GETTING STARTED

A Guide for New Graduate Students
published by the Graduate College
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The Graduate College is home to more than 10,000 graduate students at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. While you will spend much of your time in your department, the Graduate College is here to help you navigate your way through graduate school from admissions to thesis deposit. We work closely with graduate programs and believe in providing students with tools for success. In the Graduate College, you will find a wide range of resources, services, and opportunities to assist with your academic and professional development needs.

This short welcome guide is designed to familiarize you with University resources and life in the Champaign-Urbana community. We hope to make your transition to graduate school at the University as seamless as possible. Please refer to the Graduate College website for more information, or contact us with any questions.

The Graduate College
204 Coble Hall, 801 S. Wright St
Champaign, IL 61820
Phone: 217.333.0035
E-mail: grad@illinois.edu
URL: WWW.GRAD.ILLINOIS.EDU
Claim your NetID & Exchange Email Account
Your NetID will give you access to campus services, including e-mail and file storage. New students should visit the NetID claiming website. First, you will need to enter in your University ID Number (UIN) and Activation Code. The UIN and Activation Code were provided to you in your Official Notice of Admission letter. Second, you will select two security questions to protect your Net ID account. Third, you will need to choose a password for your Net ID account (remember to pay attention to the requirements for all passwords). Finally, you will be prompted to claim your Exchange Email Account. Exchange is a service used for email, calendaring, and contact and task management at the University of Illinois and is vital for receiving emails and information from the University.

Set up your Exchange Email Account
Approximately one hour after claiming your Net ID and Exchange Email Account, and setting your password, you will be able to login to and start using your Exchange email account. See: http://techservices.illinois.edu/services/email. The URL to log into Outlook Web App to check your Exchange email is: https://webmail.illinois.edu. If you have questions about your email or your Exchange account, please contact Technology Services Help Desk, consult@illinois.edu.

Verify Personal Information in Student Self-Service
Once you have established your Net ID, use it to log into the online Student Self-Service and verify your personal information, such as your contact information. Keeping this information up-to-date is extremely important and ensures proper delivery of important documents.

Visit the ISSS Website (for international students)
If you’re an international student, you’ll want to visit the International Student and Scholar Services, or ISSS, website. There you’ll find information about visas, check-in, and orientation information specifically for international students. Additional resources for international students are available online.

Get your i-card
Your i-card is your official University of Illinois photo ID. It also works as your bus pass to ride the Mass Transit District (MTD) and your library card. Visit the ID Center in the Illini Union Bookstore or the i-card website.

If you were an undergraduate here at Illinois, you’ll want to get a new i-card showing your graduate student status.
Bring (or send in) your Transcripts
Remember to bring an official copy of your transcripts. For a complete list of what academic credentials (transcripts, certificate of degrees, translations) you need to submit, please view your official notice of admission letter. These credentials can be mailed to us, or you can drop them off in person at the Graduate and Professional Admissions Office in the Graduate College. The Graduate College Admissions Office is located in Coble Hall - Room 204, 801 South Wright Street, Champaign, Illinois, 61820.

Complete Payroll Information in Nessie (for assistants, trainees, and fellows)
Students with assistantships, traineeships, and fellowships will need to complete payroll information in an online system called NESSIE New Hire. For assistants, your department will provide you with the URL and give you a password to do this. You will not be paid until information in NESSIE is complete.

Healthcare & Immunization
The University of Illinois student health insurance plan is mandatory for all students, unless you have proof of health care coverage. To learn about benefits, how to opt out if you have comparable coverage elsewhere, or how to add dependents, check out the Student Insurance Office website. If you were an undergrad at Illinois and opted out of student health insurance and now wish to receive it, you will need to opt back in.

The McKinley Health Center is conveniently located on campus and provides routine and preventative care, health counseling, immunization, and more. Students may use McKinley Health Center even if they have opted out of student health insurance.

Register for Classes
Meet with your adviser and then use UI-Integrate Self-Service to register for classes. Always register early and check your registration to make sure it is current and accurate. A list of courses currently offered is available online at www.courses.illinois.edu/schedule.

