TACO TUESDAY
WITH THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
AGENDA

1. About the Graduate School
2. About Graduate Student Government
3. PhD Funding
4. Making Good Progress
5. Mentoring
### ABOUT THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

| 1 | Founded in 1910 |
| 2 | Supports graduate students from admission to graduation, working to foster a diverse, inclusive & equitable culture of graduate study at USC |
| 3 | Oversees academic policy & procedures, graduate stipends & fellowships, Thesis Center |
| 4 | Provides workshops, resources, & dispute resolution |
| 5 | Works closely with schools, programs, & GSG on strategic planning & leadership |
| 6 | Awards PhD degree |
PHD PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

Contains information on demographics, selectivity, retention & graduation, time-to-degree, & outcomes for all USC PhD programs.

Found under the “about” tab on the Graduate School website: graduateschool.usc.edu

Point of departure for conversations about the structure of your program & the career paths open to you.
PhD Program Characteristics

The USC Graduate School is committed to providing detailed information on the inputs, outcomes, and overall characteristics of its PhD programs, for the purposes of full transparency and to support informed decision-making.

PhD Program Statistics by Program (Part 1): (All)

Select Program

How selective is the program? | Who is in the program?

Application, Admission and Enrollment (Fall cohorts): (All) | Enrollment by gender over time (Fall cohorts): (All)

Application, Admission and Enrollment (Fall cohorts): (All)

Enrollment by gender over time (Fall cohorts): (All)
GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
Graduate Student Government Leaders 2022-23

Elisa Stephens
GSG Sr. Vice President

Samuel Garza
GSG President

USC Graduate Student Government Structure
GSG Representation

USC Administration

GSG Executive Board

School Senators

Graduate Students

Administration Team
- Student Organization Funding
- Professional ✦ Semester Metro Passes

Advocacy Team
- Child Care Subsidy Grants
- Legal Counseling ✦ Research Symposium

Programming Team
- Community Engagement
- Explore LA ✦ Social Events
GSG Programs

- **Student Organization Funding**: Discretionary, volunteer, social justice, and joint funds for recognized student organizations.
- **Emergency Fund**: Quick financial relief to help students with unforeseen expenses arising from a crisis.
- **Professional Development Fund**: Limited reimbursement for students’ professional development.
- **Legal Services**: Free legal counseling for any student issues (housing, tax, harassment, etc.).
- **Caretaker Subsidy Program**: Awards to eligible graduate students to assist with costs of caring for a dependent.

*Please visit gsg.usc.edu for more information!*
GSG Events

**Chocolate Truffle Making Class**

- **Event:** Chocolate Truffle Making Class
- **Date:** Thu, 2/10 @ 6 pm PT
- **Location:** At 2702
- **Info:** Sign-up at gsgtruffles.org

**DODGERS GAME**

- **Event:** LA Dodgers vs. Detroit Tigers
- **Date:** Fri, 4/29/22
- **Location:** 7:10 pm
- **Info:** Free tickets
- **Sign-up:** bit.ly/gsgdodgers

**Tropical Nights Boat Cruise**

- **Event:** Tropical Nights Boat Cruise
- **Date:** April 22nd, 2022
- **Location:** Market Plaza, USC
- **Time:** 12:15 pm
- **Info:** bit.ly/gsgcruise

**FRIENDSGIVING!**

- **Event:** Friendsgiving
- **Date:** Nov 20, 2022
- **Location:** Market Plaza, USC
- **Info:** Sign-up at bit.ly/gsgfriends

**SCTUDENT TAILGATES 2019**

- **Presented by:** bright
- **Events:**
  - 8.31 USC vs Fresno State
  - 9.7 USC vs Stanford
  - 9.20 USC vs Utah (Friday)
  - 10.19 USC vs Arizona
  - 11.2 USC vs Oregon
  - 11.23 USC vs UCLA

**Join us for:**

- FOOD
- GAMES
- GIVEAWAYS
- PAINT STATION & MORE!

**USC Student Affairs**

- **Info:**
  - USCStudentAffairs.usc.edu
  - @USCCampusActivities
Connect with GSG!

