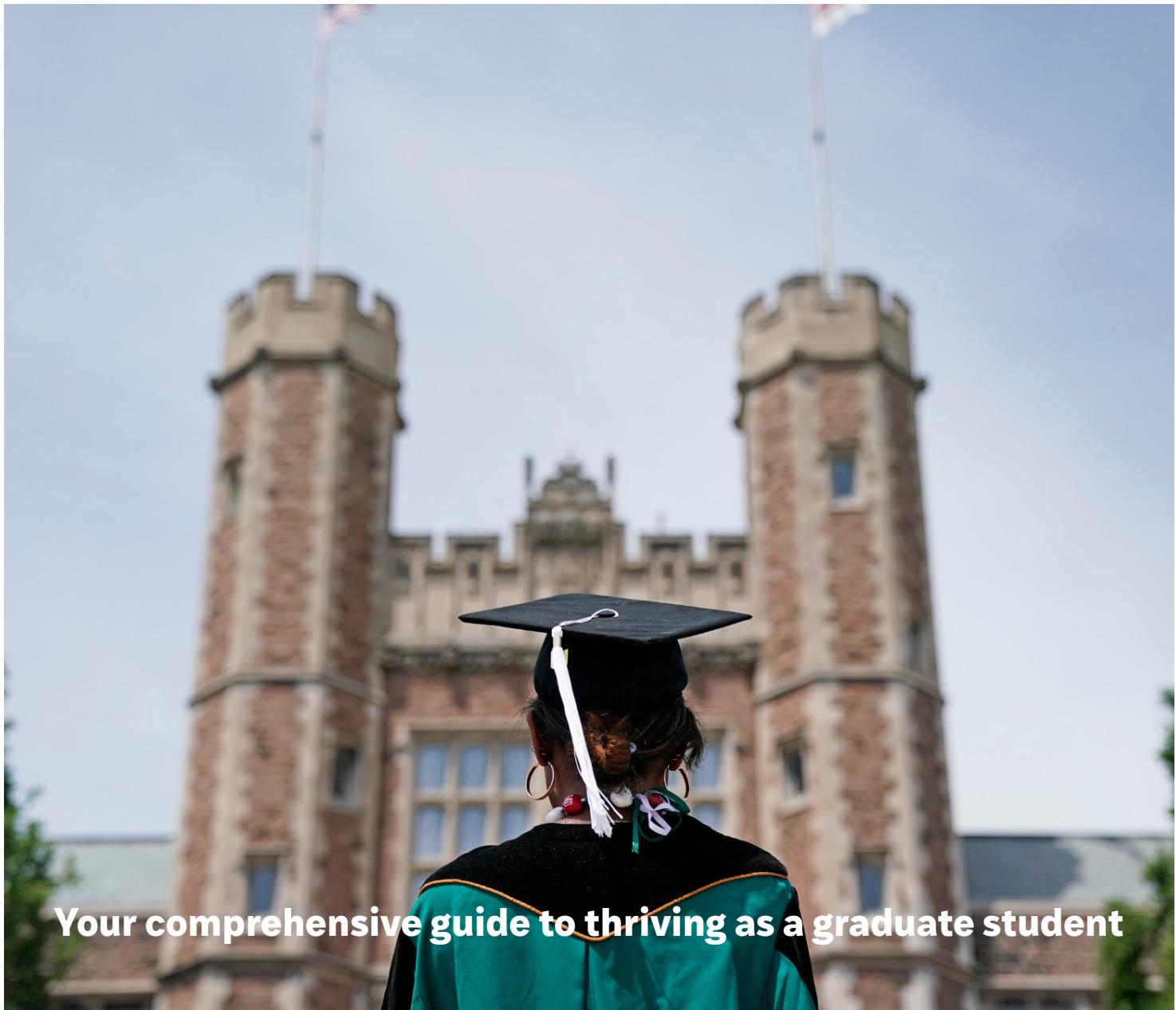




Office of Graduate Studies

Grad Student Guidebook:

Exploring Resources at WashU



Your comprehensive guide to thriving as a graduate student



WELCOME!



Sophia Hayes
Vice Dean of Graduate Education



Andy Wiegert
Director of Graduate Student Affairs

A letter from the Office of Graduate Studies

Graduate scholarship is so much more than a degree. Scholars create, bringing something new into the world – new knowledge, advancing culture, and being a force for good. At WashU we know your decision to go on that journey toward a graduate degree and your professional future is both momentous and significant.