Billing
Visit the University Student Financial Services & Cashier Operations (USFSCO) website. USFSCO is the office responsible for billing all activity that appears on your student account, such as tuition, fees, room and board charges and credits. Please visit the Web at http://paymybill.uillinois.edu to familiarize yourself with important information regarding your student account and payment options, as well as important due dates.
WHAT TO DO IN C-U

YOUR MICRO-URBAN HOME

The University of Illinois is located where the two cities of Champaign and Urbana meet. “C-U” or “Chambana” is a “micro-urban” community with a small-town feel that brings together a unique mix of urban perks and rural comforts: corn festivals and Blue Waters supercomputing, tractor pulls and gourmet dining, farmers’ markets and independent cinema.

While the University provides the atmosphere and resources conducive to research, project execution, and degree completion, our graduate students also enjoy the livability and comfort of a vibrant regional community that offers a diverse music scene, historic neighborhoods, and visual and performing arts community.

Together the University and C-U community provide an ideal setting for graduate study and work-life balance.

QUICK FACTS

1. C-U has 4 seasons with temperatures that can reach over 100F in July and below 0F in January. The average annual snowfall is 23.2 inches.

2. The Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District (CUMTD) provides public transportation for C-U. University students, faculty, and staff can use the CUMTD for free.

3. Champaign and Urbana are listed as “Bike Friendly Communities” by the League of American Bicyclists.

4. The cost of living in C-U is more than 10% below the national average. The average rent for a 1-bedroom apartment is $350-$700 and the average cost for a single family home is $145,000.

5. C-U has over 100,000 residents.

6. C-U boasts an average commute time of 14 minutes and is ranked in the top 10 “Cities where you want to walk to work.”

RESOURCES

Daily Illini Calendar
WWW.DAILYILLINI.COM/CALENDAR

News Gazette Community Calendar
NEWS-GAZETTE.COM/CALENDAR

Smile Politely
SMILEPOLITELY.COM

State of Illinois Visitor Information
ENJOYILLINOIS.COM

Champaign Visitors Bureau
VISITCHAMPAIGNCOUNTY.ORG

City of Champaign
CHAMPAIGN.IL.US

City of Urbana
URBANAILLINOIS.US
ARTS, CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT
• Attend a show at the Krannert Center for Performing Arts
• Watch an independent film at The Art Theatre Co-op or the Virginia Theatre
• Eat dinner or grab drinks at a restaurant in downtown Champaign or Urbana
• Visit the Krannert or Spurlock museums
• Take a day trip to Chicago, Indianapolis, or St. Louis

SPORTS & RECREATION
• Run in the Illinois Marathon
• Watch the Fighting Illini at Memorial Stadium
• Take a fitness class at the ARC or CRCE
• Rent a kayak or hike at one of the five forest preserves in Champaign County
• Take in a Danville Dans (baseball) or Danville Dashers (ice hockey) game

FOR FAMILIES
• Watch a show at the William Staerkel Planetarium
• Visit the Lincoln Exhibit at the Museum of the Grand Prairie
• Try the 10-acre Cornfusion maze at Hardy’s Reindeer Ranch
• Visit the petting zoo at the Prairie Farm
• Go apple picking at the Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch

COMMUNITY EVENTS
• Roger Ebert’s Film Festival
• Christie Clinic Illinois Marathon
• Pygmalion Music Festival
• Boneyard Arts Festival
• Blues, Brews & BBQ Festival
• Taste of Champaign
• Urbana Sweet Corn Festival
• Folk & Roots Festival
• Downtown Festival of the Arts

C-U ATTRACTIONS
• Allerton Park and Retreat Center
• Campustown Commercial District
• The Art Theatre Co-op
• Krannert Center
• Virginia Theater
• William Staerkel Planetarium
• Champaign Public Library
• Urbana Free Library
• Urbana’s Market at the Square
GETTING TO & FROM CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

AIRPORTS
The local airport is Willard Airport located just five miles south of Champaign in Savoy. Since Willard offers limited flights, students often travel to other airports that are within a few hours drive to C-U, including Chicago O’Hare International Airport, Chicago Midway International Airport, Central Illinois Regional Airport at Bloomington-Normal, Lambert-St. Louis International Airport and Indianapolis International Airport.

