

PNNL-WSU Distinguished Graduate Student Research Program Guidelines

Objective: This program has been established as a nationally-competitive effort to elevate the scientific and technical impact of PhD student research at PNNL and WSU. It is designed to attract a select cohort of PhD candidates with enhanced research opportunities unique to the National Lab system. Students selected to participate in the Program will receive an assistantship for financial support and will benefit from having graduate committee members and access to the world-class research infrastructure the two organizations can provide.

Financial Support: The program is designed to provide funding support jointly from WSU and PNNL sources. Prior to completing required course requirements and successful passing of the preliminary exams, students within the DGRP will receive financial support commensurate with department norms. After these milestones are completed (known in WSU as *ABD* (All But Dissertation)), DGRP students will receive a stipend at Step 85, or five steps higher than the department norm, whichever is greater. This elevated stipend level is intended to recognize the prestige of the program.

- Prior to ABD status, an approved applicant will be appointed to an assistantship funded by WSU with means typical of the department; this can include but is not limited to grant or gift funds from any source, teaching assistantship, or state funded research assistantship. This assistantship will provide a stipend, a tuition waiver (based on the WSU Assistantship Policies), and available benefits.
- After achieving ABD status, the student will be funded by and conduct research at PNNL. Funding will be provided by PNNL through a sponsored agreement to WSU via the WSU Office of Research Support and Operations (ORSO). The PNNL scientist is expected to provide funds for the assistantship stipend, insurance and mandatory fees on existing or future research projects. The WSU Graduate School will provide tuition waivers for assistantships in these years.
- Tuition waivers are not available during summer semesters; therefore, WSU may elect to employ the student on a wage basis set equivalent to the stipend and benefit fees.
- It is recognized that additional years may be needed to complete the graduate degree program. In this case, the tuition waivers will revert back to follow the WSU Assistantship Policy for years 5 and beyond.
- All stipend levels will meet the standards held out in the introductory paragraph.

The students participating in this Program will be advised by individuals from both organizations. In addition, facilities at both organizations will be available to advance the student research.

Eligibility: Prior to final appointment to the program, the student must be accepted into a PhD program at WSU. Since the DGRP program involves students working on government funded research at PNNL, a DOE owned facility, the following guidance will apply. All DGRP candidates and WSU advisors who are foreign nationals will be reviewed for DOE access requirements before the student or faculty member is approved for access to PNNL and access to information generated at PNNL. Continued participation in the program will be contingent upon meeting the access requirements in effect.

Application: The Program is jointly coordinated by the WSU Dean of the Graduate School, WSU Vice-President for Research, and Director of Research Partnerships at PNNL. Students are nominated to the program by a WSU faculty member and PNNL scientist.

Submission of the application should be done via a **WSU Pre-proposal eREX** submitted to ORSO. Upon review and approval of the application by ORSO, it will be forwarded to the DGRP committee for review.

The eREX will include:

- One combined PDF with all required application materials.
- Institutional Match budget to provide details for the department/college commitment to financially support the student during the pre-ABD stage.

The required application materials must include:

- Two letters of intent, one from the WSU faculty member and one from the PNNL scientist nominators.
- A curriculum vitae (CV) for the student applicant.
- A single research statement developed by the student in concert with the WSU faculty and PNNL scientist nominators.
- The student must provide a statement of purpose for the PhD degree program and eventual career. The statement should specifically reference what they hope to gain from their research effort at PNNL.

For questions regarding the application and questions contact Michael Wolcott (WSU) or email DGRP@wsu.edu

For eREX submission questions contact Matt Michener or email orso@wsu.edu.