Dear [contact("first name")][contact("last name")],

Welcome to Illinois! Thank you for sharing your graduate admissions experiences with us via this brief survey. Your responses will help us improve our graduate programs and recruitment processes.

The survey will take approximately 5-7 minutes to complete. Your responses will remain strictly confidential. Only university-level assessment staff – not members of the department to which you applied – will have access to your identifiable data. Only aggregated results will be shared with departments and included in reports. Your decision to participate is completely voluntary, and your feedback on this survey will not affect your relationship with the University of Illinois in any way. You may skip any questions you wish, and you may end survey participation at any time.

If you have any questions about your rights as a participant in this study or any concerns or complaints, please contact the University of Illinois Institutional Review Board at 217-333-2670 (collect calls will be accepted if you identify yourself as a research participant) or via email at irb@illinois.edu. If you have questions about the survey, you may contact us at DocExperience@illinois.edu

I sincerely thank you for your participation.

Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko,
Dean, Graduate College
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

I have read and understood this consent letter. I voluntarily agree to participate. Please click on the consent button below to supply consent and to proceed to the survey.
1. How did you first hear about the [invite("custom 1")]] program at Illinois?

Choose the best answer.

- US News and World Report
- Petersons.com
- Former professor/advisor
- Gradschools.com
- UI faculty member
- Current or former UI student
- Mailing from UI
- UI website
- Some other source (Please specify:)

- I can't remember

2. How many institutions did you apply to for graduate study?

Please enter a number including Illinois in your total.

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Chosen Institution

3. Which institution was UI's primary competition (the "runner-up" in your decision)?

* I only seriously considered the [invite("custom 1")]] program at Illinois.

Arizona State University
Boston University
Brown University
California Institute of Technology
Carnegie Mellon University
Columbia University
Cornell University
Duke University
Florida State University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
Indiana University
Iowa State University
Johns Hopkins University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Michigan State University
New York University
North Carolina State University at Raleigh
Northwestern University
Notre Dame
Ohio State University
Pennsylvania State University
Princeton University
Purdue University
Rice University
Rutgers University
Stanford University
Texas A&M University
University of Arizona
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Chicago
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Georgia
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Iowa
University of Kansas
University of Kentucky
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
University of Missouri-Columbia
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rochester
University of Southern California
University of Texas at Austin
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Vanderbilt University
Washington University in St. Louis
Yale University
* Another institution
* The "runner-up" was a different program at Illinois.

Please specify your "runner-up" institution.

Factors
4. Several factors may have contributed to your decision to attend Illinois instead of [question("value"), id="6"]. Please indicate which key factors were better at the University of Illinois than at [question("value"), id="6"].
Choose up to three factors.

☐ Program faculty or advisor
☐ Cost: Tuition, health benefits, financial package (including assistantships, fellowships)
☐ Program content, structure, or climate (including program size, requirements, specializations, opportunities, length, collegiality)
☐ Timeliness of acceptance -- Illinois notified you before your "runner-up" institution
☐ Student life or campus climate
☐ Communication with faculty, graduate students and/or staff (verbal or written communication)
☐ Clarity or availability of information about the program (e.g., web pages, publications)
☐ Geographic location (e.g., weather, scenery, proximity to family, general quality of life in Champaign-Urbana)
☐ Academic quality or reputation of the program (including rankings, others' opinions, post-graduation placement data)
☐ Availability of equipment or resources for conducting research
☐ Academic quality or reputation of the institution
☐ I applied to [question("value"), id="6"] but was not admitted.
☐ Something else (Please specify:)

Institutional Quality

5. You noted that the academic quality or reputation of the University of Illinois was better than that of [question("value"), id="6"]. Which of the following influenced your assessment of institutional quality?
Please select all major decision factors.

☐ National or international media rankings
☐ Your own assessment or experience
☐ Opinions of former teacher, mentors, or advisors
☐ Opinions of friends or family
☐ Something else (Please specify:)

Program Quality
6. You noted that the program was better at the University of Illinois than at [question("value"), id="6"]. Which of the following influenced your assessment of program quality? Please select all major decision factors.

- [ ] Your own assessment or experience
- [ ] Opinions of friends or family
- [ ] Opinions of former teacher, mentors, or advisors
- [ ] National or international media rankings
- [ ] Post-graduation placement record
- [ ] Something else (Please specify:)

Program Faculty

7. You marked program faculty or advisor as one decision factor. Which of the following were better at the University of Illinois than at [question("value"), id="6"]? Choose all that apply.

- [ ] Quality or reputation of assigned faculty advisor
- [ ] Quality or reputation of the research group
- [ ] Opportunity to work with the faculty member of your choice
- [ ] General quality or reputation of program faculty
- [ ] Something else (Please specify:)

Program Content
8. You marked program content, structure, or climate as one decision factor. Which of the following aspects were better at the University of Illinois than at [question("value"), id="6"]? Choose all that apply.

- Opportunity to study a specific area of interest (specialization)
- Professional development opportunities
- Shorter program length
- Online course availability
- Supportive, collegial environment
- Larger program size (You wanted more students or faculty in the program.)
- Smaller program size (You wanted fewer students or faculty in the program.)
- International research or study opportunities
- Teaching opportunities
- Research opportunities
- Program course requirements
- Internship opportunities
- Flexibility of program calendar or timeline
- Something else (Please specify:)

Cost

9. You marked cost as one decision factor. Which of the following aspects were better at the University of Illinois than at [question("value"), id="6"]? Choose all that apply.