BUS & TRAIN
There are several interstate and intrastate bus and shuttle services available to take you to airports and major cities. Here are just a few options:

Amtrak
AMTRAK.COM
Greyhound
GREYHOUND.COM
Illini Shuttle
ILLINISHUTTLE.COM
Peoria Charter
PEORIACHARTER.COM

PUBLIC TRANSIT
The Champaign-Urbana Mass District (CUMTD) bus lines are the main means of public transit for University students. You only need to show your i-card to ride any CUMTD bus for free anywhere and anytime. Visit the CUMTD website at CUMTD.COM for information about routes, schedules, real-time info, and convenient apps.

BIKES
If you plan to bike to and around campus, register your bike at GO.ILLINOIS.EDU/MYBIKE. Bike paths, racks, and lanes are available throughout campus. Make sure to check out the University Bicycle Code at GO.ILLINOIS.EDU/BIKECODE. You can find information about bike purchases, repairs, and classes at the Campus Bike Center website at THEBIKEPROJECT.ORG.

PARKING
Parking on campus is possible, but not always easy. The Parking Department offers a Student Shuttle lot (located near Assembly Hall) Parking Permit for $127/year. Some University lots are open to non-permit holders after 5 p.m. and on weekends. There are also metered parking spots around campus that cost 75 cents to $1 per hour. It is important to pay attention to where you’re parking as there are restrictions that apply to different meters and lots. For more information about parking, visit the Campus Parking website at PARKING.ILLINOIS.EDU.

ZIPCAR
Need a car for an errand or short trip? Zipcar is a car sharing program with car locations on campus and in the community that allows participants to reserve cars by the hour or by the day. FS.ILLINOIS.EDU/SERVICES/MORE-SERVICES/TDM/DRIVING/ZIPCAR
WHERE TO LIVE

Choosing where you’ll make your home, whether you’re in C-U for a few months or a few years, is an important decision and C-U has a variety of options: on-campus and off-campus, homes and apartments, modern and historic. Choose a place that suits your needs, tastes, and budget while making Illinois your academic home. Because the University is located where Champaign and Urbana meet, both cities are convenient to campus. There are neighborhoods in each that are within walking or biking distance of your campus hub.

UNIVERSITY HOUSING

The University offers Family and Graduate Housing in three different apartment communities and two graduate/upper-division residence halls. University housing has many advantages: units are located on campus, are convenient to bus lines, include utilities, offer furnished and unfurnished options, and provide community programs. For more information or to submit an application, visit the University Housing website at HOUSING.ILLINOIS.EDU or call Family and Graduate Housing at (217) 333-5656.

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

There are many options for privately owned housing in C-U. The Tenant Union can help incoming students find housing once they are accepted to the University. The University also offers Privately Certified Housing in C-U that is part of the University’s housing program. Find out more at CERTIFIED.HOUSING.ILLINOIS.EDU.

You can find listings for off-campus rentals in the Tenant Union’s Housing Explorer database at HTTPS://TENANTUNION.ILLINOIS.EDU/HOUSINGEXPLORER.

HOUSING TIPS

1. Start searching for housing early since some housing options get booked in the spring and early summer.

2. If you’re not familiar with the area, ask current graduate students in your department to suggest potential neighborhoods or consult with the Tenant Union. TENANTUNION.ILLINOIS.EDU

3. Walkscore.com can help inform your housing search. Enter a potential address and quickly see what grocery stores, restaurants, libraries, and more are located within walking distance. WALKSCORE.COM

4. Some graduate students take advantage of the low housing costs by purchasing a condo or home.

5. Average utility costs for the C-U area can be found on the Tenant Union’s guide to the Housing Search. TENANTUNION.ILLINOIS.EDU/LOOKINGHOUSING.HTML

