Admissions to the Physics PhD Program

Application Submission Deadline

ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS MUST BE RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY BY JANUARY 7TH (January 5th deadline extended to January 7, 2019) TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ADMISSION FOR THE FOLLOWING AUTUMN QUARTER

Applicants can track their status via the online application and are responsible for ensuring that all items arrive by the deadline.

Applications are accepted for the AUTUMN QUARTER ONLY.

JANUARY 7 DEADLINE – We advise applicants to start the online application process by early December.

We accept late applications from students affected by recent major natural disasters (e.g. Hurricane disruption in Puerto Rico, the Caribbean and Coastal states, earthquake in Mexico City). Contact the UW Physics department graduate advisor (cuala@uw.edu) if your application will be late.

Admission Requirements

Students entering the doctoral program are expected to have a strong undergraduate preparation in physics. Courses in electricity and magnetism, optics, mechanics, atomic and nuclear physics, statistical physics, quantum mechanics, mathematical physics, differential equations, and analysis are essential. Any deficiency in these areas may delay degree completion by as much as a year. (Students are expected to make up any deficiencies during the first year of graduate study.)

The Graduate Admissions Committee reviews all submitted applications and takes a holistic approach taking into account all aspects presented in the application materials.

A few approximate averages for recent years.

- Average size of entering class: 25
- Average number of Students offered admission: 100
- Average number of Student applications: 600
- Average total PhD student population: 145
- Average gender diversity: 23%
- Average time to PhD: 6.2 years
- Average retention rate: 80%

Application Materials

Following is a list of all application materials required. The online application process provides more details. In Physics we do not
require an additional application for teaching or research assistantships; all applicants are automatically considered for such positions.

- Electronic Application and fee (see link at bottom of this page)
- Resume or curriculum vitae: including current position or activities, professional experience, honors awarded or scholarships, special skills, publications and research presentations.
- Statement of Purpose: one page (200 to 300 words) stating academic purpose and goals.
- Personal History Statement (Optional): describing how experiences within your personal history (family, educational, cultural, and economic background) have influenced your intellectual development, interests, career plans, and goals. Responses should be no more than two pages in length.
- Three letters of recommendation: Submit recommender email addresses into the electronic application form at least one month ahead of the deadline in order to give recommenders sufficient time to submit letters.
- Transcripts (Unofficial): From all prior relevant undergraduate and graduate institutions attended. Admitted applicants must provide official transcripts.
- GRE and Advanced Physics Subject Test Scores: (Request that ETS send to University of Washington, institution code 4854). Scores must be received within five years of the test date.

Additional Criteria for INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- TOEFL official test scores must be sent by ETS directly to the University of Washington and must be received by the University of Washington within two years of the test date. TOEFL test takers should consult the Educational Testing Service. Scores should be sent to the University of Washington, institution code 4854. Refer to Understanding the Application Process for additional information.
- Teaching Assistant Eligibility - See Memo #15 for details.

Please email inquiries to the Physics graduate advisor, Catherine Provost or the faculty graduate admission coordinator, Prof. Xiaodong Xu.

For additional information about graduate study at the University of Washington, please visit the Graduate School Home Page.

The University of Washington reaffirms its policy of equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or Vietnam era veteran in accordance with University policy and applicable federal and state statutes and regulations.

Department of Physics
University of Washington
Physics-Astronomy Building, Rm. C121
Box 351560
Seattle, WA 98195-1560

Phone: (206) 543-2770
Fax: (206) 685-0635
physrecep@uw.edu