




DATE: October 4, 2021

TO: Chancellors, Deans, Chairs and Directors

FROM: Lisa M. Gloss, Ph.D., Dean, WSU Graduate School   
 Christopher Keane, Ph.D., Vice President for Research, WSU and Vice Chancellor for Research, WSU Pullman

**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 sixth 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.

**To apply, interested co-advisors from WSU and PNNL should submit a joint-DGRP application [online](#).**

<b>DGRP Application Due Dates (2022 Cohort)</b>	
<b>Priority deadline for advisor applications</b>	<b>November 29, 2021</b>
<i>Hard deadline for advisor applications</i>	<i>February 14, 2022</i>
<b>Priority deadline for student applications</b>	<b>March 1, 2022</b>
<i>Hard deadline for student applications</i>	<i>April 1, 2022</i>

Please review the [DGRP Guidelines](#) for program details. Students accepted into the program will receive an official offer letter from both their targeted graduate program and the DGRP.

Additional information is available on the [DGRP Website](#) and by emailing [DGRP@wsu.edu](mailto:DGRP@wsu.edu).