU system, while providing an enhanced research experience by aligning WSU faculty and students with PNNL scientists and the unique capabilities and research programs at PNNL. The program helps recruit outstanding students to WSU graduate programs in existing and emerging areas of collaboration [within PNNL's core capability areas](#) of primarily: chemical conversions and catalysis; power systems engineering; nuclear science and technology; and advanced computing, mathematics, and data science and analytics, and other emerging areas.

Students in the DGRP are funded by their WSU and PNNL advisors, not by the DGRP. Prior to completing required course requirements and successfully passing the preliminary exam, students within the DGRP will receive financial support commensurate with department norms funded by a WSU college, department, faculty, or grant. Effective August 16, 2025, after completing these milestones (known in WSU as *ABD* - All But Dissertation), DGRP students will receive a salary at Step 100 that is funded by the PNNL research advisor for up to two years while the student is performing research directly with their PNNL advisor. Additionally, during this period of PNNL funding, students will receive a full, academic year tuition waiver provided by the WSU Graduate School as defined in the [WSU Graduate School All But Dissertation \(ABD\) Waiver Program](#).

To apply, co-advisors from WSU and PNNL should submit a joint-DGRP application [online](#).

DGRP Application Due Dates, 2025 Cohort	
Priority deadline for advisor applications	November 4, 2024
<i>Hard deadline for advisor applications</i>	<i>February 3, 2025</i>
Extended deadline for advisor applications	March 14, 2025(Noon)
Priority deadline for student applications	February 3, 2025
<i>Hard deadline for student applications</i>	<i>March 10, 2025</i>
Extended deadline for student applications	March 26, 2025

Please review the [DGRP Guidelines](#) for program details. Students accepted into the program will receive an official offer letter from both their targeted graduate program and the DGRP. Additional information is available on the [DGRP Website](#) and by emailing DGRP@wsu.edu.