Diversity

The University of California, Berkeley and the biological sciences graduate programs are committed to providing an inclusive and equitable environment that is welcoming to students from diverse backgrounds. Berkeley is home to a graduate student population of over 5,959, representing a diverse mix of races, ethnicities, nationalities, and gender identities. Within the biological science student population, 50% are women, 40% are from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, and 11% from abroad. With such a large and diverse graduate student population (over 48 PhD programs) ranked among the top 10 nationwide **, Berkeley understands the importance of creating a supportive environment. There are extensive campus resources available to support students, including the Graduate Student Instructeur Teaching and Resource Center, Career Center, Health Services, Disabled Student Program, graduate student housing, and the Graduate Diversity Program, among others.

Visit biology.berkeley.edu/graduate for more information, including a full list of programs and links.

Welcome to

Biosciences at Berkeley

Biology at Berkeley

UC Berkeley

The Berkeley campus is home to a graduate population of over 10,000 students, with 5,959 of those pursuing PhDs. They represent 108 different countries and 50 states (plus Guam and Puerto Rico). Graduate students in fields related to biological sciences make up approximately 20% of the doctoral candidates at Berkeley. While the biological sciences student population, over 50% are women, over 10% are from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, and 11% from abroad. With such a large and diverse graduate student population (over 48 PhD programs) ranked among the top 10 nationwide **, Berkeley understands the importance of creating a supportive environment. There are extensive campus resources available to support students, including the Graduate Student Instructeur Teaching and Resource Center, Career Center, Health Services, Disabled Student Program, graduate student housing, and the Graduate Diversity Program, among others.

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Diversity

The University of California, Berkeley and the biological sciences graduate programs have a strong commitment to promoting and ensuring ethnic diversity in graduate education and to having students from diverse backgrounds participating in our research. Berkeley is home to a diverse group of students, including representatives from underrepresented groups such as racial and ethnic minorities, women, and individuals with disabilities. Berkeley maintains a consistent effort in the recruitment of students from diverse backgrounds to benefit the biological sciences graduate programs and the faculty, staff and current graduate students actively seek to enhance graduate education and to training students from diverse backgrounds through its Biological Sciences Graduate Diversity Director, who develops programs that target proteins to specific places inside and outside of cells; from the physiology of muscle contraction at the atomic scale to the logic of information storage in the brain. Researchers at Berkeley are working to overcome the limitations of each other's fields.

Researchers with backgrounds in physics, chemistry, engineering, mathematics, computer science are making increasingly important contributions to our understanding of the biological sciences. Berkeley has become the leading medical school in the nation for enrolment of underrepresented students. Berkeley is a leader in graduate education in the biological sciences. Berkeley maintains a consistent effort in the recruitment of students from diverse backgrounds to benefit the biological sciences graduate programs and the faculty, staff and current graduate students actively seek to enhance graduate education and to training students from diverse backgrounds through its Biological Sciences Graduate Diversity Director, who develops programs that target proteins to specific places inside and outside of cells; from the physiology of muscle contraction at the atomic scale to the logic of information storage in the brain. Researchers at Berkeley are working to overcome the limitations of each other's fields.

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The University of California, Berkeley and the biological sciences graduate programs have a strong commitment to promoting and ensuring ethnic diversity among applicant pools and to increase enrollment of underrepresented populations. Our faculty and programs have a strong commitment to promoting and ensuring ethnic diversity among applicant pools and to increase enrollment of underrepresented populations. Faculty and programs take a proactive role in recruiting and implementing programs to yield a more diverse and competitive applicant pool and to increase enrollment of underrepresented populations. The University of California, Berkeley maintains a consistent effort in the recruitment of students from diverse backgrounds and from minority-serving institutions. Annual recruitment efforts include participation in undergraduate and graduate recruitment programs at various colleges and universities. In addition, we have an active outreach program that targets faculty, program directors, students, and staff of the campus community. The Graduate Student Instructor Teaching and Resource Center, Career Center, Health Services, Disabled Student Program, graduate student support, and the Graduate Diversity Program, among others.

Within the biological science student population, over 11% of the doctoral candidates at Berkeley are women. Berkeley understands the importance of creating a supportive environment. There are extensive campus resources available, including the Graduate Student Instructor Teaching and Resource Center, Career Center, Health Services, Disabled Student Program, graduate student support, and the Graduate Diversity Program, among others.

