PhD Prospects Webinar
University of Florida

Thursday, October 19, 2023
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm ET
Presenters and Contacts

Toshi Nishida
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Professor of Electrical & Computer Engineering

Mike Nazareth
Director for Graduate Recruitment
mikenaz@eng.ufl.edu

Ashley Wilson
Coordinator for Graduate Recruitment
Ashley.Wilson@eng.ufl.edu
Presenters and Contacts

Krista Smith  
Graduate Staff  
Biomedical Engineering  
KRSmith@bme.ufl.edu

Kristina Sapp  
Graduate Staff  
Computer & Information Sciences & Engineering  
klapp@ufl.edu

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Graduate Staff  
Electrical & Computer Engineering  
jnunez@ece.ufl.edu
Presenters and Contacts

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Graduate Staff
ESSIE (Civil, Coastal, Environmental Engineering)
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Graduate Staff
Industrial & Systems Engineering
jsharpshair@ise.ufl.edu
Presenters and Contacts

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Materials Science & Engineering
tfranklin@mse.ufl.edu

Megan McMahon
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Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering
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Current PhD Student Panelists

George Adedokun
Ladoke Akintola University of Technology
Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
oadedokun@ufl.edu

Robert Lattus
Arizona State University
Electrical and Computer Engineering
robertlattus@ufl.edu
University of Florida

• Established 1853

• 2,000 Acres, 900 Buildings

• 60,795 Students; 19,743 Graduate Students

• 4,779 Ph.D.; 14,964 Masters/Professional

• 14 Colleges and Schools; 5,000+ Faculty

• $1.25 Billion+ in Annual Research Expenditures

• UF Owned Lake Alice (on campus); Lake Wauburg (15 minute bus ride)
Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering

- Established 1910
- 11 Departments; 16 Degree Programs
- 300+ Faculty (tenure track)
- 10,686 Engineering Students
- 3,340 Graduate Engineering Students
  - Ph.D. = 1,109
  - Masters = 2,231
## Graduate Students in UF Engineering

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dept</th>
<th>Concentrations</th>
<th>MS</th>
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<td>148</td>
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<td>CISE</td>
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<td>730</td>
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<td>ESSIE</td>
<td>Civil, Coastal, Environmental</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>328</td>
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<td>ISE</td>
<td>Industrial, Systems</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>187</td>
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<td>MAE</td>
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<td>123</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>211</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,231</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,109</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,340</strong></td>
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Rankings

#1 Public University per 2024 Wall Street Journal
https://news.ufl.edu/2023/09/wsj-ranking/

#6 Top Public University per 2024 U.S. News & World Report
Departments and Degrees

- AEROSPACE ENGINEERING
- AGRICULTURAL & BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING
- BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING
- CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
- CIVIL ENGINEERING
- COASTAL & OCEANOGRAPHIC ENGINEERING
- COMPUTER ENGINEERING
- COMPUTER SCIENCE
- DIGITAL ARTS & SCIENCES
- ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
- ENGINEERING EDUCATION
- ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING SCIENCES
- INDUSTRIAL & SYSTEMS ENGINEERING
- MATERIALS SCIENCE & ENGINEERING
- MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
- NUCLEAR ENGINEERING SCIENCES
Department Rankings

2023 U.S. News & World Report - Best Graduate Schools Rankings
https://www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-engineering-schools

Rankings Among Public Universities
• Agricultural and Biological Engineering – No. 5
• Materials Science and Engineering - No. 8
• Computer Science, Nuclear Engineering – No. 12
• Industrial and Systems Engineering - No. 13
• Electrical Engineering - No. 14
• Computer Engineering, Mechanical Engineering – No. 15
• Biomedical Engineering, Civil Engineering - No. 17
• Chemical Engineering - No. 18
• Aerospace Engineering, Environmental Engineering – No. 19
Over 1,000,000 Gross Sq. Ft. of Engineering Facilities