We want all students to know that WashU cares deeply about your whole experience as a graduate student. Our students receive intentional **mentorship** both within and outside their programs to support their personal and professional growth. In addition to **academic and research excellence**, our university supports students to fulfill their potential in and out of the classroom. This includes substantial **financial assistance**, **professional development opportunities**, **international student support**, and **graduate student groups**.

The Office of Graduate Studies also recognizes that each of our graduate students brings a diverse and varied background to our community. We work to ensure that your graduate experience is both personally and academically rewarding by developing events, resources, and services to support you.

In addition to supporting your academic needs, the Office of Graduate Studies and WashU offer a range of services to help students transition to life in St. Louis. From housing to childcare, resources are available to help graduate students thrive.

We invite you to explore this guidebook and find your path to success in graduate school.

Sincerely,
Sophia Hayes
Vice Dean of Graduate Education

Andy Wiegert
Director of Graduate Student Affairs

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Intro to WashU

WASHU MISSION

The [mission of Washington University in St. Louis](#) is to act in service of truth through the formation of leaders, the discovery of knowledge and the treatment of patients for the betterment of our region, our nation and our world. We aim to create an environment that encourages and supports wide-ranging exploration at the frontier of discovery by embracing diverse perspectives from individuals of all identities and backgrounds.

WashU consists of [eight schools](#): Arts & Sciences, McKelvey School of Engineering, Brown School of Social Work, Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, School of Law, School of Medicine, Olin Business School, and School of Continuing & Professional Studies.

The university is led by [Chancellor Andrew Martin](#), [Provost Beverly Wendland](#), the Board of Trustees, and the University Council.

WashU enrolls approx ~16,000 students, with ~8,000 undergraduates and ~8,000 graduate and professional students.

The [A&S Office of Graduate Studies \(OGS\)](#) supports all MA, MFA, and PhD students in Arts & Sciences. From admissions to academics to graduate student life, OGS aims to create an inclusive and equitable community that is both supportive and intellectually rigorous. Our students are passionate learners, dedicated scholars, and active advocates in a wide variety of fields and disciplines.



Academic & Professional Resources

Academic Policies & Procedures

WashU is home to a vibrant, passionate, and curious academic community. The Office of Graduate Studies is here to support you as you thrive in your research, teaching, and intellectual pursuits. To find information pertinent to your academic journey, such as important forms, resources, and policies, visit [here](#).

Please refer to your departments for your program requirements.

Career Exploration Resources

The Office of Graduate Studies supports diverse careers for our graduate students. We know that graduate students develop a variety of highly-sought after transferable skills in addition to disciplinary expertise. Additionally, WashU's [Center for Career Engagement](#) supports graduate students in their career search for both academic and

non-academic jobs through [career coaching](#), the Job Search Series, and more.

Visit [the website](#) for more information about the variety of career and professional development resources available for graduate students.

Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL)

The CTL promotes inclusive, evidence-based pedagogy, develops teaching-focused collaborations among campus partners, and strives to create a transformational educational experience inside and outside the classroom. They offer significant [programming for graduate students](#), including regular graduate student and postdoc workshops, multiple learning communities, support for academic job market materials, and a formal Professional Development in Teaching Program.

To learn more and get involved, visit ctl.wustl.edu.

Disability Resources

Disability Resources (DR) is dedicated to ensuring that every student with a disability will have equal access to WashU's campus and academic programs. They assist students by providing guidance and determining reasonable accommodations to remove barriers to access. DR also partners with faculty and staff to implement accommodations in their courses and programs.

To request academic accommodations, visit [here](#). You can also [email DR](#) with questions.

Writing Center & Speaking Studio

The Writing Center and Speaking Studio offers free, one-on-one support for WashU undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, postdocs, and staff working on any writing or public speaking project. They regularly offer summer graduate writing groups and dissertation retreats as well as a Graduate Fellowship.

To learn more, or to make an appointment, visit writingcenter.wustl.edu.

Mentoring Your Way

Mentorship is crucial to a graduate student's life, well-being, and overall success both during and after graduate school. Mentoring Your Way is the Office of Graduate Studies' multi-pronged initiative to support expanded opportunities and stronger practices related to graduate student mentoring. This initiative consists of faculty awareness and training; mentoring resources, including Mentoring Agreements designed to help mentors and mentees align expectations; and mentorship programs, including our Transdisciplinary Mentoring Community and Grad Peer Circles.

[Learn more](#) and get involved.

