You Belong at Cornell

Why Cornell
• Generous financial support
• Commitment to student success
• Opportunities that span the globe
• Preparation for your future career
• Vibrant college town with a caring community

Graduate students are central to Cornell’s mission of research and a valued part of the greater Cornell community. Welcome to Cornell.

Kelsie Doty, a doctoral student in fiber science and apparel design, researches sustainable textile dyes in the U.S. apparel supply chain. With the help of a Graduate School Research Travel Grant, Doty conducted interviews on the West Coast with natural textile dyers in their production studios and dye gardens.

“This travel is critical to the completion of my dissertation research and allows me to capture important voices and viewpoints on why and how natural colorants are currently being used. The West Coast, in particular, has some of the most well-known voices on natural dye use.”

Attending “one of the most well-respected degree programs in the field of apparel design” was what first sparked her interest in Cornell, but for Doty, “finding the right mentor, one who was excited to work with me, was the most important factor when it came to choosing a Ph.D. program.”

--Kelsie Doty, doctoral student in fiber science and apparel design

Understanding Your Offer

Cornell currently funds 95 percent of our on-campus doctoral students.

If you are a doctoral student, your offer will contain a competitive funding package that includes:
• Tuition
• Health insurance
• Living allowance or stipend

Minimum offer for doctoral degrees: $51,126 total offer amount.

How this breaks down:
- $27,218 minimum nine-month stipend
- $20,800 minimum annual tuition for a research degree (tuition varies by field and degree. Visit gradschool.cornell.edu/tuition for a complete list of tuition by field. All rates are from 2019-2020).
- $3,108 health insurance annual individual coverage.

Cornell is in the top five universities in National Science Foundation research funding.

**Funding for Research Degrees**

Cornell currently funds 95 percent of our on-campus doctoral students. The remaining 5 percent are supported by other funds that include foreign aid, external awards paid directly to the student, and personal monies.

Many of our students receive National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships, Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowships, and other prestigious awards in addition to a significant number of research training grants and national training grants administered by faculty.

The terms of your award may vary by field of study. For additional information, please contact your field.

**Assistantships**

Your letter may include an assistantship. Assistantships are a type of financial support that include teaching and/or research to advance your education and the university’s academic mission.

Students on assistantships receive stipend checks twice a month beginning in August provided they maintain good standing in their academic field and satisfactory performance in teaching and research assignments.

**Fellowships**

Your letter may contain details on a fellowship. Fellowships provide financial support to graduate students to pursue graduate studies without teaching or research responsibilities.

Students with fellowship support typically receive a lump sum at the beginning of each semester. Students on fellowships must maintain satisfactory progress toward the degree and remain in that field of study.

**Duplicate Awards**

Cornell does not allow students to hold both a major outside fellowship and a university award. If you have both, please contact your graduate field to discuss the arrangements.
Funding for Professional Degrees

Professional programs at Cornell provide limited financial assistance. The terms of the awards may vary by program. For more information, please contact your field of study.

Loans are available for U.S. citizens and permanent residents. For more information, please contact the Financial Aid Office at finaid@cornell.edu.

Computer science graduate student Manish Raghavan analyzes the social and ethical consequences of algorithms. “I work to understand how the rising presence of algorithms in our lives—in such diverse realms as hiring, criminal justice, and online interactions—presents both opportunities and challenges as we strive for a fair and free society,” he said. His work in this realm helped lead to participation in the Microsoft Ph.D. Fellowship Program, where he continued to research fairness, accountability, transparency, and ethics in algorithms and machine learning. “We also have a strong group of researchers in the computer science and information science departments, and I’m fortunate to be able to discuss my research with them and learn from their experience.”

Manish Raghavan, doctoral student in computer science.

Support for Research and Scholarship

With $1.07 billion in research funding, one of the 10 largest research libraries in North America, and 150 centers, institutes, laboratories, and programs, we support your research and scholarship, offering a range of opportunities from research travel grants to professional development programs.

Cornell is consistently ranked in the top 20 best universities in the world (Times Higher Education World University Rankings).

