UF Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

PhD Prospects Webinar
University of Florida

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

POWERING THE NEW ENGINEER TO TRANSFORM THE FUTURE

Presenters and Contacts

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Current PhD Student Panelists

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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

Dept	Concentrations	MS	Ph.D.	Total
ABE	Agricultural, Biological	10	38	48
BME	Biomedical	61	114	175
CHE	Chemical	60	88	148
CISE	Computer Science, Info Sciences	853	153	1,006
ECE	Electrical, Computer	451	279	730
EED	Engineering Education	n/a	11	11
ESSIE	Civil, Coastal, Environmental	205	123	328
ISE	Industrial, Systems	144	43	187
MAE	Mechanical, Aerospace	324	172	496
MSE	Materials, Nuclear	123	88	211
	Total	**2,231**	**1,109**	**3,340**

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
https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/rankings/national-universities/top-public

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

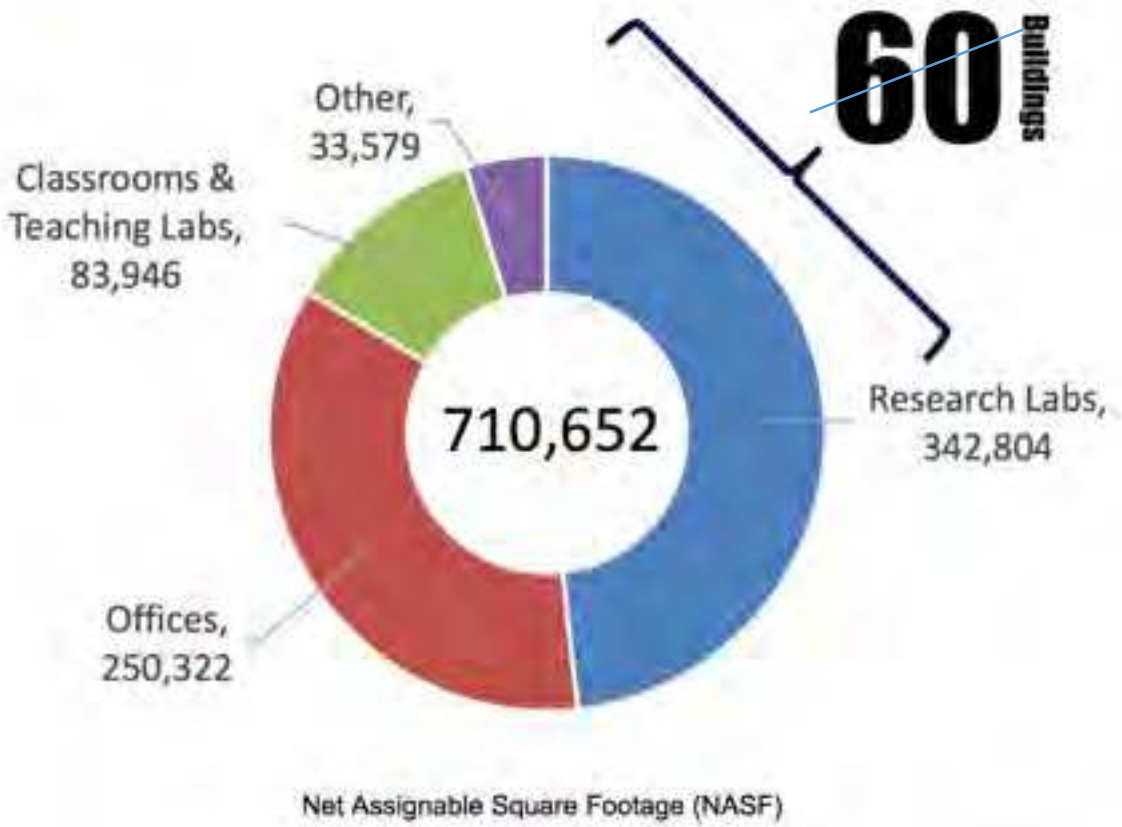
2023 U.S. News & World Report - Best Graduate Schools Rankings
https://www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-engineering-schools

