

Financing graduate education at Caltech

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Dean of Graduate Studies

<http://gradoffice.caltech.edu/>

Academic organization of Caltech

Caltech is a small university

- ~1400 graduate students
- ~300 faculty

Academically organized into 6 Divisions

- BBE: Biology and Biological Engineering
- CCE: Chemistry and Chemical Engineering
- EAS: Engineering and Applied Science
- GPS: Geological and Planetary Sciences
- HSS: Humanities and Social Sciences
- PMA: Physics, Mathematics, and Astronomy

PhD programs at Caltech

The graduate options

- The fundamental administrative unit is the “graduate option”.
- 31 graduate options, each within one of 6 Divisions

Examples

BBE has 4:

- Bioengineering
- Biology
- Computation and Neural Systems
- Neurobiology

CCE has 3:

- Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics
- Chemical Engineering
- Chemistry

Office of Graduate Studies

The Office of Graduate Studies is the coordinating office for all matters related to graduate studies at Caltech.

- Oversees graduate admissions.
- Monitors degree progress (including degree audits, time-to-degree, satisfactory progress, and petitions).
- Allocates Institute fellowships and teaching assistantships.
- Provides oversight for student stipend support, including external funds.
- Provides dependent health care reimbursements, emergency funding, pregnancy and bonding leave.
- Works with students facing challenges.

2021-2022 estimated graduate budget

Tuition**	\$56,364
Mandatory Fees	\$2,103
TOTAL TUITION AND FEES	\$58,467

	On-Campus (Single apt.)	On-Campus (Share 2- bedroom apt.)	On-Campus (Share 4- bedroom apt.)	Off Campus (Share 2- bedroom apt.) (Non-CIT)
COST OF LIVING				
Room	\$15,960	\$9,420	\$7,920	\$15,300
Board	\$9,125	\$9,125	\$9,125	\$9,125
Utilities	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,800
Books/Supplies	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$1,400
Personal Expenses***	\$4,674	\$4,674	\$4,674	\$4,674
Transportation	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$2,400
SUBTOTAL*	\$34,759	\$28,219	\$26,719	\$34,699

Source: <https://www.gradoffice.caltech.edu/financialsupport/budget>

PhD programs at Caltech are fully funded

- All PhD students receive a financial package that covers tuition and stipend.
- The minimum Institute stipend for graduate students is \$37,000 for 2021-22.
- Details of the financial package differ depending on graduate option and individual circumstance, and will change during the course of the graduate training.
 - The financial package may include Institute fellowships, Divisional fellowships, external fellowships, training grants, individual PI grants, teaching assistantships (TAs).
- A few graduate options have Master's programs also. These are generally not fully funded. For some MS students, these costs can be helped by teaching assistantships.

Teaching assistantships (TAs) can be part of financial package

- Teaching assistantships are paid teaching assignments that offset tuition and provide stipend.
- Depending on the situation, TAs may be merely a part of the financial package, or they may provide supplemental stipend.
- TAs will offset costs for an MS student.

External graduate fellowships

- Many Caltech graduate students are successful in obtaining external graduate fellowships.
- Examples: National Science Foundation, Department of Defense, National Institutes of Health, Ford Foundation, Fannie and John Hertz Foundation
- External fellowships are desirable: prestigious, indicate the candidate's ability to acquire funding, and may provide some research flexibility.

Additional support for students with children

- Graduate student parents have increased financial burdens.
- The Graduate Office administers six ARC and Kanel fellowships to support graduate student parents (US citizens).
- PSP was initiated in 2021.
 - Funded by the 6 Divisions
 - Applications are evaluated by the graduate office, based on financial need.
 - Selected students are provided a stipend supplement, up to \$10,000 annually.
- Additional resources for parents
 - 6 weeks pregnancy leave
 - 6 weeks bonding leave
 - Dependent healthcare reimbursement (\$1680/year/dependent)
 - Enhanced Child Care Assistance Program (\$5000/year)

The Presidential Graduate Fellowships

- In July 2020, the President, Provost, and Division chairs pledged several initiatives to foster a more inclusive Caltech, including 10 Presidential Graduate Fellowships to enhance diversity.
- The Graduate Office was able to fund these 10 fellowships for 2021-2022 without reducing the number of regular fellowships.
- Each graduate option was invited to nominate a candidate from their applicant pool.
- The Graduate Office selected 10 recipients, with alternates.

Graduate Office contacts

Feel free to contact the Graduate Office with questions about the graduate programs at Caltech.

- David Chan, MD/PhD – Graduate Dean
- Darrell Peterson, PhD – Associate Dean
- Natalie Gilmore – Assistant Dean
- Claudia Andrade – Financial Analyst
- Helen Duong – Recruitment, Outreach, and Admissions Coordinator
- Jacob Dalton – Administrative Assistant