In the past fifty years, the biological sciences have seen two major revolutions and are in the midst of a third. The first was the molecular revolution with the discovery in the 1950s of genetic material and the invention of DNA technology. The second was the discovery of quantum mechanics. Berkeley biophysicists use atomic force microscopy to resurrect the genomes of early human progenitors. Berkeley bioengineers are inventing new ways to analyze macromolecules, new antibiotics, and new methods for genetic targeting to determine the functions of individual molecules in living cells and entire intact animals. The breadth and depth of biological science at Cal is unmatched. Berkeley is home to over five hundred faculty researchers studying biology. Fields of study range from the origins of life, the evolution of man, and the molecular mechanisms that make up modern society, to the mechanisms of the brain; from the protein machinery that recognizes and transcribes genes to the mechanisms that drive the development of the embryo; from the molecular and spatial organization of ecosystems and how they change over time, to the effects of environmental change on ecosystems; and from how geckos climb on ceilings to the origins of the universe.

Diversity

The University of California, Berkeley and the biological sciences graduate programs have a strong commitment to promoting and ensuring ethnic diversity in graduate education and to having students from diverse backgrounds. We have a diverse student body that includes students from over 118 countries and over 5,959 students, with 108 different countries and 50 states (plus Guam and Puerto Rico). Graduate students in the biological sciences make up approximately 20% of the doctoral candidates at Berkeley. While the biological sciences student population, over 50% are women, over 10% come from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, and 11% are abroad. With such a large and diverse graduate student pool, we have over 48 PhD programs available, with top 10 national rankings. Berkeley understands the importance of creating a supportive environment. There are extensive campus resources available, including the Graduate Student Instructor Teaching and Resource Center, Career Center, Health Services, Disabled Student Program, graduate student support, and the Graduate Diversity Program, among others.

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Biosciences at Berkeley

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Welcome to UC Berkeley

Biosciences at Berkeley

Visit biology.berkeley.edu/graduate for more information, including a full list of programs and links.

Diversity

The University of California, Berkeley, and the biological sciences graduate programs have a strong commitment to promoting and ensuring ethnic diversity in graduate education and its training. The Graduate Biomedical Science Program (GBSP), established in 1986, has a long-standing tradition of recruiting and training students from diverse backgrounds. Our mission is to provide a supportive environment that encourages all students to achieve their full potential.

UC Berkeley maintains a consistent effort in recruitment of underrepresented students in the sciences to its graduate programs through its Biological Sciences Graduate Diversity Director, who develops and implements programs to yield a more diverse and competitive applicant pool and to increase enrollment of underrepresented populations. Our faculty, staff, and current graduate students actively seek to enhance graduate student diversity to benefit the biological sciences graduate programs and the entire campus community. Annual recruitment efforts include participation in national and international research conferences and scientific meetings such as SIBBSE, ASCB/EMBO, and SfN. Campus-wide efforts emphasize recruiting beginning graduate students, with an emphasis on first-year students.

In recent years, the biological sciences have seen two major revolutions and are in the midst of a third. This combination of advances is leading to an explosive growth in the number of biological medicines and tools, as well as broadening our understanding of the biological processes that govern the universe. Berkeley biologists are leading the charge in these fields.

The Department of Molecular and Cell Biology (MCB) at UC Berkeley is one of the largest and most diverse departments of its kind in the United States. MCB faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students work on a wide range of exciting research topics, including cell biology, developmental biology, genetics, neuroscience, plant biology, and computational biology. The department is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive community that values and celebrates the contributions of all members.

If you are interested in pursuing a graduate degree in the biological sciences at UC Berkeley, we encourage you to browse the MCB website to learn more about our programs and the opportunities available.

Mark Schlissel, M.D., Ph.D.
Dean of Biological Sciences
The University of California, Berkeley and the biological sciences graduate programs are committed to diversity in graduate education and to training students from diverse backgrounds. Berkeley maintains a consistent effort in the recruitment of underrepresented students in the sciences to its graduate programs through its Biological Sciences Graduate Diversity Director, who develops programs and strategies that are designed to increase the enrollment of underrepresented populations. This effort is supported by the University of California Office of the President’s initiative to “Double the Pool” of traditionally underrepresented students, which is a ten-year plan to increase the diversity of the pool of STEM candidates by 50% nationwide. Berkeley understands the importance of student diversity to benefit the biological sciences graduate programs and to increase enrollment of underrepresented populations.

Berkeley offers a wide range of resources for graduate students, including: student housing, and the Graduate Diversity Program, Health Services, Disabled Student Program, graduateTutoring Program, Career Center, and the Instructor Teaching and Resource Center. These resources are designed to support the academic and professional development of graduate students.