Cornell has one of the 10 largest research libraries in North America.

Research and Conference Grants

To offset the cost of research and conference travel, the Graduate School offers grants to provide the means for you to conduct research off campus or to present your research at a conference.

Opportunities

At Cornell, we are committed to your academic success. In addition to academic support programs offered by the graduate fields, the Graduate School and our campus partners offer programs to help you succeed academically, professionally, and personally.
Sample Programs:

Academic Support
  • Thesis and dissertation boot camps, research skills

English Language Support
  • Writing and speaking English, peer tutoring

Navigate Academia
  • Fellowship writing workshops, transitioning to graduate school

Leadership and Management
  • Summer Success Symposium, Colman Leadership Program

Library
  • Immersion programs, digital humanities

Statistical Computing Services
  • Software tutorials and tutoring

Advanced Computing
  • High performance computing tools and concepts

In 2018-2019 the Graduate School held 315 workshops and events with 6,535 participants, 9678 hours of programming.

Student Experience

Our graduate student population is global and diverse.

John Greenlee

As a doctoral student in medieval studies, John Wyatt Greenlee studies cartographic and spatial history in medieval and early modern England. “Studying the way that people in the past have thought about and mapped their surroundings tells us a great deal about how they understood themselves in relationship to the world.”

Relationships were a large part of what prompted Greenlee to pursue a degree at Cornell. “I applied to Cornell because there were people here that I specifically wanted to work with. I chose to come here because of the school’s amazing resources and because of the fantastic people – faculty and graduate students – in the medieval studies program.”

Azul Pinochet-Barros
“Inspiration comes from the most unusual places.” For microbiology doctoral student Azul Pinochet-Barros, these places are cells, and the inspiration is the intricate genetic pathways that regulate metal ions. In her research, she studies bacterial organisms under iron overload conditions, crossing disciplinary boundaries to find new understanding.

“What I love about the Cornell microbiology program is the fact that it’s so interdisciplinary. Microbiology labs are in many different graduate fields across campus. It’s not just programs that are interdisciplinary; at Cornell, people have a very collaborative mindset. This makes for great science!”

**William LaRose**

As a student veteran, William LaRose’s journey to Cornell was different than most. After serving four years in the Army, he knew he wanted to study public administration at a premier university.

Discovering the Cornell Institute for Public Affairs while on deployment solidified his future, and he now studies public administration with a concentration in public and nonprofit management. “I remember seeing their website late one night while on deployment and knew immediately that I had to go there,” he said. “Being here at Cornell is such a unique opportunity.”

**Tiffany St. Bernard**

As a graduate student in biomedical engineering, Tiffany St. Bernard studies how the nervous system plays a role in maintaining the body’s homeostasis and is developing solutions that will help those in need. In her spare time, St. Bernard mentors others. To her, a large part of Cornell’s appeal was the level of support it provides to its students.

“Cornell is an amazing university and I continue to be impressed by the level of support from the administration, faculty, and mentors. The university is eager to support its students and is willing to go out of its way to ensure their success through access to resources and opportunities on and off campus.”

**T.K. Daisy Leung**

T.K. Daisy Leung, a doctoral student in astronomy and space sciences, researches the properties and environments in which natal stars are born. Intrigued by how little is known about the universe, Leung aims to describe its structures, including galaxies, stars, and their formation.

When not conducting research, Leung enjoys photography and hiking and has found that Cornell provides many opportunities for both. “I was attracted to Cornell mainly because of the opportunities I saw in advancing my academic career and because I would be able to enjoy the quiet and close-to-nature learning environment in the countryside, having spent my entire life living in major cities.”
Jared Enriquez

City and regional planning graduate student Jared Enriquez’s work focuses on how aging population structures influence local capacity to mitigate flood risks. “One important dimension of my research is that it reveals the unintended consequences of planning for restoration. Improving the local quality of life through natural amenity restoration seems culturally benign, but is often not produced by equitable means.”