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

NAME	SQ. FT
JOSEPH WEIL HALL	87,282
ENGINEERING	77,728
FREDERICK N RHINES HALL	47,220
COMPUTER SCIENCES/ENGINEERING	44,345
COASTAL ENGINEERING WAVE TANK	39,917
NUCLEAR SCIENCES	37,126
RESEARCH ENGINEERING EDUCATION FACILITY (REEF)	31,052
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING	30,845
NANOSCALE RESEARCH FACILITY	25,775
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES BUILDING	25,519
MATERIALS ENGINEERING	22,971
MECHANICAL & AEROSPACE ENG A	22,492
MECHANICAL & AEROSPACE ENG B	20,480
MECHANICAL & AEROSPACE ENG C	19,729
MERWIN J. LARSEN HALL	19,162
PARTICLE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	18,424
ALVIN P. BLACK HALL	17,608
THE POWELL FAMILY STRUCTURES AND MATERIALS LABORATORY	17,450
JOHN R. BENTON HALL	14,995
CCE FACULTY / STAFF	9,426
NUCLEAR REACTOR	9,393
QUALIFICATION LAB, CTT	8,204
PERCY L. REED LABORATORY	5,511
EARLE B. PHELPS LAB	5,416
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING STUDENT CENTER	5,341
NUCLEAR FIELD BUILDING	5,217
POLYMER RECYCLING BUILDING	4,611
COASTAL ENGINEERING SHOPS	4,197
32 REMAINING BUILDINGS	35,215
TOTAL	710,652