University Libraries

The Washington University Libraries are a powerful network of academic resources featuring nine libraries, vast print and electronic collections, and expert librarians. The Olin Library is WashU's central library. Graduate students can utilize MOBIUS and InterLibrary Loan (ILL) to access works beyond WashU's extensive collections. To get involved, students can apply to join the [Libraries Student Advisory Group](#). To learn more about what University Libraries have to offer, visit library.wustl.edu.

Health & Wellness

The university is committed to ensuring the health of all students in our community.

Habif Health and Wellness Center

Habif Health and Wellness Center serves all students on the Danforth Campus, including graduate students, with offerings including wellness programming, doctors' visits, counseling, and more. Habif requests that you complete the required [vaccinations](#) prior to arriving at the university. You are also asked to complete a brief [health history](#).

All DBBS students can access care and other wellness resources through the [School of Medicine Student Health Services](#).

Counseling and Psychological Services for Graduate Students (CCPS)

CCPS understands that being a graduate/professional student presents a unique set of challenges. Often during graduate school, students report reduced access to social supports, increased concerns about finances, difficulties balancing child care, stress in [marriages or committed relationships](#), tension in relationships with advisers, and isolation with research work. In addition, [international students](#) may find living in a new culture stressful. If you are experiencing a situational problem, a crisis or have longstanding mental health concerns, CCPS is here to help.

WashU Cares

WashU Cares specializes in providing a variety of supportive services for all students as well as consultation and guidance to families and faculty around medical and mental health concerns.

Financial Support

99%
OF PHD STUDENTS RECEIVE FULL-TIME FUNDING

[Financial Health](#) is an important aspect of wellbeing during graduate school. Most of our PhD students receive a competitive stipend and full tuition coverage; learn more at gradstudies.artsci.wustl.edu/funding-support.

In addition, there are numerous financial resources available for WashU grad students, including

- iGrad (a financial wellness tool),
- The Graduate and Professional Student Emergency Fund,
- The Graduate Center's Funding Database

Learn more [here](#).



Diversity and Inclusion

Diversity and Inclusion WashU

WashU is home to thousands of diverse individuals. People who look like you and think like you and people who do neither. All these people make the WashU community and WashU works to support each individual. Learn more about resources central to your identity.

The Center for Diversity and Inclusion

CDI supports and advocates for undergraduate, graduate, and professional students from underrepresented and/or marginalized populations, creates collaborative partnerships with campus and community organizations, and promotes dialogue and social change among all students.

LGBTQIA+ Resources for Graduate Students

WashU offers a host of involvement opportunities and campus resources targeted to the needs of LGBT students, faculty, and staff. As one of a few institutions in North America to receive a perfect 5 out of 5 stars from the Campus Climate Equality Index, Washington University offers comprehensive domestic partnership benefits to employees, gender variant inclusive health services, and a non-discrimination policy that recognizes both sexual orientation and gender identity.

International Resources

International Student Support

Building a supportive and inclusive culture for international students is a priority at WashU. Around [40% of A&S graduate students are international students](#). The Office of Graduate Studies regularly sends communications to international students about important deadlines and events designed with them in mind. Additionally, we build diverse and inclusive programming to help international students find their place at WashU. To learn more, visit [here](#).

Office for International Students & Scholars (OISS) & Office for International Student Engagement (OISE)

OISS oversees all visa compliance and status advising for students on F-1 and J-1 visas. All questions related to visa status, work authorization, travel signatures, etc. should be directed to your OISS advisor, whom you can find [here](#). You can also submit requests via the [MyOISS portal](#).

OISE supports international students by providing a welcoming environment through programming, advocacy, and cultural enrichment. Browse events & programs [here](#) or on [Instagram](#).

English Language Programs (ELP)

ELP offers courses, support, and assessments to advance the academic and professional success of students who speak English as an additional language. Check out ELP's academic pathways or schedule a one-on-one meeting [here](#). OGS will cover tuition for up to 6 credit units of ELP courses for full-time A&S international graduate students who seek to improve their academic writing and speaking skills in English; [learn more here](#).



Getting Involved

Getting involved during your time at WashU is crucial for your personal and academic growth. We offer numerous opportunities for you to engage, foster community, and develop leadership skills, all aimed at enhancing your overall experience. These involvements are designed to support your success as a student and as an individual.



GradWell

The ArtSci GradWell initiative was enacted by the Office of Grad Studies for Arts & Sciences, student affairs team, in 2022, and looks to encompass a truly holistic approach to supporting graduate student well-being in Arts & Sciences. Programming and support ranges from monthly social and community-building gatherings, to financial literacy and career and professional development, to mindfulness-based stress reduction work, and more. Browse events [here](#).

