Graduate Education at Berkeley

UC Berkeley engages more than 10,000 diverse, talented graduate students in more than 105 master’s and doctoral degree programs — people and programs ranked among the best in the world.

Through critical fellowship and other financial supports, academic and professional guidance, and even family resources for graduate student families, the Graduate Division helps ensure that Berkeley is a place where passionate students redefine what’s possible on a daily basis.

Don’t take our word for it...

National and international rankings of graduate programs place Berkeley among the very best.

- According to the 2010 National Research Council’s rankings, Berkeley has the largest number of doctoral programs with rankings ranging into the top five and top ten.
- The 2014 Academic Ranking of World Universities rates Berkeley number three in the world.
- Berkeley is placed 6th in academic reputation worldwide and 8th overall according to the 2015-15 World University Rankings from the Times Higher Education of London.

Berkeley graduate students are an unparalleled, diverse community of thought-leaders.

- Our students come from 92 countries and every U.S. state.
- Berkeley has awarded more doctoral degrees to students from historically underrepresented groups than any other member of the Association of American Universities.
- About 45% of graduate students are women. Most graduate majors enroll equal numbers, or more women than men.

- Berkeley is a recognized leader in supporting women graduate students, particularly in STEM fields, and has led the way in designing family-friendly policies, including paid maternity leave and parent grants.
- Our campus was the first public university to launch a back-up childcare program for all student parents.

Our winning reputation is built on a track record of prestigious fellowship wins for our students.

- For more than a decade Berkeley has been the first-choice institution for recipients of the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship and continues to be at or near the top in enrolling students with U.S. Department of Energy Fellowships, Environmental Protection Agency’s STAR Fellowships, and Javits Fellowships.
- Our campus is consistently among the top producers of Fulbright Fellows and has produced more Ford Foundation Diversity Fellows than any other university since 1986.

Note from the Graduate Dean

As Dean of the Graduate Division, it’s not surprising that I believe that Berkeley’s students, faculty, and culture of innovation are second to none. But the facts contained in this short overview are impressive by any objective measure.

The spirit of Berkeley, however, can’t be adequately captured by data alone. I invite you to engage with the remarkable, creative and dedicated members of our graduate community — our students, faculty, and staff.

I trust that in doing so, you’ll come to share deep appreciation for all that is, uniquely, Berkeley.

Fiat Lux!

Fiona M. Doyle
Dean of the Graduate Division
Berkeley attracts record numbers of applicants, with an outstanding yield.

- More than 40,000 graduate applications were submitted for the fall 2014 entering class.
- Applicants to Berkeley typically receive offers from three or more elite universities. In 2014, our acceptance rate on offers of admission was 50%.

Professional development at Berkeley leads to promising career paths post-degree, both in and outside academia.

- Among all of Berkeley’s Ph.D. recipients who graduated between 2010 and 2013 and chose careers in academia:
  - 77% had secured tenure-track faculty positions or postdoctoral research appointments when polled 12 to 18 months after graduation.
  - 11% found non-tenure track faculty positions.
  - 12% were hired in other research or administrative roles.
- The top 5 academic institutions that hire Berkeley Ph.D. recipients:
  - University of California system
  - Stanford
  - University of Washington
  - MIT
  - Harvard
- 90% of all Berkeley doctoral alumni (and 85% of those who pursued non-academic careers) say they were well prepared for their careers by Berkeley.
- 95% would pursue a doctoral degree at Berkeley again.

Berkeley graduate students go on to join an impressive collection of alumni.

Among them are:

- 20 Nobel Prize winners
- 30 recipients of the National Medal of Science
- Founders of more than 250 companies

“…I came to Berkeley as a graduate student to work with the world’s greatest faculty. I came back to Berkeley as a professor to work with the world’s greatest graduate students.”

— Y. T. Lee, Ph.D. ’65
Berkeley alumnus and professor
Nobel Prize for Chemistry, 1986