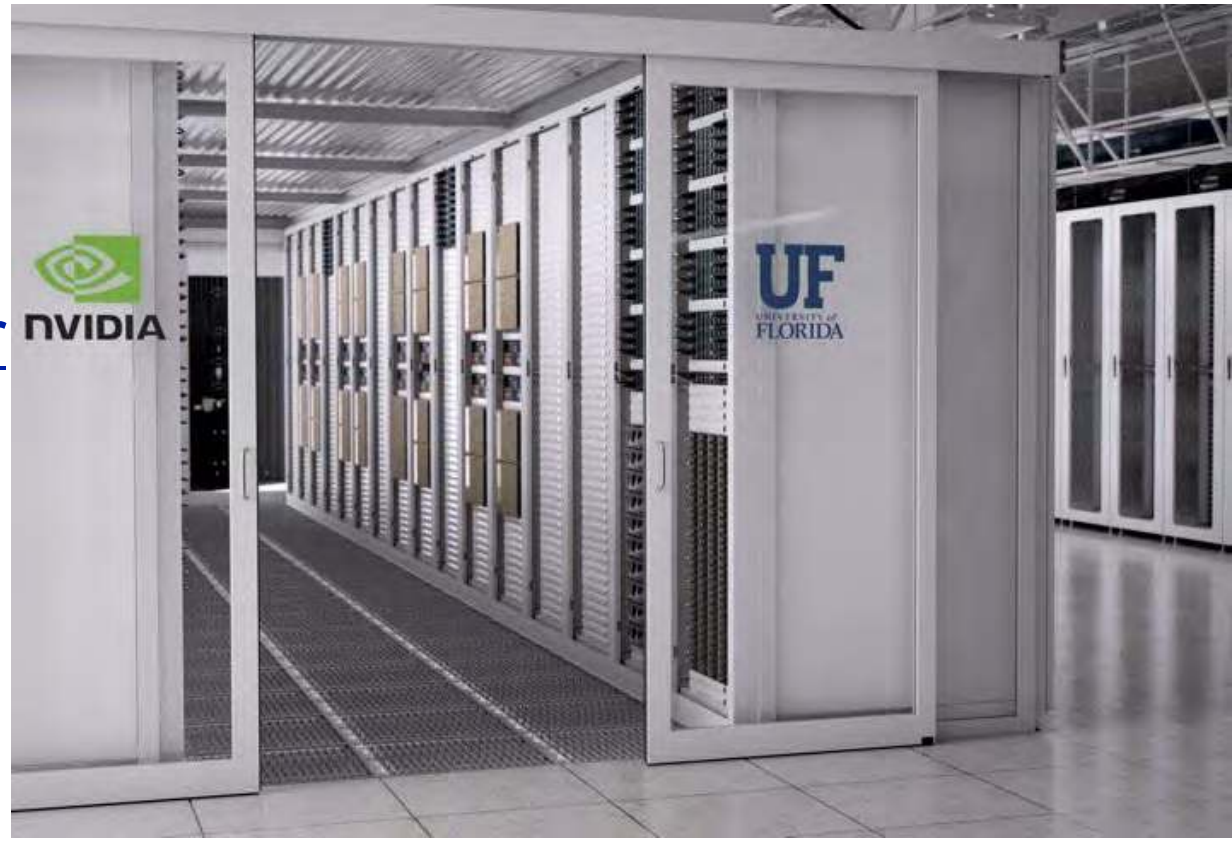
Opened Fall 2020

State-of-the art biotech lab
Prototyping labs
Global teleconferencing lab
Collaboration spaces
Classrooms

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!)

UFIC

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.*

Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status
OMB NO. 1653-0038

SEVIS ID: N00[redacted]

SURNAME/PRIMARY NAME [redacted]
GIVEN NAME [redacted]
PREFERRED NAME [redacted]
PASSPORT NAME
COUNTRY OF BIRTH INDIA
COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP INDIA
CITY OF BIRTH
DATE OF BIRTH [redacted]
FORM ISSUE REASON INITIAL ATTENDANCE
ADMISSION NUMBER [redacted]
Class of Admission F-1 ACADEMIC AND LANGUAGE

SCHOOL INFORMATION
SCHOOL NAME University of Florida
University of Florida
SCHOOL ADDRESS 300 SW 13TH ST, PO Box 113150, GAINESVILLE, FL 32601
SCHOOL OFFICIAL TO CONTACT UPON ARRIVAL Ethel Porras International Student Adviser
SCHOOL CODE AND APPROVAL DATE MIA214F00119000 25 JANUARY 2003

PROGRAM OF STUDY
EDUCATION LEVEL MASTER'S
MAJOR 1 Systems Engineering 14.2701
MAJOR 2 None 00.0000
PROGRAM ENGLISH PROFICIENCY Required
ENGLISH PROFICIENCY NOTES Student is proficient
EARLIEST ADMISSION DATE 24 JULY 2021
START OF CLASSES 23 AUGUST 2021
PROGRAM START/END DATE 23 AUGUST 2021 – 23 AUGUST 2023

FINANCIALS

ESTIMATED AVERAGE COSTS FOR: 12 MONTHS		STUDENT'S FUNDING FOR: 12 MONTHS	
Tuition and Fees	$ 30,130	Personal Funds	$ 0
Living Expenses	$ 20,140	Achievement Award	$ 4,500
Expenses of Dependents (0)	$ 0	Family Funds	$ 45,770
Other	$ 0	On-Campus Employment	$ 0
TOTAL	$ 50,270	TOTAL	$ 50,270

REMARKS
I-20 update due to admission deferral.

SCHOOL ATTESTATION
I certify under penalty of perjury that all information provided above was entered before I signed this form and is true and correct. I executed this form in the United States after review and evaluation in the United States by me or other officials of the school of the student's application, transcripts, or other records of courses taken and proof of financial responsibility, which were received at the school prior to the execution of this form. The school has determined that the above named student's qualifications meet all standards for admission to the school and the student will be required to pursue a full program of study as defined by 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6). I am a designated school official of the above named school and am authorized to issue this form.
X
SIGNATURE OF: Ethel Porras, International Student Adviser
DATE ISSUED 28 August 2020
PLACE ISSUED GAINESVILLE,FL

STUDENT ATTESTATION
I have read and agreed to comply with the terms and conditions of my admission and those of any extension of stay. I certify that all information provided on this form refers specifically to me and is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I certify that I seek to enter or remain in the United States temporarily, and solely for the purpose of pursuing a full program of study at the school named above. I also authorize the named school to release any information from my records needed by DHS pursuant to 8 CFR 214.3(g) to determine my nonimmigrant status. **Parent or guardian, and student, must sign if student is under 18.**
X
SIGNATURE OF [redacted]
DATE
X
NAME OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN | SIGNATURE | ADDRESS (city/state or province/country) | DATE

