

Demystifying Graduate School

Are you curious about graduate school in biology, neuroscience or similar field?

We are holding an event aimed at taking some of the mystery out of graduate school

We will discuss

- what it is
- why it might be right for you
- how to prepare
- how to apply
- how to finance (you get paid!)
- and what life like as a graduate student

Hybrid event (in-person and Zoom)

Tuesday Nov. 7, 2023

6:30 – 7:30 pm EST

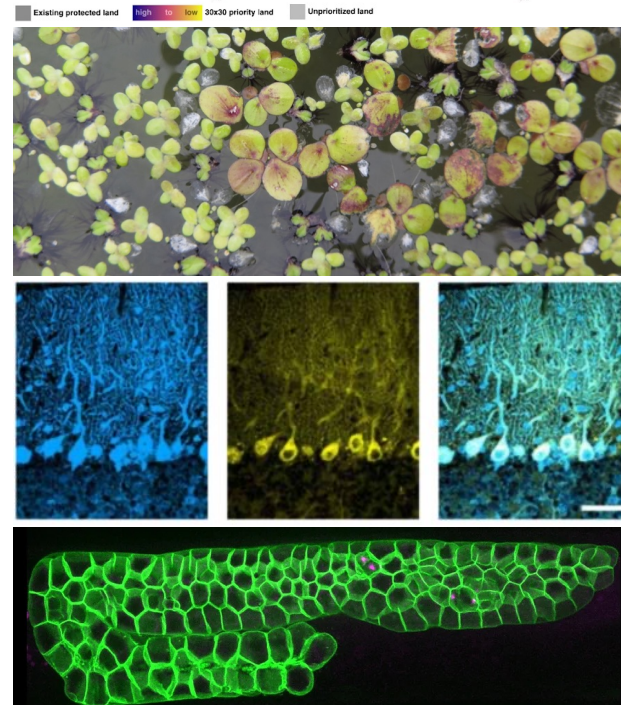
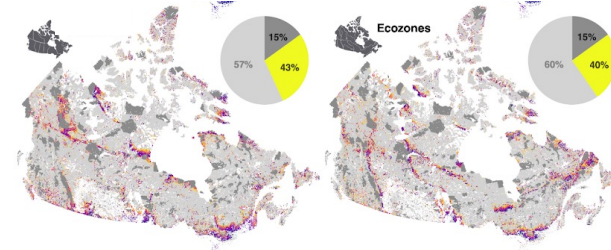
Stewart Biology, N2/2

Join us for a panel discussion with faculties and current graduate students and chance to ask them your questions.



Zoom Link

Organized by the Biology Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) committee



Agenda

1) Introduction

- What is graduate school and why it might be for you?
- General steps to apply

2) Our panel

3) Your questions!



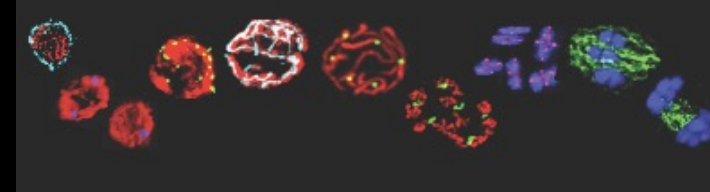
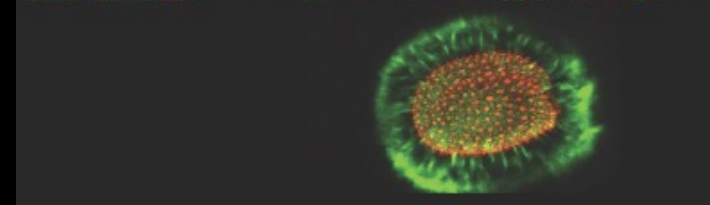
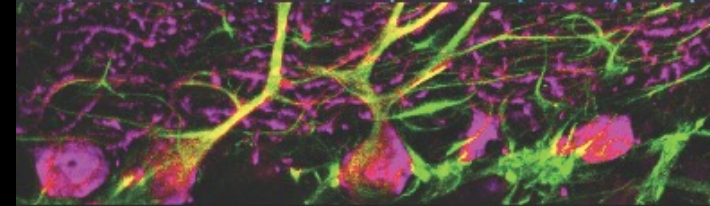
Graduate School

Master's 2-3 years

PhD 4-6 years

Some coursework, but mostly research

--design and perform experiments, analyze data, present data at meetings and write publications and a thesis



Why go to grad school?

