BEYOND PENN STATE:
Graduate school and post-graduate opportunities

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PennState
Is graduate school right for me?

- What are you passionate about?
- Do you already have a career in mind? Are you looking for training for that specific career?
- Do you want to advance knowledge in your field?
- Are you comfortable passing up other opportunities that may be more lucrative in the short term?
What degree do I need?

• What is typical in your field?
• What does the degree offer you? Advanced coursework? Research training?
• In a field with both research and professional degrees, which works better for your career goals?
When should I go?

- Does work experience matter? What is typical in your field?
- Do students enter doctoral programs directly from undergraduate? Are Master’s degrees completed separately from doctoral degrees?
How do I pay for graduate school?

- Internal support is often available for PhD students (and some MA, MS and professional degree students)
- At Penn State, students are supported through graduate assistantships (teaching or research), fellowships, traineeships, and scholarships
  - GAs, fellowships and traineeships usually include tuition and health insurance subsidy
- Support most often comes from a student’s college or program
  - Graduate funding is largely decentralized at Penn State

First stop for questions: your adviser and your graduate program
How do I pay for graduate school?

- External support also exists!
- The federal government and a variety of private foundations and non-profit organizations provide financial support for graduate students
Resources for locating external funding

Penn State Graduate School’s Office of Fellowships and Awards Administration (OGFAA)
https://secure.gradsch.psu.edu/OGFAA/external/index.cfm

Pivot from the Community of Science
https://pivot.cos.com/session/login
Search for “predoctoral fellowships”

Rutgers’s Grant & Fellowship Database
http://gradfund.rutgers.edu/
External fellowships

- NSF Graduate Research Fellowship
- NIH National Research Service Award
- Boren Fellowship
- HHMI Gilliam Fellowship
- Ford Foundation Fellowship
- Smithsonian Institute Fellowship
- Fulbright-Hays Fellowship
And what if graduate school *isn’t* right for me?
Consider applying for a fellowship

- Competitive merit- or interest-based award
- Opportunity to explore your interests outside of the classroom
- Application process promotes personal reflection and growth
- Stepping stone toward your future
Fulbright U.S. Student Program

- One-year program
- Available in over 140 countries
- Offers opportunity to design and conduct independent project, complete further study, or co-teach English
- Requirements vary by country
- Also offers opportunity to engage with the local community and develop cultural competences
Peace Corps

- Two-year program
- Available in over 60 countries
- Offers opportunity to immerse in a community abroad and tackle challenges related to agriculture, environment, community economic development, health, education, and youth in development
  - Program requirements vary by country
- Also offers opportunity to work with local leaders and develop cultural competences
Staying in touch
University Fellowships Office

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