ICE Form I-20 (04/30/2021) Page 1 of 3

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

UFIC

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 turn-over/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

UFIC

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 Bachler'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

Dept	International Students	U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident	Contact for International
ABE	None Available	Yes	
BME	Yes	Yes	grad@bme.ufl.edu
CHE	Yes	Yes	grad@che.ufl.edu
CISE	None Available	Yes	
ECE	None Available	Yes	
EED	None Available	Yes	
ESSIE	Yes	Yes	gradinfo@essie.ufl.edu
ISE	Yes	Yes	isegradapps@ise.ufl.edu
MAE	Yes	Yes	gradadmissions@mae.ufl.edu
MSE	Yes	Yes	grad-admissions@mse.ufl.edu

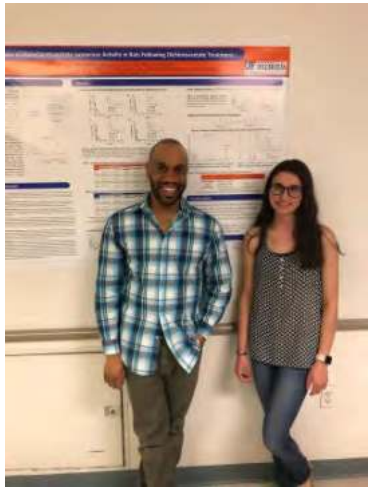
Waiver Details: *https://www.eng.ufl.edu/graduate/prospects/ph-d-admissions/*
Waiver Request: *https://www.eng.ufl.edu/graduate/phdwaiver/*
$30 U.S. for UF PhD Admissions Application Fee; one of most economical in U.S.

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/

Institution	Rank	Tuition	City
University of Florida	1	$30,138	Gainesville, FL
Georgia Institute of Technology	2	$32,876	Atlanta, GA
Univeristy of North Carolina	3	$39,338	Chapel Hill, NC
Unijversity of Texas at Austin	4	$41,070	Austin, TX
University of California Davis	5	$46,043	Davis, CA
University of California Irvine	6	$47,759	Irvine, CA
University of California Los Angeles	7	$46,326	Los Angeles, CA
University of California Berkeley	8	$48,465	Berkeley, CA
University of California San Diego	9	$48,630	San Diego, CA
University of Michigan	10	$57,273	Ann Arbor, MI
Univeristy of Virginia	11	$58,950	Charlottesville, VA
Out of State Tutition			
https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/rankings/national-universities/top-public			

Institution	Rank	City	Cost of Living
University of Florida	1	Gainesville, FL	90
National Average Cost of Living Index for U.S. A. Cities = 100			
Univeristy of Virginia	2	Charlottesville, VA	107
Georgia Institute of Technology		Atlanta, GA	109
University of Michigan	3	Ann Arbor, MI	111
Univeristy of North Carolina	4	Chapel Hill, NC	116
University of Texas	5	Austin, TX	129
University of California Davis	6	Davis, CA	154
University of California San Diego	7	San Diego, CA	160
University of California Los Angeles	8	Los Angeles, CA	176
University of California Irvine	9	Irvine, CA	181
University of California Berkeley	11	Berkeley, CA	238
National Average Cost of Living = 100			
https://www.bestplaces.net/cost-of-living/			