6. Consider purchasing renter’s insurance to protect your personal property.

7. The Tenant Union offers services for lease review, budget worksheets, apartment searches, landlord complaint records, and tenant-landlord conflict help.
I-CARD
Use your i-card to access many campus services including University Library privileges, Campus Recreation access, McKinley Health Center Check-in, and CUMTD bus pass. The campus ID center is located on the first floor of the Illini Union Bookstore.
WWW.ICARDNET.UILLINOIS.EDU/APPPUBLICWEBSITE/

UIN
A University Identification Number (UIN) is a unique nine-digit number that identifies you permanently in University records. Your UIN can be found on your i-card.

NETID
Your NetID is a name assigned to you that is unique across all University of Illinois campuses. Many important, secure University services ask for your NetID and password including Exchange Email, NESSIE, and wireless network services.

To claim your NetID visit TECHSERVICES.ILLINOIS.EDU/SERVICES/NETID-CLAIM
See also:
GO.ILLINOIS.EDU/NEWSTUDENTTECH

IDENTITY PROTECTION
Your University identification, like any identification, is important to protect. For tips on protecting your University identity, including avoiding identify theft, protecting your password, and securing your computer visit the Technology Services Security website at WWW.SECURITY.ILLINOIS.EDU.
TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Technology Services provides campus-wide computing, networking, communications technology, and instructional technology services. Support is provided in-person, by phone or by email.

For more information, check out the Technology Services website at TECHSERVICES.ILLINOIS.EDU.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Certificate in Technology-Enhanced Teaching is a program of the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning. CITL.ILLINOIS.EDU/PROFESSIONAL-DEVELOPMENT/TEACHING-CERTIFICATE-PROGRAM

The Library’s Savvy Researcher workshop series brings experts together with graduate students and faculty to explore various topics relevant to research and academic success. Usually 45-60 minutes long, the workshops provide an introduction to concepts and tools. WWW.LIBRARY.ILLINOIS.EDU/SC/SERVICES/SAVVY_RESEARCHER.HTML

Illini Alert is a mass notification system that sends emails, text messages and social media posts for campus emergencies. POLICE.ILLINOIS.EDU/EMERGENCY/ILLINI-ALERT/

COMPUTING QUICK TIPS:

1. Start by connecting to IllinoisNet Guest to configure your normal access to IllinoisNet. WIRELESS.GO.ILLINOIS.EDU/WIFI
2. All students get free access to Microsoft Office 365 by logging in with their @illinois.edu address at OFFICE365.ILLINOIS.EDU.
3. Visit the University of Illinois WebStore for free and discounted software. WEBSTORE.ILLINOIS.EDU
4. Technology Services offers Helpdesk Services and can look at laptops and mobile devices by appointment. TECHSERVICES.ILLINOIS.EDU/GET-HELP/HELP-DESK
5. Instructional Computing Services offers several computer labs on campus. TECHSERVICES.ILLINOIS.EDU/SERVICES/COMPUTER-LABS
6. U of I Box.com provides free cloud storage for U of I students and also offers document sharing and collaboration. BOX.ILLINOIS.EDU/
7. PUBLISH.ILLINOIS.EDU offers web publishing service for U of I using the Wordpress platform.
8. The Illini Union Tech Zone is the official campus technology store and offers educational pricing on most computers and laptops. UNION.ILLINOIS.EDU/SHOP/TECH-ZONE
9. Lynda.com offers training on leading software topics and can be accessed free through the University (GO.ILLINOIS.EDU/LYNDAN). For additional training opportunities, see: TECHSERVICES.ILLINOIS.EDU/TRAINING/
10. Consider registering your laptop with Technology Services Security which can help track your laptop in the event of theft. TECHSERVICES.ILLINOIS.EDU/SERVICES/COMPUTER-REGISTRATION
BILLING
Visit PAYMYBILL.UILLINOIS.EDU for all your student account information, including tuition, fees, credits, and room and board charges. If you have questions about your bill or want more information about paying your bill, contact the University Student Financial Services and Cashier Operations (USFSCO) office at usfscohelpp@uillinois.edu or (217) 333-2180.