<table>
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<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>SF, FT</th>
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<tr>
<td>JOSEPH WEIL HALL</td>
<td>87,262</td>
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<td>ENGINEERING</td>
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<td>FREDERICK R RYNES HALL</td>
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<td>MERVIN J. LAUSEN HALL</td>
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<tr>
<td>PARTICLE SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY</td>
<td>18,424</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALVIN P. BLACK HALL</td>
<td>17,608</td>
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<tr>
<td>THE POWELL FAMILY STRUCTURES AND MATERIALS LABORATORY</td>
<td>17,450</td>
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<tr>
<td>JOHN W. BENTON HALL</td>
<td>14,995</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEE FACULTY / STAFF</td>
<td>9,426</td>
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<td>EARLE B. PHILLIPS LAB</td>
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<td>CHEMICAL ENGINEERING STUDENT CENTER</td>
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Net Assignable Square Footage (NASF)

- 710,652
- Classrooms & Teaching Labs, 83,946
- Offices, 250,322
- Research Labs, 342,804
- Other, 33,579

Source: UF Space Tracking & Reporting Systems (STARS)
State-of-the art biotech lab
Prototyping labs
Global teleconferencing lab
Collaboration spaces
Classrooms

Opened Fall 2020
AI Partnership with NVIDIA

- UF houses the fastest AI supercomputer in higher education

- The third-generation HiPerGator with NVIDIA’s most advanced AI software integrating 140 NVIDIA DGX™ A100 systems with 1,120 NVIDIA A100 Tensor Core GPUs and high-performance NVIDIA Mellanox HDR 200Gb/s InfiniBand networking to deliver 700 petaflops of AI performance.
Malachowsky Hall for Data Science & Information Technology

- $150M Investment
- Home of the AI University
  - Headquarters for CISE and ECE
  - ICLASSROOM 2.0
  - Highly experiential – Hands on labs for VR, AI, Cybersecurity, IOT, GPU
- Opening November 2023
F-1 International Student Compliance Services

UF International Center
Incoming F-1 Students  https://internationalcenter.ufl.edu/

- Estimated Start-Up Costs
- I-20 Process for F-1 Degree Students
- F-1 Visa: U.S. Embassies and Consulate Offices
- UF Critical Dates & Deadlines
- Arriving In Gainesville
- Mandatory Online Check-In Process
- F-1 Student Status Requirements
  - Maintaining F-1 Visa Status
  - Registration Requirements
  - Employment/Training Restrictions

(Detailed information provided at each link!)
**Estimated Start-Up Costs: 2024**

- Grad Students: $57,323* per year
- If you have the $4,500 Achievement Award: $52,823* per year

*Numbers subject to change.

**I-20 Process**

1) I-20 request submitted in the ISSS Portal by Academic Department
2) ISS reviews request, sends email with instructions to student
   - Sent to same email address student used to apply to UF
3) Student receives email with instructions to log into the ISSS portal
   - Remember to click *SUBMIT APPLICATION*
4) Student’s F1 Advisor reviews I-20 application & documents, follows up as needed, issues I-20
5) Email sent to student with instructions to download & print the I-20 through ISSS portal
U.S. Embassy and Consulates

- Receive I-20 → Pay SEVIS fee → Complete and Save Form DS-160 Visa Application Form → Schedule F-1 visa appointment at U.S. Embassy or Consular office
  - Among any other documents required for the visa appointment, make sure to have your PRINTED documents with you: I-20, admission letter, proof of funds, and passport
- Obtain F1 visa → Schedule flight → Enter the U.S. → Complete the UFIC Online Check-In → Register for Classes

Arriving In Gainesville, FL

- Travel with your I-20, admission letter, F1 visa, passport on your person; DO NOT PACK DOCUMENTS IN CHECKED LUGGAGE, DO NOT LOSE! Scan a copy of all documents to keep digitally just in case.
- Can enter U.S. no more than 30 days before program start date stated on your I-20
- Keep in mind, many affordable off-campus apartments are leased through July 31, need turnover/cleaning time, and may not be available for move-in until ~ August 8-14
Mandatory Check-In Process

