



DATE: October 10, 2023

TO: Chancellors, Deans, Chairs and Directors

FROM: Tammy Barry, Ph.D., Vice Provost for Graduate and Professional Education

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 eighth 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, provide an enhanced experience for the students through research in a U.S. Department of Energy National Laboratory, and align WSU faculty with scientists and the unique capabilities and research programs at PNNL and vice versa. The program helps recruit outstanding STEM Ph.D. students to WSU graduate programs in the existing and emerging areas of collaboration [within PNNL's core capability areas](#) of: nuclear science and materials, engineering, resilient electric power grid, bioenergy and bioproducts, chemical and materials science, biological and earth systems science, computer science, and other emerging areas.

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

| DGRP Application Due Dates, 2024 Cohort | |
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| Priority deadline for advisor applications | November 5, 2023 |
| <i>Hard deadline for advisor applications</i> | <i>February 4, 2024</i> |
| Priority deadline for student applications | February 4, 2024 |
| <i>Hard deadline for student applications</i> | <i>March 10, 2024</i> |

The application process is intended to use the DGRP to recruit top-tier Ph.D. student applicants to WSU and to provide outstanding current WSU Ph.D. students an opportunity to participate in the DGRP. 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.