ASSISTANTSHIPS
Students may hold teaching (TA), research (RA), graduate (GA) or pre-professional graduate (PGA) assistantships. Descriptions of duties related to each type of assistantship can be found on the Academic Human Resources website at AHR.ILLINOIS.EDU/GRADS/DEFINITIONS.HTML. TAs and GAs are covered by the collective bargaining agreement with the Graduate Employees’ Organization (GEO). RAs and PGAs are not covered by the GEO agreement. Information about GEO can be found at UIGEO.ORG.

FELLOWSHIPS
The Graduate College’s Fellowship Office implements policies governing fellowships and traineeships as well as helps students locate external funding opportunities, learn the art of proposal writing, and submit competitive applications. Visit the Fellowship Office website at GRAD.ILLINOIS.EDU/FELLOWSHIPS for more information, and be sure to visit the database to learn about potential fellowships.

LOANS
Graduate students interested in applying for student loans should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Use Federal Student Code 001775. Students with fellowships who apply for direct loans will have their eligibility reduced by the amount of the fellowship. Traineeships are not counted when eligibility for direct loans calculated for graduate students. More information about loans is available from the Office of Student Financial Aid at OSFA.ILLINOIS.EDU.

CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT
If you’re looking for an assistantship or part-time job, the Graduate College lists several campus job boards where you can begin your search. Visit GRAD.ILLINOIS.EDU/JOBS-BOARDS for a list. Campus employees can visit the Academic Human Resources website at AHR.ILLINOIS.EDU/GRADS for information about benefits, stipends, and more.
PAYROLL

If you hold an assistantship, traineeship, or fellowship, you will need to complete payroll information in an online system called NESSIE New Hire. If you hold an assistantship, your department will provide you with the URL and give you the password to do this. You will not be paid until information in NESSIE is complete. Wages are paid on the 16th of each month and must be paid via direct deposit. Assistantships are nine month appointments with the first paycheck on 16 September and the last on 16 May. Visit the Nessie website to sign up for Direct Deposit at NESSIE.UIHR.UILLINOIS.EDU.

TAXABILITY OF FELLOWSHIPS & TUITION WAIVERS

Fellowship and traineeship stipends may be subject to income taxes.

US students with fellowships: The University is not responsible for withholding or reporting income taxes of fellowship payments for US citizens or permanent residents. Fellows do not receive a W-2 Form, however the University is required to report fellowships to the IRS for informational purposes on Form 1098-T. Taxability of fellowship payment is a matter between the fellow and the IRS. A portion of your fellowship and your tuition waiver may be tax exempt. For more information, visit GRAD.ILLINOIS.EDU/FELLOWSHIP/TAXINFO/USTAX.

International students with fellowships: The University withholds taxes from the fellowship payments of international students on temporary visas who are classified as non-resident aliens. International students may be able to claim a treaty benefit that reduces the withholding rate or exempts the fellowship payments from income tax withholding. All students on temporary visas must schedule a tax status review appointment with the University Payroll Service Center to determine their tax residency status. Fellowship stipend payments will be taxed at the highest possible rate until after the tax review process is completed. For more information, visit GRAD.ILLINOIS.EDU/FELLOWSHIP/TAXINFO/INTNTL.TAX.

Students with assistantships: Assistantship stipends are taxable, and state and federal taxes are withheld from stipends. Current tax law exempts the tuition and service fee waivers for Teaching Assistants and Research Assistants. Graduate Assistants and Pre-professional Graduate Assistants may be subject to withholding. For more information about the taxability of certain assistantship tuition and service fee waivers, visit OBFS.UILLINOIS.EDU/PAYROLL/TUITION-FEE-WAIVERS/.