In response to the national challenge of increasing the representation of women, minority, and economically disadvantaged students, Berkeley endeavors to provide research opportunities and educational programs that promote diversity in the national biosciences workforce. The second began with the discovery of restriction enzymes leading to the understanding of the genetic material and how the structure of DNA revealed its function as an information storage and transmission vehicle. The second began with the discovery of restriction enzymes leading to the understanding of the genetic material and how the structure of DNA revealed its function as an information storage and transmission vehicle. The second began with the discovery of restriction enzymes leading to the understanding of the genetic material and how the structure of DNA revealed its function as an information storage and transmission vehicle. The second began with the discovery of restriction enzymes leading to the understanding of the genetic material and how the structure of DNA revealed its function as an information storage and transmission vehicle.

In an effort to train the next generation of scientists and engineers, Berkeley offers a variety of research programs that provide undergraduate students with direct participation in graduate-level scientific inquiry. These programs are designed to foster interdisciplinary training programs bridging the biological, computational, engineering, mathematical, and physical sciences to augment doctoral training. Requirements for these programs and REUs depend on the home program, and, for Designated Emphases (DE), completion of the program is recorded on the diploma and transcript. Existing programs include:

- REU Program in Cell, Developmental, and Evolutionary Biology. This program promotes diversity in the national biosciences workforce. Students who share disadvantaged backgrounds, or who are the first generation in their families to attend college, are encouraged to apply.

- REU Program in Chemistry, Biochemistry, and Chemical Biology. This program is designed to attract and retain talented undergraduate students from underrepresented groups in the field of chemical biology.

- REU Program in Chemical Biology. This program provides training focused on the basic themes of synthesis, characterization, reaction, and modeling of small molecules, and is aimed at training a diverse group of postdoctoral fellows in the interdisciplinary field of chemical biology.

- REU Program in Computational and Data Science. This program provides training in the application of computational and data science tools to solve complex problems in the biological sciences.

- REU Program in Synthetic Biology Research Program (iGEM), UC LEADS (Leadership Excellence and Acceleration through Advanced Degrees) for UC undergraduates in mathematics, engineering, and science and BioChIP (Biology on a Chip Internship Program), an NSF funded REU Program. For more information on these programs visit http://research.berkeley.edu/index.php.
Bioscience Ph.D. Programs—Departments and Graduate Groups

Graduate Application Process

LIC Berkeley allows only one application from a candidate per application cycle. Applicants should review the different programs in biological sciences to identify which program most closely fits their interests. Application deadlines start on December 7 each year. For the exact dates, applicants must check the web site of their program of interest to ensure the fullest of program interests. Below is the online application system:

Graduate Program Application System: http://www.grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/grad_app.shtml opens in early September.

Biology

Biophysics

Biophysics integrates engineering, biological and medical sciences with cell and tissue technology to help people lead longer, healthier lifestyles. The biophysics program at UC Berkeley is completely cross-disciplinary and offers students the flexibility to seek a choice of outstanding faculty in a variety of fields and areas of interest. Our programs of study emphasize opportunities for collaborative research and strong professional support. Our graduate students work closely with several different faculty members, and the truly interdisciplinary nature of the biophysics program provides for a truly unique opportunity to learn together.

Biostatistics

Biostatistics prepares students for careers in health and life sciences fields that necessitate the use of statistical methods to analyze data. The biostatistics program at UC Berkeley is designed for students who are interested in understanding the distribution of disease and the efficiency of preventive or curative medical treatments. Students who are interested in applying statistical techniques to biological, agricultural, or environmental measurements, or in the development of statistical models and methods to analyze and interpret data, can choose to pursue a Ph.D. degree in biostatistics.

Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering is an area of outstanding excellence at UC Berkeley with students spanning a wide range of research interests. Students admitted to this program have backgrounds in either the physical or biological sciences. In some cases, students have an undergraduate degree in physics, chemistry, engineering, mathematics, or computer science, and may have limited coursework in the biological sciences. The Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering program is highly interdisciplinary and offers students a unique opportunity to explore areas of research that are at the intersection of biology and chemistry.

Chemistry

Chemistry is an area of scientific and educational excellence at UC Berkeley with students spanning a wide range of research interests. The Chemistry Department at UC Berkeley is distinguished by its rich history of discovery in the chemical sciences. This history includes groundbreaking contributions to the fields of organic chemistry, inorganic chemistry, and physical chemistry, as well as the development of new methods and technologies for the study of chemical systems. The Chemistry Department also has a strong commitment to education and training, and provides opportunities for students to engage in cutting-edge research across a wide range of topics.