The Graduate Center

The Graduate Center (TGC) is a resource dedicated to graduate and professional students across all schools at WashU. TGC encourages students to foster a sense of interdisciplinarity and to develop social and intellectual communities among their peers. Browse the [TGC Monthly Calendar](#) here.

Graduate Student Groups

WUGO is WashU's online hub for student involvement and offers a year-round virtual student activities fair where students can explore and connect with the over 400 student groups on campus.

The A&S Graduate Student Association (GSA)

A student-led organization that represents all graduate students in A&S. To fulfill this mission, A&S GSA coordinates activities and programming and holds monthly meetings to position themselves as advocates for ArtSci graduate students. In addition, GSA sends representatives to the Professional and Graduate Student Coordinating Committee (ProGradS), the campus-wide Graduate Student Senate (GSS), and the Graduate Professional Council (GPC).

The Graduate and Professional Student Council (GPSC)

A unified student government representing all graduate and professional students at WashU, created out of a merger between the Graduate Professional Council and the Graduate Student Senate. GPSC serves the WashU graduate and professional student body by organizing signature events and advocating at WashU administrative meetings on issues related to graduate/professional education, such as: housing, stipends & student funding, and access to academic support and resources.

Campus Life

Child and Family Care

Many of our graduate students come to WashU with their families, and their well-being is a critical part of our students' success. There are a number of resources available for graduate students with children, including the Bears with Cubs social group (aka "Cub Club"); nursing/lactation rooms on both campuses; and financial and child care resources. [Learn more.](#)

Dining Services

At WashU, there are many exciting dining options so that all students have a place to find nourishment on campus. We focus on providing high quality, local ingredients, excellent service, and a wide variety of options -- including [vegetarian](#), [vegan](#), [Kosher](#), [Halal](#), [allergen-friendly](#), and more.

You can browse dining locations and hours [here](#), and browse GrubHub to utilize [mobile ordering](#) on campus.

Housing

Graduate students at WashU live off campus in the St. Louis community. Some graduate students choose to live in WashU-managed housing, such as [Quadrangle Housing](#) and [Parallel Properties](#). Others choose to explore other properties, using [Apartment Referral Services](#) or popular websites such as Zillow. The Delmar Loop and the Central West End are two common areas for graduate students to live near campus. We recommend reaching out to other graduate students in your department for housing advice.

Transportation

There are many transportation options to get to and from campus and around St. Louis: public transportation (MetroLink/MetroBus), campus shuttles, biking, driving/parking, and ride-sharing services (Uber/Lyft). Learn more at [parking.wustl.edu/transportation](#).

You can register for a [free Metro U-Pass](#) to access public transportation. WashU also has its own [campus shuttle system](#) to get around campus and nearby neighborhoods; you can download the TripShot app to track campus shuttles.

WashU is a Gold-level Bicycle Friendly University, as designated by the League of American Bicyclists. You can find more information about biking to campus at [parking.wustl.edu/items/bicycles](#).

If you are planning to drive to the Danforth campus, a parking permit is required to park on campus, unless you park in visitor garages, which are paid hourly.

Most "yellow" parking spaces on campus, including surface lots and garages, can be used for parking without a permit after 5 p.m. until 7 a.m. Monday through Friday, and from 5 p.m. Friday until 7 a.m. on Monday. Check signage to make sure.

Safety on campus

WashU offers resources to help you stay safe and secure on campus and in the St. Louis area. Knowing about them ahead of time can help you act quickly if an emergency occurs.

In the case of an emergency on campus, call WUPD at 314-935-5555. In the case of an emergency off campus, call 911 first, then call WUPD afterwards if you are near campus.

Browse WUPD's [personal safety offerings](#), including self-defense programs, Bear Patrol, the Safe App, and more. Download the TripShot app to request a [Campus2Home shuttle](#) if you live within specified boundaries near the Danforth campus. Additionally, keep an eye out for blue light phones on campus, which are emergency phones that automatically connect you with WUPD.



Exploring St. Louis

WashU is proud to be located in St. Louis. We hope you will come to find that St. Louis is a great place to live, especially as a graduate student. Part of the magic of this city is that there are so many opportunities to experience art, culture, and community without breaking the bank. Cost of living is much lower in St. Louis than it is in other large U.S. cities, and St. Louis has many free attractions, including the [St. Louis Art Museum](#), [STL Zoo](#), [Missouri History Museum](#), and more. In fact, WashU boasts that there are more free, world-class attractions in St. Louis than any place in the U.S. outside of Washington, D.C.!