Follow us @uscgsg
Follow us at facebook.com/uscgsg
Visit us at gsg.usc.edu/

Scan the QR code to sign up for our newsletters!
FUNDING OVERVIEW

1. Key Terms
2. External Fellowship Timeline
3. USC Fellowship Related Resources
KEY TERMS

Fellowship
Stipend, tuition & fees, long period of time, disbursed incrementally, merit or research oriented. “Full-time” research.

Assistantship
Stipend, tuition & fees. Either RA or TA, working with a faculty member.

Scholarship
One-time payment, typically small $ amount (less than $10,000) need based, ideal for summer.

Grant
Project specific funding, budget allocated in advance.
EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIP TIMELINE

Early - year 1 & 2
ABOUT YOU
Ford Pre-Doc, NSF GRFP, Soros

Mid - year 3 & 4
ABOUT DATA COLLECTION
NIH NRSA F31, Fulbright, Fulbright Hays, SSRC

Late - 5 & 6
ABOUT WRITING AAUW
Ford Dissertation
EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIP RESOURCES

USC Fellowship Database
http://awardsdatabase.usc.edu/

Fellowship Support
Boot Camp for incoming and advanced PhDs
Research & Fellowships Week
Online Fellowship Course
Network of Applicants & Awardees

Also...
Graduate Women’s Writing Group
MAKING GOOD PROGRESS
"TYPICAL" PHD ROAD MAP

Start

Year 1
Coursework, lab rotation, screening exam

Year 2
Coursework

Year 3
Qualifying Exam

Year 4
Dissertation Research

Year 5
Dissertation Defense

End
STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

- Read your PhD Program Handbook
- Cultivate a supportive network & work towards small milestones;
- Develop time management skills & persistent daily efforts;
- Average time to degree: five & a half years;
- 76.5% of students complete with 8 years;
MENTORING
GETTING WHAT YOU CAME FOR

1. Set expectations and boundaries.
   Ask your advisor about creating a mentoring compact.

2. Bring an agenda to each of your meetings.
   Keep/ share a running notes document.

3. Distinguish between advising, supervision, sponsorship, and mentoring.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advising</th>
<th>Supervision</th>
<th>Sponsorship</th>
<th>Mentoring</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Assists students in the clarification of their life/career goals and in the development of educational plans for the realization of these goals”</td>
<td>Oversight for work or tasks such as Research or Teaching assistantship, Dissertation completion</td>
<td>“publicly acknowledges the achievements of the mentee and advocates for the mentee”</td>
<td>“a professional, working alliance in which individuals work together over time to support the personal and professional growth, development, and success of the relational partners through the provision of career and psychosocial support”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can be formal and support specific questions (e.g., coursework)</td>
<td>Often defined as part of mentoring, but this framing may also mask power dynamics</td>
<td>Supports career opportunities, advancement, recognition in concrete ways</td>
<td>NASEM, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frame of mind may be transactional</td>
<td>Manathunga, 2007</td>
<td>NASEM, 2019</td>
<td></td>
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Sense of Belonging
Graduate students’ belief that they had ongoing mentorship opportunities and positive interactions with peers contributed greatly to their sense of belonging (O’Meara et al., 2017).

Academic and Career Efficacy
Grad students indicating they had excellent mentors more likely to complete their degrees (Ferrer de Valero, 2005; Johnson & Huwe, 2003). Positive relationship between career support graduate students receive from mentors & perceptions of career success (Johnson, 2016).

Reduced Stress & Role Conflict
Mentors reduce role strain and conflict by modeling work-life balance and providing support and guidance to their mentees. Mentorship associated with reduced social isolation and stress (Johnson, 2016).

Performance & Productivity
Having a faculty mentor predicts higher research productivity among graduate students and early-career professionals (Hollingsworth & Fassinger, 2002).
Holistic Support in Doctoral Education

Source: Posselt, 2018
1. Professors are people too.
   Inquiring about aspects of their life path (or current goings-on) can build trust, which is a foundation to strong mentorship.

2. Mentoring and community are best when distributed.
   Consider the development of a mentoring constellation.
Grad School Team - please introduce yourselves!

Andrew McConnell Stott
Meredith Drake Reitan
Laura Yoneda
Julie Posselt
Kate Tegmeyer
Kamille Mosqueda
Elda Padilla
Aaron Thompson