Endocrinology

The faculty associated with the Graduate Group in Endocrinology leading to the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees comprise an interdepartmental group of faculty from the Biological Sciences Division. The program encompasses hormone-oriented research programs such as cancer biology, signal transduction, drug discovery, molecular and cell biology, including investigations into gene therapy, neurobiology, infectious diseases, membrane biophysics, structural, molecular and cellular endocrinology through organismal and comparative endocrinology to chemical ecology. The goal of the M.A. and Ph.D. programs is to train students to bring a physical approach to the study of hormone function and disease processes.

Environmental Health Science

The Environmental Science, Policy, and Management department integrates the biological, physical, and social sciences to provide a holistic understanding of the complex interactions between the natural and human-made environments. The department is committed to attracting a wide range of talented students and offers a Ph.D. as well as a joint Master's degree in Environmental Science, Policy, and Management. The department's faculty and graduate students are engaged in cutting-edge research across a wide range of topics, including environmental policy, climate change, and sustainability.

Epidemiology

Epidemiology is the study of the distribution of disease and other health-related states or events in specified populations and the application of this knowledge to control health problems. The Epidemiology program at UC Berkeley is designed for students who are interested in understanding the distribution of disease and the efficiency of preventive or curative medical treatments. Students admitted to this program have backgrounds in either the physical or biological sciences. In some cases, students have an undergraduate degree in physics, chemistry, engineering, mathematics, or computer science, and may have limited coursework in the biological sciences. The Epidemiology program is highly interdisciplinary and offers students a unique opportunity to explore areas of research that are at the intersection of biology and chemistry.

Food Science and Technology

Food Science and Technology is an area of scientific and educational excellence at UC Berkeley with students spanning a wide range of research interests. The Food Science and Technology program at UC Berkeley is distinguished by its rich history of discovery in the food sciences. This history includes groundbreaking contributions to the fields of food science, food technology, and food chemistry, as well as the development of new methods and technologies for the study of food systems. The Food Science and Technology program also has a strong commitment to education and training, and provides opportunities for students to engage in cutting-edge research across a wide range of topics.

Genetic Engineering

Genetic engineering is an area of scientific and educational excellence at UC Berkeley with students spanning a wide range of research interests. The Genetic Engineering program at UC Berkeley is distinguished by its rich history of discovery in the genetic engineering field. This history includes groundbreaking contributions to the fields of genetic engineering, genetic modification, and genetic manipulation, as well as the development of new methods and technologies for the study of genetic systems. The Genetic Engineering program also has a strong commitment to education and training, and provides opportunities for students to engage in cutting-edge research across a wide range of topics.

Microbiology

Microbiology is an area of scientific and educational excellence at UC Berkeley with students spanning a wide range of research interests. The Microbiology program at UC Berkeley is distinguished by its rich history of discovery in the microbiology field. This history includes groundbreaking contributions to the fields of microbiology, microbial ecology, and microbial genetics, as well as the development of new methods and technologies for the study of microbial systems. The Microbiology program also has a strong commitment to education and training, and provides opportunities for students to engage in cutting-edge research across a wide range of topics.

Neuroscience

Neuroscience is an area of scientific and educational excellence at UC Berkeley with students spanning a wide range of research interests. The Neuroscience program at UC Berkeley is distinguished by its rich history of discovery in the neuroscience field. This history includes groundbreaking contributions to the fields of neuroscience, neurophysiology, and neuroanatomy, as well as the development of new methods and technologies for the study of neuronal systems. The Neuroscience program also has a strong commitment to education and training, and provides opportunities for students to engage in cutting-edge research across a wide range of topics.

Physics

Physics is an area of scientific and educational excellence at UC Berkeley with students spanning a wide range of research interests. The Physics Department at UC Berkeley is distinguished by its rich history of discovery in the physics field. This history includes groundbreaking contributions to the fields of physics, astrophysics, and condensed matter physics, as well as the development of new methods and technologies for the study of physical systems. The Physics Department also has a strong commitment to education and training, and provides opportunities for students to engage in cutting-edge research across a wide range of topics.

Plant Biology

Plant Biology is an area of scientific and educational excellence at UC Berkeley with students spanning a wide range of research interests. The Plant Biology program at UC Berkeley is distinguished by its rich history of discovery in the plant biology field. This history includes groundbreaking contributions to the fields of plant biology, plant ecology, and plant genetics, as well as the development of new methods and technologies for the study of plant systems. The Plant Biology program also has a strong commitment to education and training, and provides opportunities for students to engage in cutting-edge research across a wide range of topics.

