



## Graduate School

### You Belong at Cornell 2023-24

#### 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 research mission and a valued part of the greater Cornell community. Welcome to Cornell.

#### Ayress Grinage

Field: Plant Biology

Degree: Ph.D.

Research area: Studies plant evolution and biodiversity with a focus on the palm tree species *Sabal minor*.

Why Cornell? "I enjoy the mentorship style of my advisor and our creative energy when we are working together. I am always walking away with more ideas to pull into my research. I have a very interdisciplinary background, so being able to pull on many of my different experiences for my dissertation is invaluable for me."

#### Understanding Your Offer

100% of Cornell doctoral students are funded.

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: \$56,906 total offer amount.

How this breaks down:

- \$32,494 minimum nine-month stipend

- \$20,800 minimum annual tuition for a research degree (Tuition varies by field and degree. Visit [gradschool.cornell.edu/tuition](https://gradschool.cornell.edu/tuition) for a complete list of tuition by field. All rates are from 2023-24 unless otherwise noted).
- \$3,612 health insurance annual individual coverage (in 2022-2023)

## **Funding for Research Degrees**

Cornell currently funds 95% of our on-campus doctoral students. The remaining 5% 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.

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

## **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](mailto:finaid@cornell.edu).

## **Dhruv Agarwal**

Field: Information Science

Degree: Ph.D.

Research area: Designs responsible AI technologies for marginalized communities in high-stakes health care settings.

Why Cornell? “The field of information science at Cornell is amongst the best in the world working toward socially impactful usage of technology. The deciding factor for me, however, was the sense of community I saw at the (virtual) visit days which gave me the confidence to pick Cornell as my home for the next five years.”

## **Support for Research and Scholarship**

With \$1.22 billion in research funding, one of the 15 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).

## **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:**

### English Language Support

- Writing and speaking English, peer tutoring

### Navigating Academia

- Support in transitioning to graduate school, teaching assistant guidance

### Leadership and Management

- Summer Success Symposium, Colman Leadership Program

### Library

- Immersion programs, digital humanities

### Statistical Computing Services

- Software tutorials and tutoring

### Professional Development

- Academic, career, professional, and personal development programs

### Advanced Computing

- High performance computing tools and concepts

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

The Graduate School held 300 workshops and events with 6,057 participants, 447 hours of programming.

## **Student Experience**

Our graduate student population is global and diverse.

### **Olivia Paschall**

Field: Geological Sciences

Degree: Ph.D.

Research area: Studies a satellite remote sensing tool to measure ground surface deformation over large areas from space.

Why Cornell? “Cornell was a perfect combination of location, advisor, and department culture. I applied because I was interested in my advisor’s research, and after attending a virtual visit, I was sold. I love the people I work with, which is important to me, and I feel very lucky to be here.”

## **Daniel Reza Sabzghabaei**

Field: Music

Degree: D.M.A.

Research area: Studies music composition with a focus on time malleability in both research and practice.

Why Cornell? “I chose Cornell because of its long list of outstanding alumni composers, inspiring and respected music faculty members, the freedom the program provides to explore music and projects, the lively international community, the amazing courses, and the small cohort sizes, which has been essential to my growth as an artist and scholar.”

## **Yongjian Tang**

Field: Physics

Degree: Ph.D.

Research area: Studies the symmetry and interplay of ferric orders through experimental research in condensed matter physics.

Why Cornell? “I chose to pursue my Ph.D. degree at Cornell simply because it’s one of the best. I was drawn to the department’s outstanding faculty members, state-of-the-art facilities for condensed matter experiments, and its close ties with the industry. Cornell has such a supportive and collaborative atmosphere that makes doing research here really enjoyable.”

## **Paloma Suarez**

Field: Nutrition

Degree: Ph.D.

Research area: Develops innovative and culturally appropriate interventions to improve dietary and health outcomes for children and youth in underserved communities.

