

DATE: September 8, 2020

TO: Chancellors, Deans, Chairs and Directors

FROM: Lisa M. Gloss, Ph.D., Dean, WSU Graduate School
Chris Keane, Ph.D., Vice President for Research

SUBJECT: Distinguished Graduate Research Program Call for Applications

As part of an ongoing strategic partnership with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), the WSU Office of Research and the WSU Graduate School are pleased to announce the call for applications for the fifth cohort of the Distinguished Graduate Research Program (DGRP).

The DGRP is intended to increase the quality and quantity of STEM Ph.D. students across the WSU system, while providing an enhanced research experience by aligning WSU faculty and students with PNNL scientists and the unique capabilities and research programs at PNNL. The program helps recruit outstanding students to WSU graduate programs in existing and emerging areas of collaboration with PNNL: nuclear science and engineering; electric power grid; bioproducts; catalysis; environmental, water and soil science and engineering; as well as other emerging areas of collaboration.

Students in the DGRP are funded by their WSU and PNNL advisors, not by the DGRP. Prior to completing required course requirements and successfully passing the preliminary exam, students within the DGRP will receive financial support commensurate with department norms funded by a WSU college, department, faculty, or grant. After completing these milestones (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 higher – that is funded by the PNNL research advisor for up to two years while the student is performing research directly with their PNNL advisor. Additionally, during this period of PNNL funding, students will receive a full, academic year tuition waiver (up to four semesters) provided by the WSU Graduate School.

Interested co-advisors from WSU and PNNL should submit a joint-DGRP application by January 15th, 2021. The two-part application must include:

1. A two-page document (11-point font and 1" margins) that contains:
 - a. Statement outlining nature of collaborative research between the WSU faculty and PNNL scientist.
 - b. The specific student project within this collaborative research.
2. Two signed letters of intent (one from the WSU faculty and one from the PNNL scientist) to mentor and provide funding support to a student.

These initial applications will be reviewed and screened by the DGRP executive committee based on the criteria listed above. Approved applications may then be used to help in student recruitment. Once a student has been nominated, the PIs must submit the student's curriculum vita and graduate application material for review by the DGRP executive committee. Students accepted into the program will receive an official offer letter from both their targeted graduate program and the DGRP.

Additional information and guidelines are available on the [DGRP Website](#) and by emailing DGRP@wsu.edu.