Vision Science

Vision Science is an area of scientific and educational excellence at UC Berkeley with students spanning a wide range of research interests. The Vision Science program at UC Berkeley is distinguished by its rich history of discovery in the vision science field. This history includes groundbreaking contributions to the fields of vision science, visual perception, and visual behavior, as well as the development of new methods and technologies for the study of visual systems. The Vision Science program also has a strong commitment to education and training, and provides opportunities for students to engage in cutting-edge research across a wide range of topics.
Biostatistics

The goal of the Biostatistics Program at Berkeley is to provide students with a broad and deep understanding of data collection, analysis, and interpretation in the biological sciences. Students learn to design and analyze studies to answer scientific questions, and to communicate their findings effectively to both scientific and non-scientific audiences.

Comparative Biochemistry

The faculty associated with the Graduate Group in Comparative Biochemistry at Berkeley have interests in a wide variety of fields including Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Environmental Science, Molecular and Cell Biology, Molecular and Biochemical Nutrition, Nutritional Science and Toxicology, Plant and Microbial Biology, and Toxicology. These programs provide students with unparalleled opportunities for basic and applied bioengineering research in a wide variety of closely related areas.

Environmental Science, Policy, and Management

The Environmental Science, Policy, and Management (ESPM) doctoral program is designed to provide students with advanced education in these fields. We develop critical analytical skills and the ability to conduct ecosystems research at molecular, organismal, and global scales and within interlinked human social systems. ESPM encourages an inclusive academic community where students are actively engaged in cross-disciplinary research and education.

Microbiology

The Molecular and Cell Biology (MCB) doctoral program at Berkeley is designed to provide students with advanced education in these fields. We develop critical analytical skills and the ability to conduct ecosystems research at molecular, organismal, and global scales and within interlinked human social systems. ESPM encourages an inclusive academic community where students are actively engaged in cross-disciplinary research and education.

Neuroscience

Understanding the brain and mind is one of the great frontiers in modern science. Neuroscience, the interdisciplinary science of the brain and the nervous system, has a mandate to determine the present risk to human health and to develop and the resources for groundbreaking research and the translation of discoveries into clinical practice.

Plant Biology

With an increasing awareness of environmental problems, plant scientists are in a unique position to contribute to solutions. In the face of imminent and ever more pervasive environmental challenges, the study of plant biology is not only scientifically rewarding, but also profoundly important for the future of the planet.

Vision Science

Vision: Science is a meeting and expanding field, at the confluence of clinical medicine and medical research. The goal of the Biostatistics Program at Berkeley is to provide students with a broad and deep understanding of data collection, analysis, and interpretation in the biological sciences. Students learn to design and analyze studies to answer scientific questions, and to communicate their findings effectively to both scientific and non-scientific audiences.

Graduate Application Process

UC Berkeley allows only one application per candidate per application cycle. Applicants should review the different programs in biological sciences to clarify which program most closely fits their interests. Application deadlines start on December 7 each year. For the exact dates, applicants must check the web site of their program of interest at the full list of programs. Individuals below provide the online application system at: http://www.berkeley.edu/grad/admissions/grad_app.shtml opens in early September.

Biosciences Program—Department of Molecular and Cell Biology

The Department of Molecular and Cell Biology (MCB) offers research opportunities for students interested in a wide variety of fields, including genetics, molecular biology, biochemistry, cell biology, and developmental biology. MCB students have the opportunity to work with leading scientists in a variety of laboratories on campus, including Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Environmental Science, Plant and Microbial Biology, and Toxicology. The program provides students with unparalleled opportunities for basic and applied bioengineering research in a wide variety of closely related areas.

Biosciences Program—Department of Molecular and Biochemical Nutrition

The Molecular and Biochemical Nutrition (MBN) graduate program at Berkeley is designed to provide students with a broad and deep understanding of data collection, analysis, and interpretation in the biological sciences. Students learn to design and analyze studies to answer scientific questions, and to communicate their findings effectively to both scientific and non-scientific audiences.

Biosciences Program—Department of Neurosciences

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Biosciences Program—Department of Plant Biology

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Visit biology.berkeley.edu/graduate for more information, including a full list of programs and links.

Diversity

The University of California, Berkeley and the biological sciences graduate programs have a strong commitment to providing and ensuring ethnic diversity. Our graduate students come from diverse backgrounds and represent a cross-section of underrepresented students in the sciences. The graduate program is open to all students with the exception of UC Berkeley students who are enrolled in the M.S. program in Integrative Biology. All students are encouraged to apply. The diverse student body and faculty provide a supportive and challenging environment for all students.

UC Berkeley also offers additional summer research opportunities, which include the Synthetic Biology Research Program (iGEM), UC LEADS (Leadership Excellence Awarded For UC Students) for UC undergraduates in mathematics, engineering, and science and BioChIP (Biology on a Chip Internship Program), an NSF funded program for students interested in nanoscience and engineering.

Biosciences at Berkeley

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