Many of these free attractions are located in [Forest Park](#), which is a beautiful urban park located directly between the Danforth and Medical campuses. Forest Park is twice the size of Central Park in New York City!

To learn more about St. Louis's neighborhoods, communities and traditions, attractions, food and drink, and more, visit [explorestlouis.com](#). For an introduction to civic and community engagement at WashU and in St. Louis, visit the Gephardt Institute's [New in the Lou Guide](#).

Communication & Stay-Connected

Learn how to stay engaged, stay informed, and make the most out of your graduate school experience.

Stay connected with the Office of Graduate Studies and receive the support you need for a successful academic journey. We are dedicated to keeping you informed about important dates, educational opportunities, international student support, GradWell programming, and more. To facilitate effective communication, we have established a range of engaging channels.

01.

Monthly Newsletter

As an ArtSci grad student, you will automatically receive our monthly newsletter, packed with updates and valuable information.

02.

Friday Micro-Newsletters

These concise newsletters will keep you up-to-date on the latest news and announcements relevant to your academic life.

03.

Standalone Communications

From time to time, we will send additional communications to ensure you never miss any important updates.

04.

Social Media

Be sure to follow our Instagram account, @WashU_GradArtSci, where we share a wealth of content including:

- Upcoming programming details
- Exciting campus partner events
- Inspiring student success stories
- Student takeovers, giving you a closer look into the lives of your peers

Other Offices & Resources

Other WashU offices to know

- ◊ Bear Bucks
- ◊ Campus Bookstore
- ◊ Card Services
- ◊ Gender Equity and Title IX Compliance Office (GETIXCO)
- ◊ Gephardt Institute
- ◊ Office of the Ombuds
- ◊ Office of Military & Veterans Services
- ◊ Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention (RSVP) Center
- ◊ Skandalaris Center for Interdisciplinary Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- ◊ Tech Den
- ◊ WashU Sustainability
- ◊ Writing Center & Speaking Studio

Get in Touch

If you are a prospective student with questions about our graduate programs or the admissions process, please reach out to us at artscigradadmissions@wustl.edu.

If you are a current graduate student who needs assistance, please contact artscigrads@wustl.edu

New to campus or visiting for the first time?

Check out our abridged campus map, highlighting some important locations for graduate student life on campus. Full campus maps for both the Danforth campus and the medical campus are also available.

A&S Office of Graduate Studies

One Brookings Drive
Cupples II Suite 204
Saint Louis, Missouri 63130
(314) 935-6880

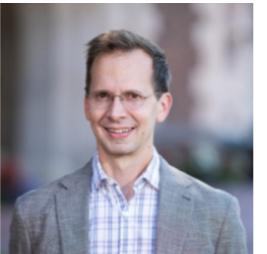
Meet the Team

We have a dedicated and enthusiastic team at the Office of Graduate Studies ready to support you throughout your academic journey. Get to know the individuals who are here to help you succeed and make the most of your graduate experience.

Leadership Team



Sophia E. Hayes
Vice Dean of Graduate Education

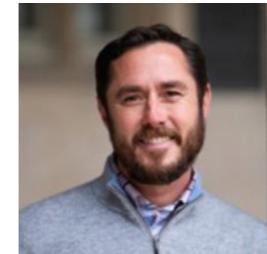


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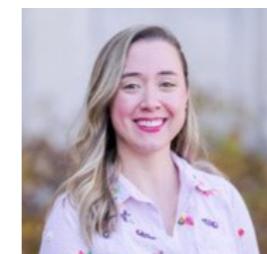
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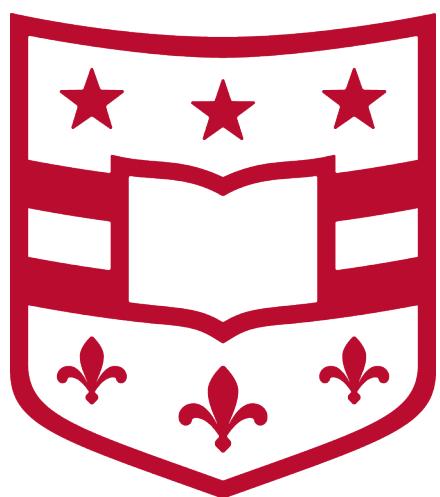
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Office of Graduate Studies, Arts & Sciences



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