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

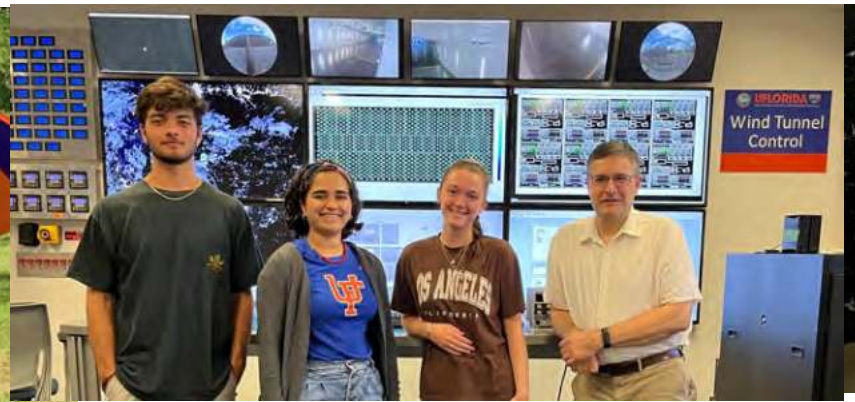
- State of Florida Only
- Administered via UF Graduate School
- $26,000 Stipend, Tuition/Fees, 5 Years, Student Health Insurance
- Application Process
- Deadline ~ mid January

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

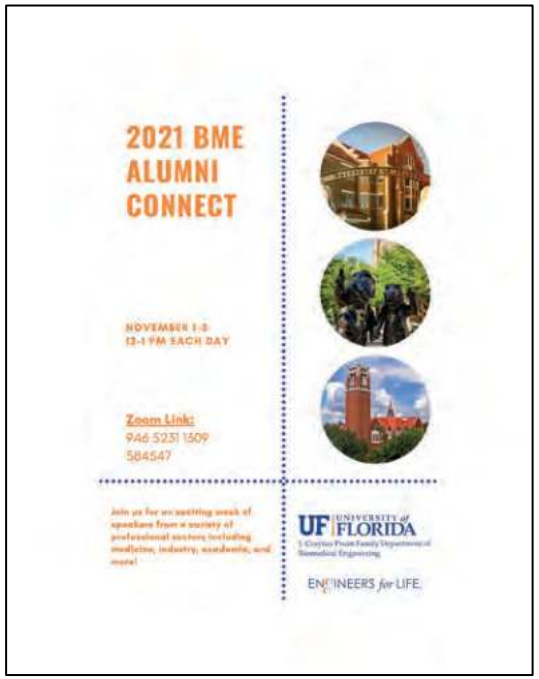
- Feb. 22-25, 2024
- HWCOE Fall 2024 Ph.D. Applicants
- Admitted or Admitted with Fellowship
- Department & Faculty Focuses
- Some College-Wide Events
- Meet Your Ph.D. Cohort
- All Costs Paid by UF (flights/mileage, hotels, meals, events, etc.)
- https://www.eng.ufl.edu/graduate/campus-visits/spring-visit/

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
  - CISE Career Development Workshop
  - ESSIE Evening with Industry
  - ISE Career Fair
  - MAE Internship Course
  - 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)