You get to do science!

Make new discoveries and advance knowledge



One of these could be your new discovery!

SCIENCE Volume 382 | Issue 6670 | November 2023



RESEARCH ARTICLE | BY MAN LI, HUAN WU, ET AL.

Electrically gated molecular thermal switch

RESEARCH ARTICLE | BY VANHA N. PHAM, KEVIN J. BRUEMMER, ET AL.

Formaldehyde regulates S-adenosylmethionine biosynthesis and one-carbon metabolism

RESEARCH ARTICLE | BY CHANGLIN XU, BRIAN R. SILLIMAN, ET AL.

Herbivory limits success of vegetation restoration globally

RESEARCH ARTICLE | BY KAIPENG HOU, JONAS BÖRCEL, ET AL.

Reactive high-spin iron(IV)-oxo sites through dioxygen activation in a metal-organic framework

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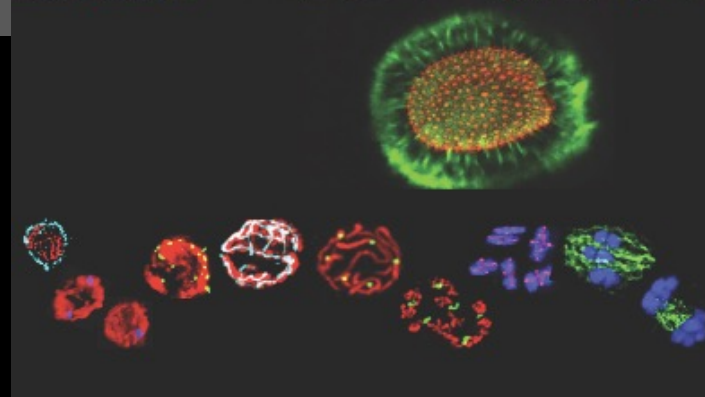
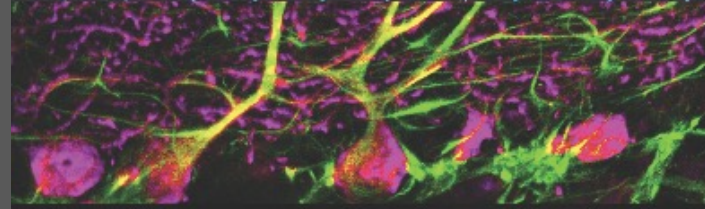
Why go to grad school?

You get to do science!

Make new discoveries and advance knowledge

Become part of a team

Work with a group of smart and dedicated scientists



You get paid to be a grad student

--Tuition is covered and you receive a stipend (enough to live on)

--May have the opportunity to be a TA and gain teaching experience



An MSc or PhD increases your earning potential

--Advanced degree can increase the jobs you are eligible for

--On average, can increase your earnings over your lifetime

--Some jobs (like being a professor) require a PhD

Major group	Median annual wages of college-educated workers (ages 25-59) with biology and life sciences majors (2013\$)	
	Bachelor's	Graduate
All majors	61,000	78,000
All biology and life sciences majors	56,000	92,000
Major subgroups		
Zoology	58,000	104,000
Biology	56,000	96,000
Biochemical sciences	59,000	97,000
Molecular biology	54,000	88,000
Miscellaneous biology	54,000	81,000
Microbiology	62,000	89,000
Ecology	51,000	66,000
Neuroscience	48,000	61,000
Botany	52,000	66,000
Environmental science	57,000	71,000

Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey micro data, 2009-2013.

Why Attend Graduate School?

- get to do science!
- get paid to become an expert in your field
- work with folks interested in similar questions
- expand your future job options and pay

If this sounds good to you, what do you need to do next?



What are your first steps?

- 1) Get involved in research! This will help you to know whether you like it and will help you to get letters of reference
- 2) Figure out what you're interested in and look for graduate programs and researchers studying that
- 3) Contact professors you are interested in
 - introduce yourself and your interests*
 - explain why their work interests you*
 - ask if they are taking on students*

(we will put templates for this on the EDI website)



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Lars Iversen—Conservation, Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior

Arnold Hayer—Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

Jennifer Sunday—Conservation, Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior

Jigar Trivedi—PhD Student

Erin Francispillai—Ms. Student