- Must complete the F-1 online check-in process in the ISSS Portal
  https://internationalcenter.ufl.edu/f-1-student/new-f-1-students/check-process
- Must be completed before the start of classes or by the drop/add deadline
- If the mandatory check-in is not completed within deadline, your F1 status is terminated

UF Critical Dates & Deadlines: 2023

- Advance/Regular registration deadline (no late fee): March 27 – August 21
- First day of classes: August 23
- Drop/Add registration deadline (late fee applied if not previously registered): August 23-29
- Fee payment deadline (course dropped if fee not paid; this is an F1 status issue): September 1
Maintaining F1 Student Status

**Full Time Registration:**
- Fall and Spring Semesters
  - **Graduate** students: 9 credits each semester
  - This includes 3 credits online maximum per semester
- Summer Semester (If admitted to a summer semester)
  - **Graduate** students: 6 credits
  - This includes 3 credits online maximum per semester

**Employment/Training as an F1 Student**
- Limited to 20 hours per week and on the UF campus
- Cannot work off campus at all in first academic year; authorization always required for off campus work/training
- Must apply for and receive CPT authorization on I-20 to work/train off campus prior to graduation
- Must apply for and receive OPT authorization card to work/train after graduation
F-1 Advisors

Questions? Contact your specific F1 international student advisor according to the first letter of your Surname/Family Name

(Scan QR Code for contact information)

More Information

- Click “I-20 Process” for general yet informative information.
- All I-20 instructions (including Proof of Funds information) is in the email you’ll receive from the ISSS Portal if you’re admitted and we receive an I-20 request for you.
- Please read and follow the instructions carefully to then submit your I-20 application.
  - If you do not click SUBMIT APPLICATION at the top of the application window once complete, we will not receive your I-20 application.
Ph.D. Degrees Offered

- Ph.D. & Master’s = average of 4.5 – 5 years
  - direct entry from Bachelor’s degree

- Ph.D. = average of 3 - 4 years
  - Direct entry from Master’s
  - Review of each MS course completed

- Ph.D (continuing from UF Master’s) avg of 3 years

- HWCOE MS & PhD. Areas of Specialization
  https://www.eng.ufl.edu/graduate/prospects/areas-of-specialization/
Ph.D. Admissions

- Fall 2023 Ph.D. Enrollment
- 1,860 Applications
- 443 Admitted (24%)
- 151 Enrolling (34%)
- Averages Cumulative GPA = 3.56
- Waived for ALL Depts for Fall 2023 and Fall 2024
- TOEFL = 80+; IELTS = 6+, GRE Verbal = 140+
Ph.D. Admissions Application

- Office of Admissions, UF CollegeNet Ph.D. Application for Fall 2024
- Domestic Ph.D. Application Fee Waivers for many by College (Mike)
- International Ph.D. Application Fee Waivers for some by Departments
- Priority Deadline of December 5, 2023 for HWCOE
- Online Admissions Application
- Official Transcripts
- Letters of Recommendation (3)
- Statement of Purpose
- GRE WAIVED FOR ALL DEPARTMENTS
- Documents to Admissions, Department, Graduate School
## Ph.D. Application Fee Waiver Consideration

**Deadline of Friday, December 5, 2023**

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<th>Dept</th>
<th>International Students</th>
<th>U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident</th>
<th>Contact for International</th>
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<tr>
<td>BME</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:grad@bme.ufl.edu">grad@bme.ufl.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>CHE</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td><a href="mailto:grad@che.ufl.edu">grad@che.ufl.edu</a></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:gradinfo@essie.ufl.edu">gradinfo@essie.ufl.edu</a></td>
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Waiver Details: [https://www.eng.ufl.edu/graduate/prospects/ph-d-admissions/](https://www.eng.ufl.edu/graduate/prospects/ph-d-admissions/)

