Why Choose Berkeley for Graduate Education?

More than 11,000 graduate students study in over 100 master’s and doctoral degree programs at UC Berkeley. Our faculty, graduate students, and degree programs rank among the best in the world.

Through fellowships and other financial aid, academic and professional guidance, and resources for personal well-being and life balance, the Graduate Division supports our students in redefining what’s possible for today and tomorrow.

Our academics are world-acclaimed

Berkeley is famed for the breadth, depth, and reach of 100+ graduate programs in 14 schools and colleges.

- Berkeley responds to student interest with an array of cutting-edge master’s and professional programs, awarding more than 3,000 master’s and professional degrees each year.
- Each year Berkeley awards the most doctoral degrees in the nation — close to 800.
- 96% of incoming students cite the outstanding reputation of their graduate program as important in their decision to enroll at Berkeley.

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

- The 2018 Academic Ranking of World Universities again rated Berkeley the number one public university and number five in the world.
- For seven years in a row, Berkeley has placed among the “elite six” in academic reputation worldwide in the World University Rankings of the Times Higher Education of London.
- The most recent nationwide analysis conducted by the gold-standard National Research Council showed Berkeley with the largest number of doctoral programs with rankings ranging into the top five and top ten.

Our faculty are unsurpassed

Every year our faculty members win an array of prestigious recognitions, from Nobel prizes to National Academy awards to Guggenheim Fellowships — and many others!

- Our faculty place high value on the role that graduate students play in Berkeley’s culture and success, citing the quality of Berkeley’s graduate students as the most important contributor to their sense of satisfaction with their work.

Our students are among the best anywhere

Berkeley attracts record numbers of applicants and enrolls highly sought-after students.

- Applicants receive offers from, on average, three or more elite universities. Our acceptance rate on offers of admission is typically 40% — a very high rate.

Berkeley graduate students reflect contemporary society.

- Our students come from more than 100 countries and every state in the US.

Graduate Dean’s Message

While I chose Berkeley as my academic home long ago, each year renews my conviction that our students, faculty, and culture of innovation are second to none. The overview here gives only a glimpse of the facts, impressive by any objective measure.

But data can’t convey the unique spirit of Berkeley. And so I invite prospective students to get to know the remarkable, creative, dedicated members of our graduate community — our students, faculty, and staff.

In doing so, you will begin to see what makes Berkeley truly outstanding. Whether your focus is on research in a top-flight academic program or immersion in a cutting-edge professional program, I hope that you will choose to join our unmatched graduate community.

Fiat Lux!

Fiona M. Doyle
Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate Division
Almost half of graduate students are women, and most graduate programs enroll at least as many women as men.

About one in eight U.S. graduate students is from a group historically underrepresented in higher education.

We have awarded more doctoral degrees to students from historically underrepresented groups than has any other American R-1 research university.

Our Graduate Professional Development Program helps our students explore career options and develop the skills sought by employers in a wide range of sectors, both within and beyond academia.

Berkeley enrolls and fosters recipients of prestigious fellowships and awards.

Our campus ranks among those with the greatest numbers of student recipients of Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowships and Fulbright Fellowships.

We continue to be a top choice for students with National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships, U.S. Department of Energy Fellowships, Environmental Protection Agency STAR Fellowships, and Javits Fellowships.

Our supportive programs are ground-breaking

Our Graduate Student Life Specialist addresses issues such as health education and wellness, financial literacy, housing and food security, parenting support, and community-building.

The Office for Graduate Diversity promotes a diverse student body by supporting first-generation college students and those who are undocumented, educationally, or financially challenged or from backgrounds traditionally underrepresented in higher education.

Our alumni build satisfying and influential careers

Alumni of our master’s and doctoral programs include holders of cutting-edge patents, founders of world-shaking startup ventures and social initiatives, and — as recently as 2018 — recipients of the Nobel Prize and MacArthur ‘Genius’ awards, to name a few.

Among our 2010–2013 Ph.D. recipients who chose academic careers, 69% secured tenure-track faculty positions or postdoctoral research appointments; 12% found non-tenure track faculty positions; and 19% held other research or administrative roles.

Ninety percent of our doctoral alumni say they were well prepared for their careers by Berkeley, and 95% say they would pursue a doctoral degree at Berkeley again.

“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