Financial Package
- Research assistantship opportunities
- Teaching assistantship opportunities
- Dollar amount or duration of research or teaching assistantship stipend
- Dollar amount or duration of annual fellowship(s) awarded
- Tuition and fee waiver

Cost
- Lower tuition and fees in relation to financial package awarded
- Lower cost of living in Champaign-Urbana than there

Benefits (e.g. Health, Dental, and Vision)
- Preferable health benefits
- Lower cost of health benefits

Other
- Something else (Please explain:)

Please tell us about the assistantship stipend you had been offered by [question("value"), id="6"]).

What is the annual stipend you would have received there?
*Please enter a dollar amount.*

For how many years were you guaranteed that stipend?
*Please enter a number of years.*

Please tell us about the fellowship stipend you had been offered by [question("value"), id="6"]).

What is the annual stipend you would have received there?
*Please enter a dollar amount.*

For how many years were you guaranteed that stipend?
*Please enter a number of years.*
10. You marked communication with faculty, graduate students, or staff as one decision factor. Which of the following aspects were better at the University of Illinois than at [question("value"), id="6"]? **Choose all that apply.**

- [ ] Verbal Communication
  - Interaction with program faculty
  - Interaction with graduate students
  - Interaction with program or department staff
  - Interaction with University staff

- [ ] Written Communication
  - Email or letters from program faculty
  - Email or letters from graduate students
  - Email or letters from program or department staff
  - Email or letters from University staff

- [ ] Other
  - Something else *(Please explain:)*

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**Clarity of Information**

11. You marked clarity or availability of information about the [jinvoke("custom 1")].program as one decision factor. Which of the following aspects were better at the University of Illinois than at [question("value"), id="6"]? **Choose all that apply.**

- [ ] University website
- [ ] Program or department website
- [ ] University publications
- [ ] Program or department publications
- [ ] Something else *(Please specify:)*

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**Student Life**
12. You marked student life or campus climate as one decision factor. Which of the following aspects were better at the University of Illinois than at [question("value"), id="6"]? Choose all that apply.

- Family-friendly policies or activities
- Social or cultural activities
- Recreational or sports activities
- Friendly, positive campus ethos
- Campus safety or security
- Student demographics (e.g. gender, racial or ethnic diversity)
- Smaller size of institution
- Something else (Please specify):

Illinois Campus Visits

13. Did you visit the University of Illinois campus prior to making your decision?

- No
- Yes

In what capacity did you visit? Choose all that apply.

- Campus research experience such as REU or SROP
- Informal visit (self-directed)
- Formal campus visit for prospective students
- Attended UI previously as a student
- Another opportunity (e.g., previous participation in a sports program, arts program, summer camp)

(Please specify:)_
About how much of the cost of your visit was covered by the University of Illinois?

- None of the cost
- Less than 50% of the cost
- About half of the cost
- More than 50% of the cost
- 100% of the cost

Was your visit part of any of these programs?
Choose all that apply.

- Individual visit hosted by the program or department
- Community of Scholars program for under-represented students
- Campus visit event hosted by the program, department, or college
- None of the above

Why didn't you visit the Illinois campus?
Choose all that apply.

- No funding to visit
- I did not know that I could visit campus.
- No time to visit
- Another reason (Please explain):

Other Campus Visits

14. Did you visit the campus of [question("value"), id="6"] prior to making your decision?

- Yes
- No
In what capacity did you visit?

*Choose all that apply.*

- [ ] Informal visit (self-directed)
- [ ] Formal campus visit for prospective students
- [ ] Campus research experience such as REU or SROP
- [ ] Attended that institution previously as a student
- [ ] Another opportunity (e.g., previous participation in a sports program, arts program, summer camp)

*(Please specify:)*

About how much of the cost of your visit was covered by [question("value"), id="6"]?

- [ ] 100% of the cost
- [ ] More than 50% of the cost
- [ ] About half of the cost
- [ ] Less than 50% of the cost
- [ ] None of the cost

**Acceptance**

15. Who notified you of your acceptance first: Illinois or [question("value"), id="6"]?

- [ ] [question("value"), id="6"]
- [ ] Illinois
- [ ] I don’t recall
- [ ] I was not accepted at [question("value"), id="6"]
- [ ] I did not actually apply to [question("value"), id="6"]

**Career Goal**
16. What is your primary career goal?

- Research-intensive faculty position
- Teaching-intensive faculty position
- Balanced research & teaching faculty position
- Higher education administration
- Non-teaching research position
- Work in preschool or K-12 education
- Work in the private sector (for-profit organizations)
- Work in the government or a non-profit organization
- Self-employment
- Something else *(Please specify:)*

- I am not sure yet

17. Where would you like to pursue your career?

- In the United States
- In another country *(Please tell us where:)*

- I am not sure yet

Thank You!
Thank you again for sharing your graduate admissions experiences with us. We wish you all the best in your graduate studies at Illinois!

If you have any questions or comments about the survey, please email us at: DocExperience@illinois.edu.

You may close your browser window now.