

UW Genetics Graduate Program – Information for Prospective Trainers

Updated September, 2016

Thank you for your inquiry about being a trainer in the Genetics graduate program. Below you will find a brief overview of the program, benefits of being a trainer, expectations of trainers, and details on how to apply.

The program includes about 8-12 entering students each fall and a faculty pool of over 80 trainers from many different campus departments. The Genetics program is supported by an NIH training grant. Domestic students and permanent residents are awarded two years of NIH funding (in their first year and during a second year of training, typically in Year 2 or 3).

Our program distinguishes itself from other graduate programs on campus by its emphasis on genetic analysis. Our students are committed to genetics and choose to come here because of the strong genetics focus among our training faculty. Therefore, we seek trainers who can provide strong genetics training to our students. We define "Genetics" quite broadly, but also rigorously. Our training faculty emphasize the methods and logic of genetic and genomic analyses. This strong focus distinguishes us from other graduate programs and has kept a NIH Training Grant in Genetics funded for over 40 years.

What are the benefits of being a trainer?

1. The ability to train top-notch Genetics graduate students.
2. Two years of training grant support for eligible (domestic) Genetics graduate students in year 1 and 2/3/4. Note Trainers are responsible for ensuring student funding for all other years; *the Genetics program does not have funds to cover students outside the training grant years.*

What would be required of you as a trainer?

1. Specify current lab funding status and a funding plan for each student that you choose to train.
2. Serve on Genetics thesis advisory committees. Each student needs five members including at least three Genetics trainers per committee.
3. Attend Genetics Colloquium (3:30 pm Wednesdays) on a reasonably regular basis; attend summer Student Colloquia (3:30 pm Wednesdays) for students whose committees you serve on.
4. Participate in the Genetics Program recruiting season (January and February).
5. Serve on program committees by invitation.
6. Submit a question for the annual take-home prelim exam required of our second year students.
7. Submit a written renewal application every 5 years.

An application for appointment as a trainer requires four things:

1. A current NIH biosketch.
2. A 1-2 page statement of research interests.
3. A ~ 1 page description of thesis projects that you think would be appropriate for a Genetics grad student (as opposed to students in other graduate programs).
4. A seminar to the genetics community, which usually occurs as part of our regular Wednesday afternoon Colloquium series at 3:30 pm during fall and spring semesters.

The Graduate Program Committee then reviews and makes a recommendation to the full Genetics faculty, who vote on the application. Faculty votes are scheduled once per semester.

If you would like to be considered as a trainer, please send the above items to Martha Reck (mreck2@wisc.edu) and we will follow-up to provide a timeline and discuss the scheduling of your seminar.

I hope this answers most of your questions, but do let me know if you have additional questions.

Best regards,
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Director of the UW Genetics Graduate Program