FINANCIAL WELLNESS

Graduate education is a significant investment of time and money—for many students, it means living on a budget, working part-time, relying on outside funding sources, or making financial decisions that can affect you for years to come. Cultivating Currency, a website maintained by the Graduate College and other University partners, is a useful resource for information on money management and resources for financial planning. Visit Cultivating Currency at PUBLISH.ILLINOIS.EDU/CULTIVATINGCURRENCY.
**INSURANCE**

**Health Insurance:** The University of Illinois student health insurance plan is mandatory for all students, unless you have proof of health care coverage. United Healthcare underwrites the University sponsored plan, the fee for which is assessed automatically at the beginning of every semester in which you are registered for classes. To learn about benefits, how to opt out if you have comparable coverage elsewhere, or how to add dependents, check out the Student Insurance Office website at [SI.ILLINOIS.EDU](http://SI.ILLINOIS.EDU).

**Dental & Vision:** The University of Illinois provides dental and vision insurance for graduate students holding waiver-generating appointments at no additional cost. Consult the Graduate College Handbook to see if your appointment qualifies at [GRAD.ILLINOIS.EDU/CURRENT/HEALTH](http://GRAD.ILLINOIS.EDU/CURRENT/HEALTH).

**Summer Health Benefits:** You may need to take additional steps to secure Summer Health Insurance Coverage. Carefully review the guide for Summer Health Coverage for Graduate Students to find out more about eligibility, fee payment information, and deadlines for enrollment at [GRAD.ILLINOIS.EDU/FELLOWSHIP/HEALTHINS](http://GRAD.ILLINOIS.EDU/FELLOWSHIP/HEALTHINS).

**SERVICES**

The **McKinley Health Center** is conveniently located on campus and provides primary care, women’s health, mental health, and health education services, as well as pharmacy, laboratory, radiology, and 24/7 telephone nurse access. Students may use McKinley Health Center even if they have opted out of the University Health Insurance plan. Find out more at [MCKINLEY.ILLINOIS.EDU](http://MCKINLEY.ILLINOIS.EDU).

The **Counseling Center** provides a range of services to address emotional, interpersonal, and academic concerns. Individual, couple, and group counseling is provided and services are paid for through the health services fee. [COUNSELINGCENTER.ILLINOIS.EDU](http://COUNSELINGCENTER.ILLINOIS.EDU).

Campus Recreation provides a welcoming environment with sustainable facilities and programs that inspire the University community to engage in recreation and wellness opportunities. By paying student fees, graduate students have access to the campus recreation facilities including the Activities and Recreation Center (ARC) and Campus Recreation Center East (CRCE) during the academic year. Memberships can also be purchased for partners and dependents. [CAMPUSREC.ILLINOIS.EDU](http://CAMPUSREC.ILLINOIS.EDU)
IN CASE OF EMERGENCY
DIAL 911
If you are experiencing a medical emergency or are in need of police or fire assistance, dial “911” on your cell or home phone and emergency personnel will assist you.

Severe Weather
Severe weather events including tornadoes and flash floods occasionally happen in the Champaign Urbana area. You can stay apprised of these events by visiting the University of Illinois weather website: ATMOS. ILLINOIS.EDU/WEATHER. There are also several apps that will deliver weather notifications to your mobile phone.

CAMPUS THREATS
Illini-Alert is used for incidents which present an imminent threat to life, health, or safety to the general campus population. These messages provide emergency information and instructions for personal protective actions. Illini-Alert sends email and text messages, posts to Facebook and Twitter, and triggers the Emergency Web Alert System for University websites. All current University of Illinois students, faculty, and staff will receive Illini-Alert messages to their NetID@illinois.edu email addresses.

You can register your cell phone number and an alternate email address to receive Illini-Alert messages at EMERGENCY. ILLINOIS.EDU.

SELF CARE
Graduate school can be stressful. It’s important to take time to take care of your physical, emotional, and mental health

• Make time to unwind and have fun; stress management is crucial to your success.

• Build and maintain a support network – your adviser, friends, mentor, family, or classmates can all be part of this network.

• Reach out if you need help. 24-hour Crisis Hotline: 217-244-7911 or the Emergency Dean at 217-333-0050.

