

Caltech

GRADUATE STUDIES



WELCOME TO CALTECH!

Greetings! The summer before graduate school can be a busy time, so to help you stay on top of important information, we have put together a series of newsletters. Our goal is to introduce you to many of Caltech's organizations and resources, provide you with important reminders, and make sure that you have all the necessary tools for a successful beginning to the academic year in September. If there is any additional information we can provide, please feel free to email gradofc@caltech.edu.

For more information about Life at Caltech, Lectures and Events, and Caltech News, please check out our main website at caltech.edu.



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A MESSAGE FROM DEAN DAVID CHAN

David Chan
Dean of Graduate Studies, 2020 - present
Harold and Violet Alvarez Professor of Biology



Congratulations! You are about to embark on an exciting journey of discovery as you join a community that includes some of the world's brightest minds pushing the boundaries of knowledge.

Along with the dedicated staff of the Graduate Studies Office, I look forward to supporting you in this journey. I welcome you to Caltech and would like to share a bit more about me and my vision for graduate studies. I have been Dean of Graduate Studies since October 2020, and I have also been a Professor in the Division of Biology and Biological Engineering since 2000. My lab studies the role of mitochondrial dynamics in cell physiology and disease. My primary focus as Dean is creating a welcoming, collaborative, and inclusive graduate community where you can enjoy the pursuit of knowledge and research at the highest level. The Graduate Studies Office is a resource for all of you, and we try to ensure that every student succeeds. I invite you to join the Institute's mission to answer some of the most important questions in science, technology, engineering, and math. Caltech's focus, small size and close-knit community allow us to be a leading center of change. This is an exciting place, and I am glad you made the decision to join Caltech!

As one of 273 incoming graduate students you have so much to be proud of—your accomplishments are stellar. I am inspired and amazed by the attributes each of you brings to our campus, and we are excited to work with you very soon. Below you will find some additional information about your incoming cohort:

19 MS students
254 PhD students
67% in the Sciences & 33% in Engineering
38% Women
53% International from 29 countries
25% of domestic students identify as underrepresented minorities in STEM

Again, welcome and thank you for deciding to join our community and making Caltech your home. I hope you enjoy the summer newsletters and learning about the different offices and resources we have highlighted for you.

CALTECH GRADUATE STUDIES

Graduate students comprise just under 60% of the total student enrollment and the Graduate Studies Office is dedicated to ensuring the success of each individual student. Our team is experienced, knowledgeable, and most of all 100% committed to graduate students. Our office resides within Student Affairs and works closely with each of the six academic divisions to foster academic excellence and a positive quality of life. We provide a range of services to prospective students and current students, including student support and development, diversity and community-building initiatives, financial resources, and oversight for graduate policies and procedures. Our mission is to support and promote an inclusive environment where all graduate students excel academically and personally, feel valued, excited, and engaged in the vibrant and diverse Caltech community.



R. Darrell Peterson (*he/him*)
Associate Dean of Graduate Studies
rdpeters@caltech.edu
Ask me questions about orientation; graduate student appreciation week; emergency funding; medical leaves; student support and advising; Caltech's CARE team; leadership opportunities; the honor system



Natalie Gilmore (*she/her*)
Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies
ngilmore@caltech.edu
Ask me questions about graduate admission policies; REGIS graduate degree progress; PhD candidacy and the final defense; Master's requirements; graduate academic support and advising; emergency loans; family and dependent resources



Helen Duong (*she/her*)
Recruitment and Outreach
Coordinator
hduong@caltech.edu
Ask me questions about the graduate application process; recruiting opportunities; special students and visiting student researchers; petitions; outside employment and internships



Claudia Andrade (*she/her*)
Senior Financial Analyst
candrade@caltech.edu
Ask me questions about graduate research and teaching assistantships; Institute fellowships; external scholarships and fellowships; tuition



David Chan (*he/him*)
Dean of Graduate Studies
graddean@caltech.edu
Ask me about my vision, hopes, and priorities for graduate studies at Caltech; tell me what is important to you



Georgine Okura (*she/her*)
Administrative Assistant
okura@caltech.edu
Ask me questions about certification letters; scheduling appointments with the deans; graduate events; and other administrative matters

We encourage you to reach out to any of us during your transition to Caltech and throughout your graduate school career. We're here to help! Our office is located on the second floor of the Center of Student Services, and is open for visitors Monday to Friday, 9 am – 5 pm, and via email at gradofc@caltech.edu.



GRADUATE ORIENTATION

New Graduate Student Orientation is coming September 18 – 22, 2023! The Orientation program is designed to assist you in your transition graduate school, introduce you to the academic culture of Caltech, connect you to critical campus resources and services, and familiarize you with the Institute itself as well as the Pasadena/Southern California area. It will also be an opportunity to meet our distinguished faculty and help begin to build community among new and current graduate students across all academic options. Please watch for more information in the next newsletter!



FUN FACT #1: Caltech's mascot is the beaver (recently named "Bernoulli" in 2023) – an homage to nature's engineer



GRADUATE HOUSING

This is an important time for students to learn more about their housing options and the office that supports these decisions. To that end, we wanted to introduce the team in the Caltech Housing Office that is here to support you now and after you arrive.