Waiver Request: [https://www.eng.ufl.edu/graduate/phdwaiver/](https://www.eng.ufl.edu/graduate/phdwaiver/)

$30 U.S. for UF PhD Admissions Application Fee; one of most economical in U.S.
Statement of Purpose

• Goal of enrolling Ph.D.
• Why do you want to attend that institution?
• Faculty, programs, areas of specialization, facilities, research interests
• Highlight your research, job, computing experience
• Highlight some notable resumes qualifications such as internships, leadership positions, volunteering, community service, mentoring, etc.
• Maximum 1-2 page, less is better, be specific
• Answer specific Department questions in your statement
Letters of Recommendation

• Typically 3 required letters, check institution requirements

• Minimum 2 academic (undergraduate research mentor, faculty who know you well, lab team project mentor, etc.); No family, friends, GSI/TA

• Contact faculty early, schedule an appointment to discuss, provide bullet points, resume, unofficial transcript, state of purpose draft, addressed envelopes, online submissions/formats, deadlines, offer draft, etc.

• Request Strong Letter!

• Send faculty reminders throughout the semester
Cost of Attendance

~$30,000 Annual Tuition

https://www.sfa.ufl.edu/cost/graduate-costs/
Fellowship

• HWCOE Dean’s Recruiting, Research, or Fellowship Award(s)

• 4 -5 Years of Full Funding
  • Tuition
  • GatorGradCare Health Insurance
  • Our best offer is a minimum of a $30,000 annual stipend
  • Faculty, Department, College assist with 5th year of funding, if necessary

• For Ph.D. only, no separate application, included with Admissions Application
Other Fellowships

- Research Assistantship (RA)
- Teaching Assistantship (TA)
- Graduate Assistantship (GA)

- 1 Year of Full Funding
  - Tuition
  - GatorGradCare Health Insurance
  - Annual Living Stipend

- Renewable Annual Based on Satisfactory Performance
McKnight Doctoral Fellowships

- State of Florida Only
- Administered via UF Graduate School
- $26,000 Stipend, Tuition/Fees, 5 Years, Student Health Insurance
- Application Process
- Deadline ~ mid January
Bridge to the Doctorate Fellowship

• Funded by NSF via Florida/Georgia LSAMP

• Administered via UF Graduate School

• $32,000 Stipend, Tuition/Fees, 2 Years, Student Health Insurance

• Application Process
Graduate School/College Top Off Fellowships

- Students with Major External Fellowship Awards
- NSF, NIH, SMART, etc.
- Potential Additional $2,500 a Year, Up to 3-4 Years = $7,500-$10,000
- Faculty and Departments can Award additional $2,500 to $5,000 one time or annual increases
Research Institutes

- Center for Coastal Solutions
- Center for Privacy and Security of Marginalized Populations
- Florida Institute for Cybersecurity Research (FICS)
- Florida Institute for National Security (FINS)
- Florida Semiconductor Institute
- Institute for Computational Engineering (ICE)
- Nanoscience Institute for Medical and Engineering Technology (NIMET)
- University of Florida Transportation Institute (UFTI)
- Warren B. Nelms Institute of the Connected World
Spring Visit

- Feb. 22-25, 2024
- HWCOE Fall 2024 Ph.D. Applicants
- Admitted or Admitted with Fellowship
- Department & Faculty Focuses
- Some College-Wide Events
- Meet Your Ph.D. Cohort
- All Costs Paid by UF (flights/mileage, hotels, meals, events, etc.)
- https://www.eng.ufl.edu/graduate/campus-visits/spring-visit/
Industry Connections

- UF Career Connection Center
- UF Career Showcase Twice Annually
- Largest in Southeast U.S.A. with 600+ Companies
- Companies Recruiting India Students with VISA options
  - Intel, Citrix, Paypal, Oak Ridge National Labs, InfoTech, Fanatics, etc.
- Engineering Departments with Separate Career Fairs
  - BME Industry & Alumni Connect - ISE Career Fair
  - CISE Career Development Workshop - MAE Internship Course
  - ESSIE Evening with Industry - MAE Webinar Industry Insights
BME Industry & Alumni Connect