FAMILIES, SPOUSES, & PARTNERS
Balancing graduate education with family responsibilities can be a challenging task, but the University and C-U community offer many resources to assist with childcare and parenting. Check out these resources, learn about local school options, and find more information online.

GRAD.ILLINOIS.EDU/SPOUSES-PARTNERS-FAMILIES
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & GOAL SETTING START EARLY

It’s never too early to start planning for your career. The Graduate College Career Development Office can help you explore and prepare. The office provides guidance on career planning, networking with alumni and employers, identifying job opportunities, navigating the job search process, creating customized application materials, preparing for interviews, and negotiating job offers.

GradMAP

Graduate school is full of right-now expectations (papers, exams) and long-term hopes (thesis or dissertation, a great job). But it can be tough to bridge the gaps between today and someday. To make the most of your time in graduate school, it is crucial that you set medium-term goals and make plans to achieve them. Whether you hope to publish in a journal, land an internship, or teach your own course, the best way to get from where you are to where you want to be is to make a map and stick to it. The Graduate College Career Development Office developed GradMAP to help graduate students.

Learn more about GradMAP and our professional development resources for graduate students.

GRAD.ILLINOIS.EDU/CAREERDEVELOPMENT

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Graduate College Office of External Fellowships offers assistance to help you win grants and fellowships to fund your graduate education. You can:

- search the Fellowship Finder database to find a fellowship that’s right for you
- learn the art of proposal writing through taking a grant-writing workshop
- refine your proposal with one-on-one proposal review services

GRAD.ILLINOIS.EDU/EXTFELLOWSHIPS

PROBLEM SOLVING

Students, faculty, and staff at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign are a diverse group whose personalities, experiences, activities, and personal goals vary widely. Graduate College staff are experienced in the types of conflicts and problems that can arise in this environment. The Graduate College Ombudsperson available to assist students with effective problem solving and to help students identify steps that may be taken to resolve problems without jeopardizing academic progress.

GRAD.ILLINOIS.EDU/OMBUDS

MENTORING

Good mentoring is a key element of graduate education. Visit the Graduate College website for a list of mentoring resources including mentoring guides, mentoring programs, and selected readings on mentoring.

GRAD.ILLINOIS.EDU/MENTORING

TEACHING

The Center for Teaching Innovation and Learning (CITL) offers workshops, consultations, reading groups, and other resources for supporting your teaching.

CITL.ILLINOIS.EDU

RESEARCH

Research Integrity

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research provides programs and services to help meet the ethical and regulatory requirements for responsible conduct of research, including information about lab safety, technology management, and working with animals or human subjects.

RESEARCH.ILLINOIS.EDU/REGULATORY-COMPLIANCE-SAFETY/RESEARCH-INTTEGRITY-AND-ETHICS
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Media Commons is a collaborative campus effort that provides students and faculty opportunities to experiment with emerging technologies with expanded opportunities to learn best practices in educational technology. It includes a robust loanable technology program, and a service space to create, disseminate, use and curate digital media.

LIBRARY.ILLINOIS.EDU/UGL/MC

The Technology Entrepreneur Center inspire its students to become the next generation of world-changing visionaries, leaders and entrepreneurs. This is accomplished through its courses, venture and product competitions, workshops and other curricular and extra-curricular events that expose students to the concepts of technology innovation and market adoption.

HTTP://TEC.ILLINOIS.EDU/ABOUT/

Savvy Researcher workshops cover topics related to research and academic success including technological tools, information management, data visualization, personal branding, copyright, and citations.

LIBRARY.ILLINOIS.EDU/SC/SERVICES/SAVVY_RESEARCHER.HTML

Scholarly Commons is a technology enriched space for faculty, researchers, and graduate students to pursue research and receive expert consultation services in topics such as copyright, data, digital humanities, digitization, and scholarly communications.

LIBRARY.ILLINOIS.EDU/SC

The Writers Workshop provides free writing assistance for University of Illinois students, faculty, and staff from all disciplines and at all stages of the writing process. Consultants work with students in one-to-one interactive sessions that help writers express and articulate their ideas. In addition to one-to-one sessions, the Writers Workshop conducts in-class presentations, hosts writing-related workshops, sponsors writing groups for multilingual and dissertation writers, and consults with instructors about writing. Please see the website for grammar, language, and writing resources. Call (217) 333-8796 for an appointment.