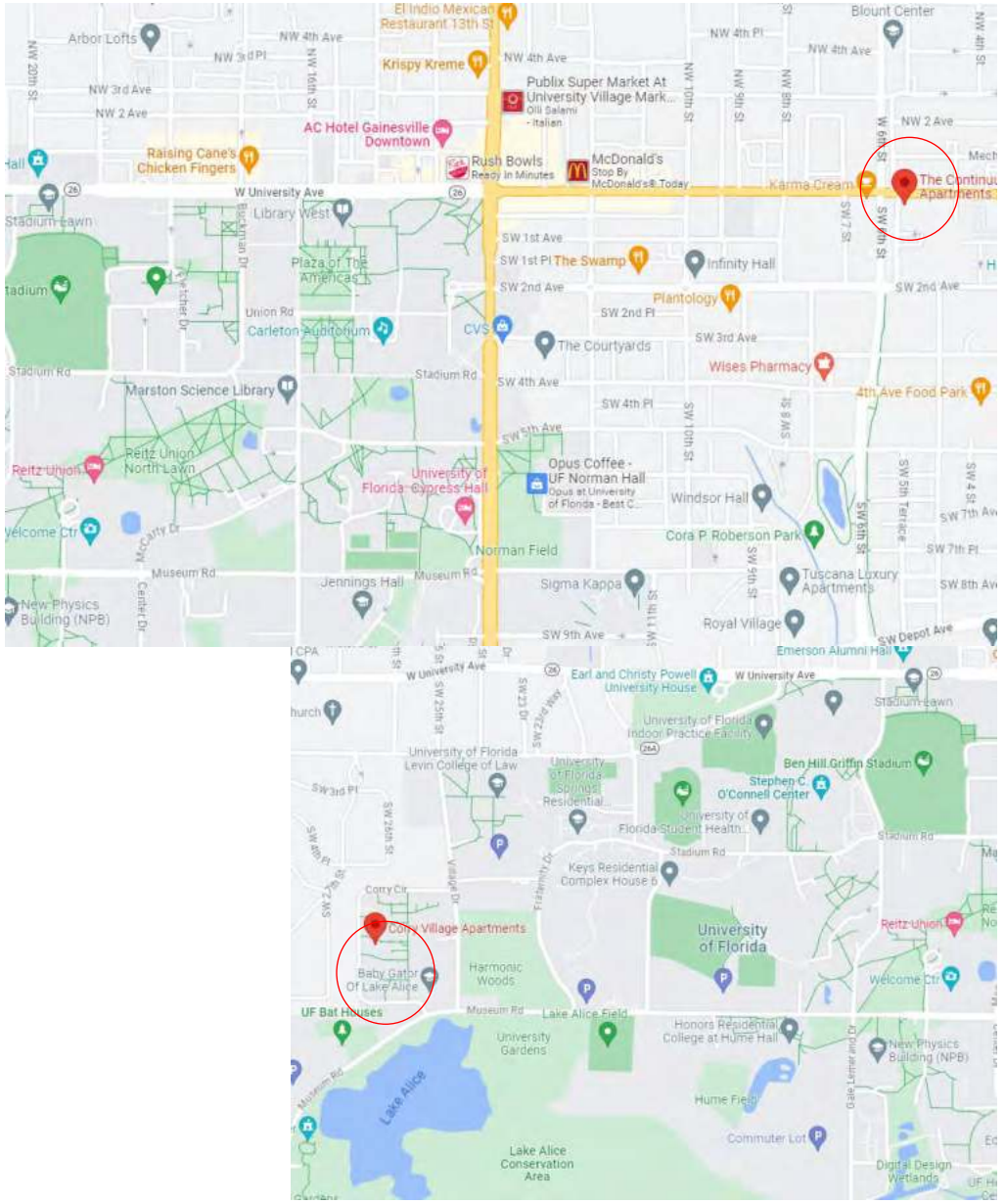
ESSIE Evening with Industry

ISE Career Fair

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/

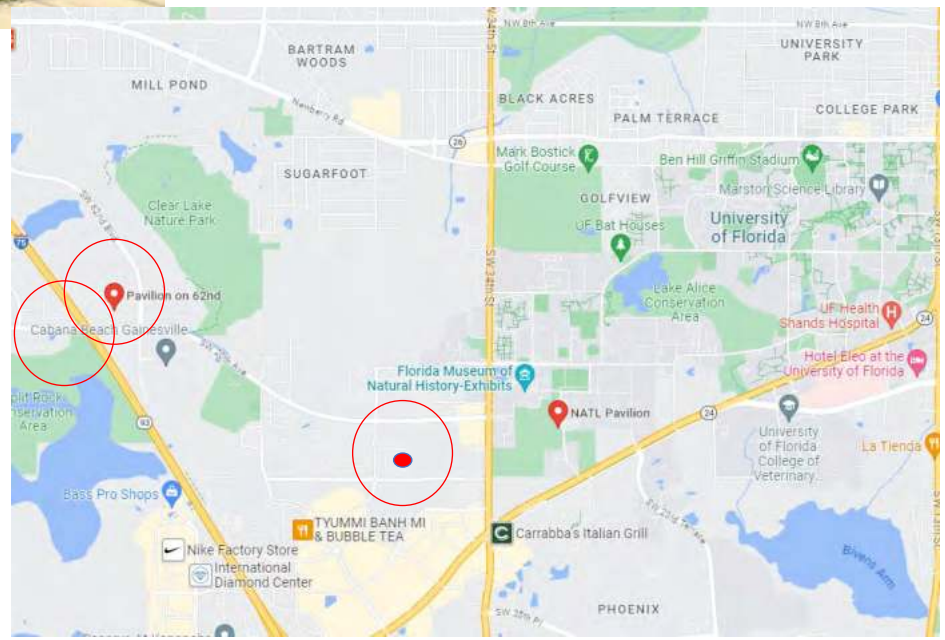


Off Campus

- Off-Campus Housing:
  - https://www.swamprentals.com/
  - https://www.apartments.com/gainesville-fl/
  - Housing Options:
    - The Pavilion
    - The Ridge at Gainesville
    - Cabana Beach Apartments
    - Housing Locator: https://housing.offcampus.ufl.edu/