- Networking directly with industry reps for employment/internships
- Career advice and “insider” knowledge from BME alumni
- Various career paths: industry, academia, government, start-up, etc.
CISE Career Showcase (100+ Companies)
ESSIE Evening with Industry
Housing

On Campus

- The Continuum for Graduate Students or UF Working Professionals

- On-Campus Housing (graduate and family): Corry Village (1-3 bedroom options), Diamond Village (1-2 bedroom options), Tanglewood Village (1-2 bedroom options)

- Applying for Graduate and Family Housing: https://housing.ufl.edu/apply/graduate-and-family-housing-application/
Housing

Off Campus

• Off-Campus Housing:
  • [https://www.swamprentals.com/](https://www.swamprentals.com/)
  • [https://www.apartments.com/gainesville-fl/](https://www.apartments.com/gainesville-fl/)
• Housing Options:
  • The Pavilion
  • The Ridge at Gainesville
  • Cabana Beach Apartments
• Housing Locator: [https://housing.offcampus.ufl.edu/](https://housing.offcampus.ufl.edu/)
• 42 NCAA National Championships

• Top 10 for 32 Straights Years for NCAA Div. 1 National All-Sports Standings

• Ben Hill Griffin Football Stadium seats 88,548

• Exactech Arena seats 12,633

• Southeastern Conference (SEC)
Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Missouri, Kentucky, Vanderbilt, Tennessee, Alabama, Texas A&M, LSU, Mississippi St., Auburn, Mississippi, Arkansas
RecSports

- Intramural Sports
  - [https://recsports.ufl.edu/sports/intramural-sports/sport-offerings/](https://recsports.ufl.edu/sports/intramural-sports/sport-offerings/)
  - Currently offered sports:
    - Ultimate Frisbee
    - Cornhole
    - Pickleball
    - Bowling
    - Flag Football
    - Etc…

- Indoor Gym

- Outdoor/Indoor Activities
Gainesville, FL

- Settled 1854
- Population of 141,341
- Average Annual Temperature of 81 degrees
- 80 minutes to Atlantic Ocean; 60 minutes to Gulf of Mexico
- 2 hours to Tampa or Orlando & 90 minutes to Jacksonville
- Gainesville ranks no. 13 on Money Inc’s 20 Best Places to Live in Florida, December, 2022
- Gainesville ranks no. 11 on BestCollegeReviews.org’s 50 Best College Towns in America, October 2022
Things to do in and near Gainesville
Things to do in and near Gainesville
Ph.D. Prospect Follow Up

Ph.D. Interest & Application Fee Waiver Request
https://www.eng.ufl.edu/graduate/phdwaiver/

Ph.D. Admissions
https://www.eng.ufl.edu/graduate/prospectsph-d-admissions/

Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering
https://www.eng.ufl.edu/
Ph.D. Webinar Slides & Recordings

All Presentation Slides & Recordings Posted Here After Webinar
https://www.eng.ufl.edu/graduate/prospects/virtual-events-webinars/
## HWCOE Graduate Staff Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>HWCOE</th>
<th>Mike</th>
<th>Nazareth</th>
<th><a href="mailto:mikenaz@eng.ufl.edu">mikenaz@eng.ufl.edu</a></th>
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<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>HWCOE</td>
<td>Ashley</td>
<td>Wilson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ashley.wilson@eng.ufl.edu">ashley.wilson@eng.ufl.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>Int. Center</td>
<td>Martine</td>
<td>Angrand</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mangrand@ufic.ufl.edu">mangrand@ufic.ufl.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>ABE</td>
<td>Daphne</td>
<td>Flournoy</td>
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<td>Krista</td>
<td>Smith</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dflournoy@ufl.edu">dflournoy@ufl.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>CHE</td>
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<td>Donalson</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Engineering Graduate Student Contacts

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