WWW.CWS.ILLINOIS.EDU/WORKSHOP
GRADUATE COLLEGE EDUCATIONAL EQUITY PROGRAMS

The Graduate College Educational Equity Programs units assists with recruitment and retention of students from groups historically underrepresented in graduate study.

The Summer Pre-Doctoral Institute (SPI) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign provides incoming graduate students from U.S. populations underrepresented in graduate programs on our campus with an early introduction to graduate study at Illinois and an opportunity to work with a summer research advisor in their department.

WWW.GRAD.ILLINOIS.EDU/EEP/SPI

For questions, concerns, or to schedule an appointment to speak with an EEP representative, please call 217-333-0035.

WWW.GRAD.ILLINOIS.EDU/EEP/DIVERSITY

RESOURCE CENTERS

LGBT Resource Center
OIIR.ILLINOIS.EDU/LGBT-RESOURCE-CENTER

Women’s Resources Center
OIIR.ILLINOIS.EDU/WOMENS-CENTER

Center for Wounded Veterans
WOUNDEDVETCENTER.AHS.ILLINOIS.EDU/

Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES)
Voice/TTY: (217) 333-1970
WWW.DISABILITY.ILLINOIS.EDU/

CULTURAL CENTERS

Asian American Cultural Center
OIIR.ILLINOIS.EDU/AACC

Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center
OIIR.ILLINOIS.EDU/BNAACC

La Casa Cultural Latina
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Native American House
OIIR.ILLINOIS.EDU/NATIVE-AMERICAN-HOUSE

For a full list of centers see:
OIIR.ILLINOIS.EDU/OUR-CENTERS
One of the best ways to enhance your graduate school experience is to connect with peers inside and outside your department. Whether it’s through an academic unit such as Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities Reading Groups or Women in Chemistry, a community-service organization through the Office of Volunteer Programs, or a recreational club, take advantage of the variety of groups and organizations that the University offers to make your home away from home. Here are just a few:

**SAGE - GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD**

Students Advising on Graduate Education (SAGE) is a student advisory board and leadership opportunity for graduate students at Illinois that fosters active engagement with Graduate College programs and initiatives. SAGE board members enrich graduate student community, build leadership and administrative skills, and strengthen Graduate College services and programs. [GRAD.ILLINOIS.EDU/COMMITTEES/SAGE](http://GRAD.ILLINOIS.EDU/COMMITTEES/SAGE)

**ILLINOIS STUDENT SENATE**

The Illinois Student Senate serves as the official voice of the student body at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and strives to represent students’ views and needs to the campus administration, government officials and the public. [HTTP://ISS.ILLINOIS.EDU](http://HTTP://ISS.ILLINOIS.EDU)

**STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

There are more than 1,100 organizations on campus, covering a wide variety of interests and hobbies. Visit the Registered Student Organization (RSO) Directory at [ILLINOIS.COLLEGIATELINK.NET/ORGANIZATIONS](http://ILLINOIS.COLLEGIATELINK.NET/ORGANIZATIONS) to find out about existing groups or to start your own organization. Many departments have a graduate student organization that may not be registered with the Office of Registered Organizations, so ask your department about ways to get involved.
There is always something happening on campus—lectures, conferences, concerts, and art exhibits. Every day of the week, you can count on an interesting event to learn, enjoy, network, or make connections. Here are a few resources specifically for graduate students.

**READ GRADLINKS**

Subscribe to GradLinks, our weekly electronic bulletin, for updates and opportunities for graduate students.

WWW.GRAD.ILLINOIS.EDU/PUBS/GRADLINKS

**GRAD LIFE BLOG**

Read Grad Life for a behind-the-scenes look at graduate life at the University of Illinois

GO.ILLINOIS.EDU/GRADLIFE

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

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