Cabana Beach

The Ridge at Gainesville



Gators

- 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/
  - 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

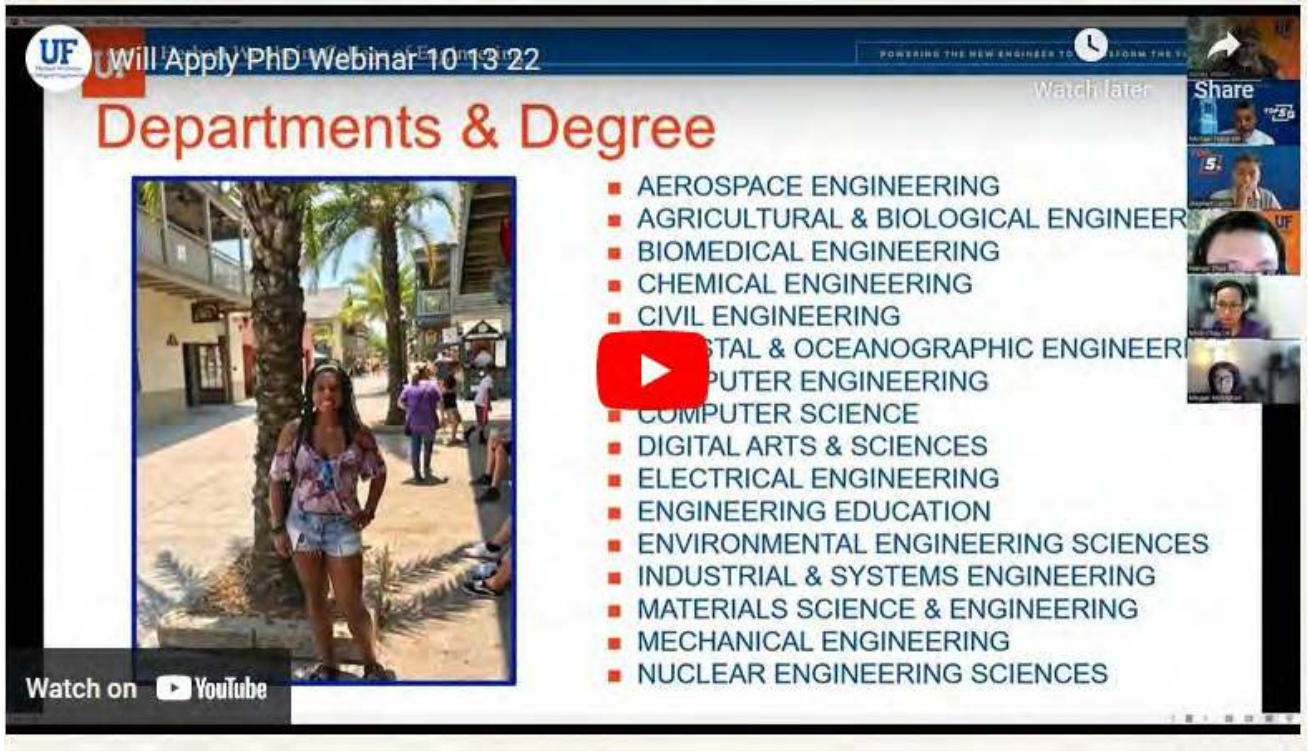
Ph.D. Interest & Application Fee Waiver Request
https://www.eng.ufl.edu/graduate/phdwaiver/

Ph.D. Admissions
https://www.eng.ufl.edu/graduate/prospects/ph-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/



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