After receiving several compelling offers from various institutions, Cornell’s reputation and flexibility solidified his decision to attend. “After realizing I would have access to legends in my discipline, and that Cornell’s land-grant status would award many of the same opportunities of public universities, I chose Cornell,” he said. “Cornell’s academic community continually challenges me and fulfills my intellectual curiosities.”

Preparing for Your Future

91 percent of alumni would pursue a doctoral degree at Cornell again.

Graduate education is more than coursework, research, and scholarship.

We prepare you for your future. Whether you are headed for a career in industry or one in higher education, we have programs designed to help you reach your goals, including job search discussions, informational seminars, and hands-on workshops.

Getting to Graduation

Our time-to-degree is one of the shortest in our peer group and far shorter than the national average. This means that as a Cornell graduate student, you would likely spend a shorter number of years working toward your degree than would your peers at other universities—allowing you more time to focus on your desired career path.

Cornell has programs designed to help you navigate all aspects of graduate school, including writing boot camps, leadership programs, and workshops discussing topics relating to mental health and wellness. The Pathways to Success Program provides a holistic approach to professional and personal development.

Career Outcomes

We asked alumni who graduated between two and 20 years ago to tell us about their careers.

- Cornell alumni work in over 56 countries, and more than half work in education
- More than half of alumni with physical sciences and engineering degrees work outside of education
- Top five employers of Cornell alumni: Cornell University, Google, Intel, National Taiwan University, Harvard University
Building Mentoring Skills

Graduate students work hard to perfect their curricula vitae and resumes, teaching and research statements, and cover letters as they look toward their future careers. At Cornell’s Graduate School, one professional development workshop focuses on helping graduate students become better mentors, a useful skill for academic or non-academic careers.

This workshop series, Building Mentoring Skills, helps graduate students develop effective communication and mentorship skills essential not only to their future careers, but also in their current roles.

Students explore their mentoring philosophies, communication and conflict resolution skills, and awareness of diverse student needs as they read case studies and discuss mentoring techniques.

To Anna Wallis, a doctoral candidate in plant pathology and microbe biology, mentoring represents a large part of her responsibilities as a Ph.D. student, and she hopes to be in a position to mentor others in her future career.

“While I’ve had the opportunity to work with many students in both classroom and lab settings, I have never had any formal training in mentorship,” she said. “I’ve had several incredible mentors in my academic career, and I hope to have a positive impact on future scientists.”

Similarly, Lauren Genova, a doctoral candidate in chemistry and chemical biology, found that the workshop was helpful for those pursuing careers outside of academia.

“The skills and resources I gained are invaluable to any career path – and will help you out tremendously in your current role.”

This workshop is one of 315 professional development opportunities available through the Graduate School’s Pathways to Success, a suite of academic, career, personal, and professional development offerings designed to help students navigate academia, develop a plan, and prepare for their future careers.

Enjoying the Community

Ithaca is consistently named among the best college towns by Travel + Leisure, Best College Reviews, and The American Institute of Economic Research.

Cornell is more than a place.

It’s a community intimate enough that you can run into friends at the grocery store, but large enough to support 7,200 graduate and professional students and more than 1,000 student clubs.

Here, you will develop friendships and partnerships, often outside your field, that will last a lifetime.
A genuine sense of camaraderie—particularly between faculty and students—fosters collaboration and community. Supportive staff members help guide you through your life at Cornell.

Ithaca has a bustling social scene with dozens of bars and restaurants, music venues, theaters, and one of the best farmers’ markets in the country.

The newly renovated Commons, an open-air pedestrian mall that’s at the center of the town’s dining, shopping, and entertainment scene, hosts events like the Downtown Ithaca Apple Harvest Festival and the Great Downtown Ithaca Chili Cook-Off.

Ithaca even has its own winery, Six Mile Creek Vineyard, one of 16 wineries, one cidery, one meadery, and four distilleries along Cayuga Lake, which Cornell’s campus overlooks.

The lake and surrounding gorges offer great spots for activities like kayaking, hiking, jogging, swimming, or simply taking in the beautiful scenery, which includes more than 100 waterfalls.