Stephanie Berrocal is the Graduate Housing Manager with over 25 years at Caltech. She works on all aspects of graduate and postdoc housing and also partners with the Office of Residential Experience (ORE) to assist residents with their varying needs.

Elizabeth De La Torre is the Senior Housing Coordinator with over 5 years of experience at Caltech. She mainly works with graduate and postdoc leases, but assists Stephanie with graduate lottery housing as well.

Maria Katsas is the Director of Housing with over 25 years of Housing and Residential Life experience and almost 20 years at Caltech. She works closely with ORE on many aspects of the student experience in our housing.

Please find additional information at housing.caltech.edu/Grads.

NEW STUDENT ENTRANCE HEALTH FORMS

Completion of the entrance health forms is required for every incoming student. **You will not be able to maintain Fall enrollment unless you complete the health forms by the deadline.** Please go to wellness.caltech.edu/health/new-student-health-forms for instructions and complete the health forms no later than July 31, 2023. Please follow the instructions to contact the Student Health Services if you have any questions or problems. Visit Student Wellness at wellness.caltech.edu/health for additional information.

FUN FACT #2: Caltech was originally founded as Throop University in 1891 in Pasadena, California, and renamed the California Institute of Technology in 1920.

APPLY NOW!

NEW GRADUATE STUDENT HEAD-START LOAN

For many students, relocating can incur unexpected costs and often presents a financial burden. To help alleviate this burden, Caltech offers a 0% interest loan of \$3,000 to incoming students. The loan funds will be disbursed through the Bursar's Office starting on Monday, September 18, 2023, and repayment begins in April 2024 over the course of 18 months. New students interested in applying for the loan should complete and submit the response form no later than **July 17, 2023**. More information and a link to the form can be found at gradoffice.caltech.edu/incoming. Further instructions will then be sent regarding the loan application documents and the disbursement of funds.

FUN FACT #3: Caltech Hall (pictured below) is one of the buildings shaken the most frequently in the world because seismologists use it to test earthquake detectors and gather other types of data.



CITI RESEARCH ETHICS TRAINING COURSE

Training in Responsible Conduct of Research is required of all students. You can complete this requirement online through the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Program course. This can be done by logging on to Access.Caltech using your Caltech username and UID, and following the link "Research Ethics Education (CITI)", and then under Main Menu/My Courses add the course titled "Required RCR Training for Students and Postdocs". The course takes about an hour to complete and the results are automatically transmitted to Caltech. You are only required to complete this training once during your graduate program. Please complete the training module no later than the start of the fall term (September 26, 2023).



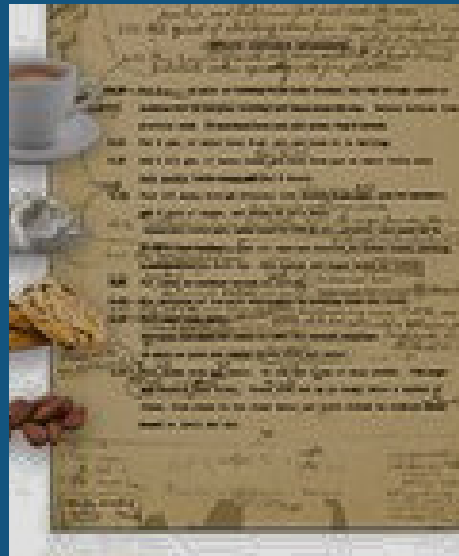
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAMS

International Student Programs (ISP) is ready to assist in advising international students on immigration-related matters, such as visa acquisition, employment authorization, extensions of stay, and more. In addition, ISP provides programs that support international students in adjusting to life in the United States. ISP plans and promotes events that celebrate international education and cultures of the world, address cross-cultural adjustment, and provide opportunities for international students to establish a sense of community at Caltech. ISP Associate Director, Laura Flower Kim (pictured here), along with Daniel Yoder and Hanna Drollinger look forward to welcoming all new international students for ISP’s orientation, called iBegin@Caltech. If you like Laura’s t-shirt, you’re in luck, because all new international students will receive an ISP “Hello shirt”! For more information, please visit international.caltech.edu.

DID YOU KNOW?

Arthur A. Noyes moved to California—and Caltech—in 1919 to build the Institute’s chemistry division, housed in what was then the Gates Laboratory of Chemistry (now the Parsons-Gates Hall of Administration). In addition to shaping the policies that would help create a world-renowned hub of science and engineering, Noyes introduced at least one early Caltech tradition: hot cocoa. Research meetings, held weekly in Gates, featured cocoa prepared according to this precise recipe, created by Noyes and posted to a bulletin board in the kitchen.

- Whipping cream seems to have been stored in the organic lab’s ice chest.
- Cocoa was accompanied by cakes or cookies purchased at what had been a Safeway store on Lake Avenue.
- No pre-ground cocoa here—grad students carefully weighed and boiled cocoa beans.



Read the full article and download the recipe here: magazine.caltech.edu/post/classic-cuppa-cocoa



+1626-395-6346



gradofc@caltech.edu



1200 E. California Blvd., MC 230-87,
Pasadena, CA 91125