Why Cornell? “I chose to pursue my Ph.D. at Cornell because of how well my research interests align with the inspiring and purposeful work my principal investigator is doing. During the interview process, I felt a large sense of community and it made me feel right at home!”

## **Esther Kondo Heller**

Field: English Language and Literature

Degree: M.F.A

Research area: Studies how stories, histories, and emotion are expressed using sound, images, and performance.

Why Cornell? “I chose Cornell because the poetry faculty is incredible! I was also drawn to the size of the cohort as the program only accepts four students in a year, which means that there is very close attention and care given to poems in the workshop.”

## **Maralmaa Munkh-Achit**

Field: Public Administration

Degree: M.P.A.

Research area: Studies the implications of development projects on youth development, gender, and unemployment.

Why Cornell? “The M.P.A. program at Cornell offers a great deal of flexibility in designing one’s program. The program is multidisciplinary, and we are allowed to take classes from most schools at Cornell which enriches my academic experience. Cornell really lives up to the ‘any person, any study’ motto.”

## **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 100 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, Intel, Google, Yale, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

## **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.

Arielle Johnson, a plant biology Ph.D. candidate, says the workshop series prepared her for mentoring undergraduates for the first time. "I learned a lot about the importance of setting reasonable expectations for both mentor and mentee; this knowledge helped inform which project I ultimately chose to do with the undergraduate I am mentoring," said Johnson.

"From the Intergroup Dialogue Project session, I also learned about how to listen and restate mentees' concerns in a way that helps generate solutions," she said.

Randy Lee, a Ph.D. candidate in psychology, decided to participate in the series to learn more about the research behind how to be a better mentor.

"The Building Mentorship Skills workshops were incredible! I had never formally thought of what made an effective mentor and mentee. Thanks to the series, I developed a formal mentoring philosophy and was able to think about what behaviors were constructive (and destructive) to being a good mentor and mentee," said Lee. "Best of all, we did this together with a cohort of like-minded individuals and had a wonderful facilitator."

## **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 cafés, 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, Pumpkin Carving, Let's Meditate, Trivia Night, Chocolate tastings, Coffee With the Dean.

## **Living in Ithaca is affordable.**

Housing prices in other college towns and cities compared to Ithaca:

- Philadelphia: 6.2% higher
- Portland: 26.4% higher
- Boston: 52.3% higher
- Seattle: 52.8% higher
- Washington, DC: 57.2% higher
- Manhattan: 143.6% higher

(Source: bankrate.com)

## **Where are we?**

Ithaca is:

- 5 hours from Montreal
- 5.5 hours from Boston
- 4 hours from New York City
- 4 hours from Philadelphia
- 6 hours from Washington, DC
- 3 hours from Niagara Falls
- 4.5 hours from Toronto

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

## **Respond to Your Offer**

1,880 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](http://www.cgsnet.org).*

Accept Cornell's offer of admission online at [www.gradschool.cornell.edu/response](http://www.gradschool.cornell.edu/response).

## **Resources for New Students**

### **New Students Office**

[newstudents.cornell.edu](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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**

[international.globallearning.cornell.edu](http://international.globallearning.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](mailto: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](mailto: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

## **Career and Professional Development**

### **Careers Beyond Academia**

[gradcareers@cornell.edu](mailto:gradcareers@cornell.edu)

- Consult to develop informed career choice strategies
- Test-drive career options through flexible experiences
- Develop sector-specific skills and network with professionals

### **Future Faculty and Academic Careers**

[futurefaculty@cornell.edu](mailto:futurefaculty@cornell.edu)

- Explore faculty roles and academic job search process
- Build teaching and research mentorship skills
- Interact across the 40 institutions of the Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL) Network

### **Graduate Student Life**

[janna.lamey@cornell.edu](mailto:janna.lamey@cornell.edu)

- 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**

[grad\\_assoc\\_dean@cornell.edu](mailto:grad_assoc_dean@cornell.edu)

- 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**

[gradstudserv@cornell.edu](mailto:gradstudserv@cornell.edu)

- 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.