There are many hangouts on Cornell’s campus, including cafes, coffee shops, and food trucks.

The Big Red Barn Graduate and Professional Student Center is located in the geographic center of our campus. With events ranging from a weekly happy hour to teaching assistant grading breaks, the Big Red Barn is the heart of the graduate and professional student experience.

Signature events: TGIF Happy Hour, Chocolate Tasting, Super Bowl Party, Faculty/Student Wine and Cheese, Pumpkin Carving, Year End BBQ.

**Living in Ithaca is affordable.**

Housing prices in other college towns and cities compared to Ithaca:
- Philadelphia: 13 percent higher
- Portland: 23 percent higher
- Seattle: 32 percent higher
- Boston: 36 percent higher
- San Francisco Bay area: 67 percent higher
- New York City: 115 percent higher

(Source: bankrate.com)

Learn more at [www.visitithaca.com](http://www.visitithaca.com).

**Respond to Your Offer**

2,225 new graduate and professional student enrollments.
Council of Graduate Schools Resolution Regarding Graduate Scholars, Fellows, Trainees, and Assistants

Acceptance of an offer of financial support (such as a graduate scholarship, fellowship, traineeship, or assistantship) for the next academic year by a prospective or enrolled graduate student completes an agreement that both student and graduate school are expected to honor. In that context, the conditions affecting such offers and their acceptance must be defined carefully and understood by all parties.

Students are 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 available at www.cgsnet.org.

Accept Cornell’s offer of admission online at www.gradschool.cornell.edu/response.

Resources for New Students

New Students Office
newstudents.cornell.edu

New graduate students can find important information and checklists to help you transition to Cornell. The site becomes live in April of each year. You will not be able to sign in to track your progress until you have accepted your admission offer and activated your NetID, but you can see all offices and requirements without signing in.

Cornell Health
health.cornell.edu

Cornell Health Services is an accredited ambulatory health care facility and primary care medical provider with services for all students. Services include medical, counseling and psychological services, physical therapy, and health education.

Student Health Plan (SHP)
studenthealthbenefits.cornell.edu
The Student Health Plan, developed especially for Cornell students, 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. SHP participants can enroll dependents in the plan for an additional fee.

Students with Disabilities
sds.cornell.edu

Information shared by a student about his or her disability is confidential and is not shared with any academic department or unit. Staff in the Student Disability Services Office can confidentially answer your questions about services, documentation requirements, and campus accessibility.

International Services Office of Global Learning
isson.cornell.edu

Information, assistance, and referrals for international students on a range of issues including: immigration, housing, finances, cultural adjustment, and personal and social situations.

Graduate School Offices

Dean’s Office
dean_gradschool@cornell.edu
- Establish policies and vision, provide resources, and oversee governance
- Resolve conflicts and administer grievance procedures
- Foster communication with and about the graduate student community

Academic and Student Affairs
gradacad_assoc_dean@cornell.edu
- Academic policy, programs, and student support
- Academic integrity/misconduct, responsible conduct of research, and grievances
- Petitions requesting exceptions to policy
- Academic support programs

Careers Beyond Academia
gradcareers@cornell.edu
- Graduate student career awareness
- Experiential career exploration
- Workplace skill development

Future Faculty and Academic Careers
cirtl@cornell.edu
- Teaching and future faculty programs
- Research mentoring certificates
• Online courses through Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL) Network

**Graduate Student Life**
[link to email]
• Assistance in navigating your program and resources for academic support
• Referrals to on- and off-campus services
• Support for student concerns
• Balance and resilience programs

**Inclusion and Student Engagement**
[link to email]
• Diversity recruitment and Ambassador Program
• Diversity fellowships and Dean’s Scholars Program
• Professional, leadership, and community development
• Ongoing mentoring and support for current students

**Student Services**
[link to email]
• Admissions, fellowships, and funding
• Registrar and student records

**Cornell Graduate School**
Diversity and inclusion are a part of Cornell University’s heritage. We are a recognized employer and educator valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities.