



ISSUE NO. 6, MAY 2023



GRADUATE STUDIES NEWSLETTER

Dean's Message

I love springtime and the feeling of renewal that comes with new growth of plants and warmer weather. It's also that exciting time of the year when many of our students graduate. This April we had 616 master's and 19 doctoral students graduate from BYU. What a magnificent accomplishment for all these individuals! I extend my hearty congratulations to our graduates, along with my deep gratitude to you for your work in making that possible.

Over the years I have had the good fortune of working with many graduate students in my research group. One of my doctoral students defended his dissertation in late April and subsequently moved across the country to start working at a new job. His story is like that of most of this year's graduates: he came to campus not that many years ago and persisted through challenges and trials, including the COVID-19 pandemic. I personally watched his knowledge, skill and expertise grow as he delved into scholarly work and developed into a scientist and colleague.

Now he has moved on to an excellent job; he's not doing exactly the same research he did for his doctoral work, but what he learned during his graduate education will help him to thrive in his career and also represent BYU well. A similar story could be told for each of our graduates.

One thing that we at Graduate Studies are excited for this summer is our first annual Graduate Studies Summit. This will be a half-day event on June 14 where BYU personnel with graduate responsibilities will have the opportunity to gather, network, and learn about best practices in supporting our graduate students in their various programs. I look forward to meeting with you next month.

I am grateful for your diligent work in support of our graduate students.

Best regards,

Adam T. Woolley
Dean of Graduate Studies



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Updates

New Email Requirements

Starting May 10, students will be required to use their BYU email address (netid@byu.edu).

Emails to students will need to use those addresses. For additional information & FAQ's visit <https://microsoft.byu.edu/email>

Graduate Studies Summit

Wednesday, June 14
8:30a-2:00p, WSC

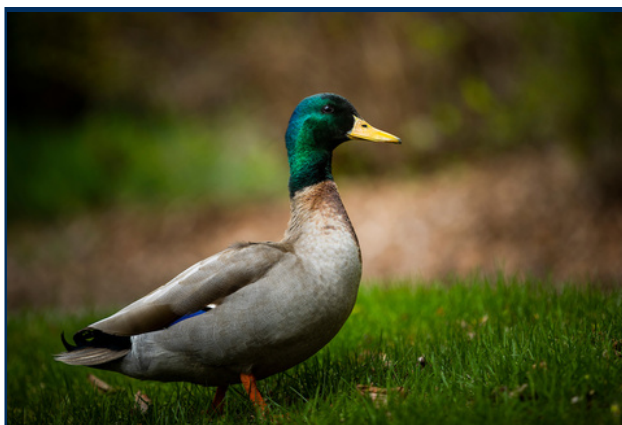
Graduate Coordinators & Program Managers, please join us at our first Graduate Studies Summit for a day of inspiration, education, and teambuilding.

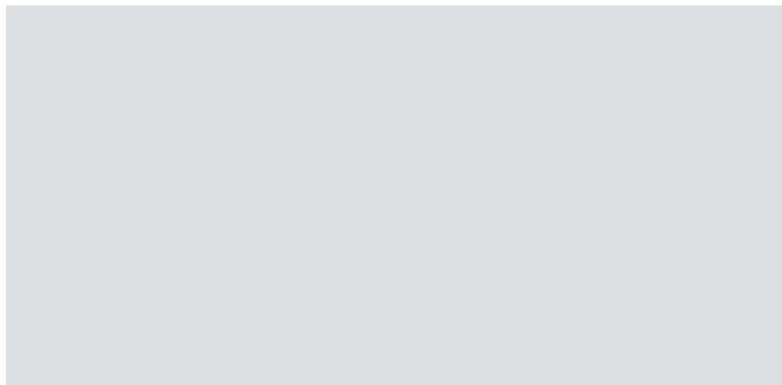
The Summit will include:

- Continental breakfast
- Special guest speakers (TBA)
- Breakout sessions
- Catered lunch

[Registration link](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/graduate-studies-summit-tickets-611311869257)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/graduate-studies-summit-tickets-611311869257>





Resources



Graduate Studies Student Academic Grievance Policy

Graduate Studies will consider graduate student academic grievances if the matter involves termination of a graduate program and is not resolved to the graduate student's satisfaction at the department and college levels. The student may submit a written request for review to the dean of Graduate Studies which should contain an outline of the grievance and its disposition and set forth facts supporting the student's request for review. The request for review must be made within 30 days of the date of the written decision by the dean or director. The dean of Graduate Studies will convene a formal administrative review of relevant matters that have not been resolved at the department or college level. Following the review, the dean of Graduate Studies will make the final determination. The Graduate Studies Student Grievance Policy is in alignment with the [University Student Grievance Policy](#).

Additional details regarding the Graduate Studies Student Academic Grievance review process may be found in the [Graduate Studies Handbook, Chapter 14, pp. 56-58](#)



Slate Resources

[Faculty and Staff Resources/Slate Tutorials](#)

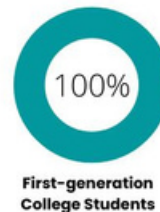
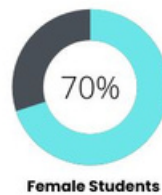
[Faculty and Staff Resources/Workshops](#)



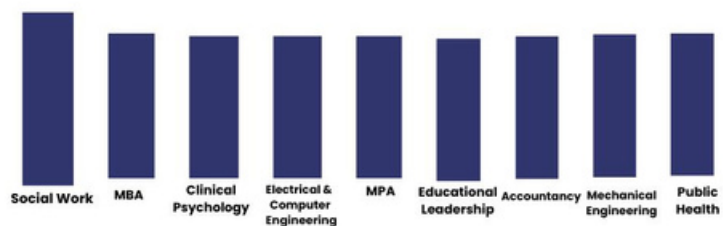
2023-2024 Belonging Fellowships

GRADUATE STUDIES BELONGING FELLOWSHIPS

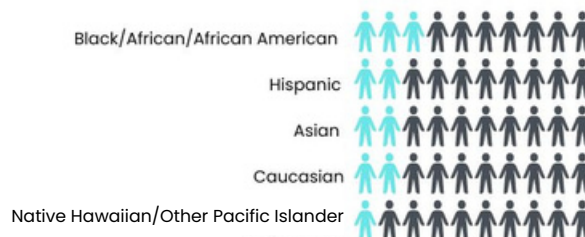
10 2023-2024 awardees



9 Programs of Study



Racial Diversity



80%

International Students from 8 countries



Admissions Deadlines

Applications deadlines are dynamic to each graduate department's respective published program deadlines and applicants are prevented from submitting their application online once the deadline has passed. Departments who wish to consider applicants past their own published program deadlines must submit a petition to Graduate Studies clearly justifying the exception and must be able to defend the reason for the exception if challenged by a late applicant who was denied.

All Fall 2023 admissions decisions must be entered by August 15, 2023, at the latest.

BYU Graduate Studies

Admissions

ADMISSIONS TIPS

Earlier Start Date

Any applicants who request to move their admit term to an earlier start date will be accommodated with an online petition for exception which must be initiated by their graduate department/program. Any subsequent petition to move them back to their original admit term will incur a \$500 fee.

Minimum Credits Spring/Summer

Applicants who start Spring or Summer term must register for the minimum required amount of graduate-level credits (they cannot be undergraduate-level classes). Domestic = 2 credit hours/International 4.5 credit hours. Failure to register and pay for the appropriate amount of credits will result in termination from the program after the add/drop deadline. Please ensure that your students are properly informed about these registration requirements, this is especially critical for international students as they will be subject to removal from the U.S. if they are terminated from their program.

On Campus Employment

All domestic applicants (and international applicants currently residing in the U.S. on a valid unexpired visa), who are admitted for Fall are eligible for on-campus employment during Spring/Summer. Students should not request to start in Spring/Summer just to work on campus if they do not also intend to be enrolled and pay for the minimum required amount of graduate-level courses. Again, this is critical for international students.



SLATE TIPS

Conditional v. Provisional Admits

Conditional Admits

Should be used to facilitate any set of conditions to address any applicant deficiencies the department wishes the applicant to address BEFORE they are fully admitted to the university. Eg. Entrance exam, English proficiency, foreign credential evaluation, etc.

- Note: Graduate Studies will manage and clear the foreign credential evaluation only, ALL other conditions must be managed by the respective graduate program.
- Failure to satisfy the conditions is grounds for being denied admission to the university and having the conditional offer of admission revoked.

Provisional Admits

- Provisional admit recommendation should be used to facilitate a set of conditions to address any applicant deficiencies the department wishes the applicant to address DURING their graduate program. The applicant is fully admitted to the university as a graduate student using this recommendation but their continued status is contingent on them satisfying the condition.
- The conditions are solely managed by the graduate department, not Graduate Studies.
- Failure to satisfy the conditions is grounds for termination from the program.

Both recommendations should clearly articulate what the conditions are and when they need to be completed with a clear deadline.

Advisement

Graduate Student Evaluations

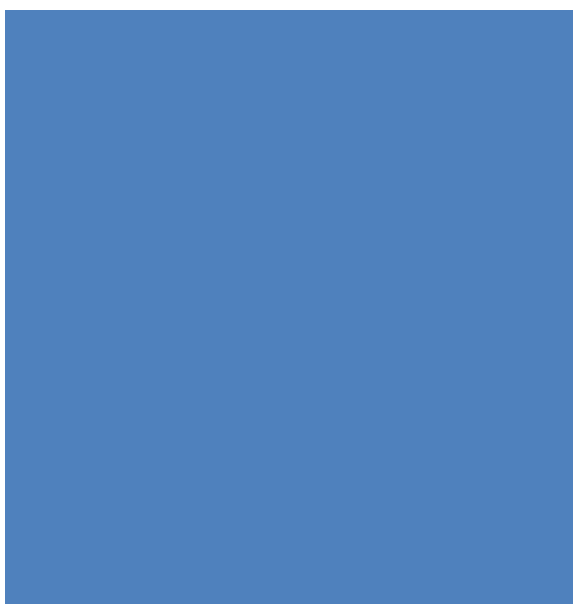
Two evaluations need to be completed for each of your graduate students for the 2022-2023 Academic Year.

Evaluations are due September 30, 2023, but it's good to stay on top of the evaluations during spring/summer if possible so you don't need to worry about it at the beginning of Fall semester.

Please note these evaluations are very important in letting the students know how they are doing in your program; simply giving them a satisfactory evaluation is not helpful or beneficial to the student, especially if they are struggling with their coursework, thesis, or dissertation. As a reminder, it is helpful to define what constitutes a student who is making satisfactory progress in the [Graduate Studies Policy Handbook](#) (see pp. 25-28, *Evaluations of Student Progress*). Similarly, definitions should be included for marginal and unsatisfactory progress.

Graduate students should be contacted via a letter (email) each time an evaluation is made to let them know how they are doing in your program so they are not caught off guard if they receive a negative evaluation. Effective communication is key to avoiding a student grievance and very important to a grievance committee if a grievance is filed (see [University Student Grievance Policy](#)).

Thank you so much for all you do for your graduate students; it means more to the students than you know!



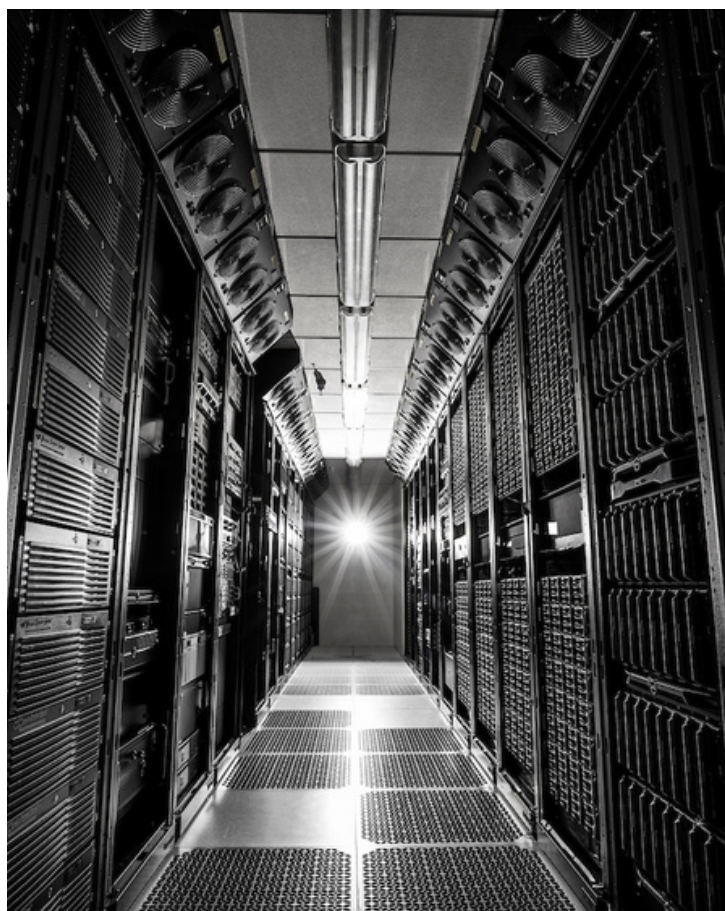
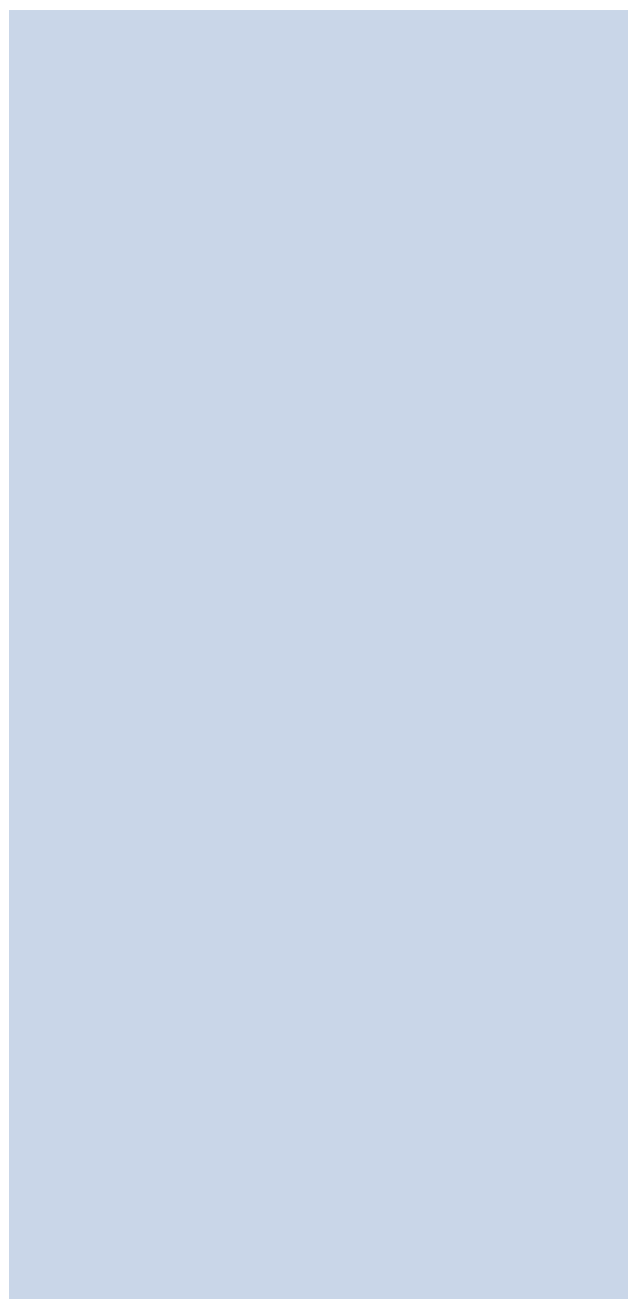
Data Notes

New Tableau Dashboards

Our data team is scheduling meetings with every department to orient them on our newly created Tableau dashboards. These dashboards display graduate student statistics that are useful in making data driven decisions. This data includes:

- Application, admissions, and enrollment statistics
- Diversity statistics
- Average application test scores and GPAs
- Undergraduate programs and locations
- Enrollment counts
- Graduation and degree statistics

We hope to visit each department by the end of the year. If you would like our team to meet with you earlier, please contact Leslie Toone, Data Analyst, at leslie_toone@byu.edu, (422-7396)



Slate Helps

Slate Reports/Queries



There are five main Slate reports (queries) to choose from that will help you gather the data you need to identify applicants and make informed decisions:

- **Decisions** – University admit – [Department Name]
- **GS01** – [Department Name]
- **GS01** – [Department Name] (INACTIVE)
- **[Department]** – Prospect Export (no opt-outs)
- **Slate Access Report** – [Department Name]

DECISIONS: “Decisions – University admit – [Department Name]” may be considered the most important of the five reports because it identifies the applicants that you have placed an ADMIT decision on. It informs you that the applicant has either ACCEPTED the offer of admission or has DECLINED the offer. Another vital use of this report identifies individuals that you should contact if they have not responded to the offer.

GS01: “GS01 – [Department Name]” was named after a past AIM report with the same name. This report attempts to mimic that report as closely as possible in Slate by providing a comprehensive data set related to the applicant. Some of the fields in this report include:

- Name, BYU Net Id, Email, Sex, Religion, Endorsement, Citizenship Status, Program, Research Interest, Application Created and Submitted Dates, Bin, Decisions Dates, GPA, and other vital test score data elements and more.

This report only displays data for applicants in the current round. A round in Slate equals the ACTIVE APPLICATION PERIOD.



GS01 (INACTIVE): “GS01 – [Department Name] (INACTIVE)” is a duplicate of the previous report except that this includes all applicants that have applied to the program in all rounds. You can use this report to display applicant data for every applicant in the system in all rounds or application periods.

PROSPECTS: “[Department] – Prospect Export (no opt-outs)” reveals all the prospects that have expressed an interest in your program. These prospects usually select the "Request Information" option on the Graduate Studies webpage (under Programs tab> Programs> click on program to view details). Individuals that Graduate Studies have personally met at recruiting fairs are also inserted into this report.

SLATE ACCESS: “Slate Access Report – [Department Name]” displays what persons have access to Slate. This report should be used often to audit the Slate users in determining who needs access and what users should be removed. This function displays Readers, Coordinators, Program Managers, and others who have access to see applications.

The Slate application system has an extensive query and report library that can help you acquire the information you need to construct the vital insights needed to perform your tasks.

Kaha Nui Panel Discussion

Winter 2023



This past winter, Graduate Studies held our first Kaha Nui Panel Discussion which featured several panel members comprised of current Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander (NHPI) graduate students, as well as faculty and university administrators, who volunteered their time to share their personal insights and perspectives and to answer questions from current BYU undergraduate students who are considering graduate school. This year's event was supported by BYU Athletics and held in the Student Athletic Academic Building where attendees were able to spend an hour with the panelists asking questions in a more intimate setting followed by light refreshments at the conclusion of the panel discussion.

One of the panelists, Grace Taito Tora, who is originally from Fiji and is currently completing her Master's in the Teacher Education program at the McKay School of Education commented that "it gave us an opportunity to share what grad school is really about, the fun thing and things that are hard like time management and the need to put ourselves out there to get in contact with mentors and internship possibilities and opportunities". When asked what was the most important take away from the event she responded "seeing the community that you can have in grad school and that there is support whether it be from family or from the program you are in, it was nice to see various professors there and the support that they show for students in their program".

Graduate Studies hopes to be able to grow and expand both the Kaha Nui Summit which features a mini graduate school fair and keynote dinner and has typically been held in fall along with the Kaha Nui Panel Discussion, which will be held in winter, to include more prospective students from our undergraduate student population and will be actively looking for additional support and/or sponsors to promote both these events. **If you or your department would like to participate and/or support/sponsor any of these events please reach out to Logan Gillette at logan_gillette@byu.edu.**

University 3 Minute Thesis Competition

March 15, 2023

University 3MT Competition Semi-finalists



L to R: Dean Adam Woolley, Jennifer Canizales (Physical & Mathematical Sciences), Robert Kemsley (Nursing), Melanie Blauer (Education), Reed Dickson (Marriott School of Business), Mitchell West (Religious Education), Alexandra Butterfield (Humanities), Rachel Okamoto (Family, Home, and Social Sciences), Mayra Hernandez Sanchez (Life Sciences), Daniel Free (Engineering), Erin Cranor (Law), Abbie Speed (Fine Arts and Communications) (\$250 each)

University 3MT Competition Finalists

Mayra Hernandez Sanchez

Life Sciences

The Effect of Potatoes on Vegetable Consumption in School-Aged Children

1st place winner (\$2000)

Melanie Blauer

Education

The Effects and Reversibility of Inhaled Corticosteroids on Phonation Threshold Pressure and Phonation Threshold Flow in Ex-Vivo Rabbit Larynges

2nd place winner (\$1500)

Abbie Speed

Fine Arts and Communications

MMORPG Addiction

3rd place winner (\$1000) and
Presenter's Choice (\$500)



Graduate Student Appreciation Week

April 10-14, 2023

How did departments and colleges recognize their graduate students this year?

To accommodate students' schedules, we gave out individually boxed Crumbl cookies with a handwritten note from their main faculty advisor. I loved that each student received a personalized note of appreciation from their faculty advisor and that the students didn't have to try to fit another event in such a busy time into their schedules.

Nutrition, Dietetics, and Food Science

Since the day designated for college appreciation fell on the same day that we did our FHSS Fulton Student Mentored Research Conference, we had graduate students come to a desk in front of the poster displays in the Wilkinson Center Ballroom and pick up a small gift of appreciation from the college (and they could also go see the posters at the conference). They all received a candy bar and a sticker or button that says, "Trust me, I'm a Social Scientist." The first 50 graduate students received a certificate for ½ gallons of ice cream at the Creamery. We had a great turnout and gave away all that we had prepared (75 in total).

College of Family, Home, and Social Sciences

We held a luncheon for all our graduate students.

Mathematics Education



Our grad students are spread out around Utah and Salt Lake Counties, and we hold many of our classes off-campus. That makes it hard to gather, so, we just make a little something for them. This year we got them a pad of sticky notes with our department logo, and taped a card to the top, and then included a mini tub of BYU fudge. They all loved it!

Educational Leadership & Foundations

This year, our grad students received some swag and had a chance to spin a wheel for a prize (gift card, candy bar, or other snack items). Last year we bought lunch for them and also set up a brownie sundae bar.

Clinical Psychology

We had a chips & salsa and chocolate fountain event for our MA students. It was very fun!

Linguistics



Graduate Student Appreciation Week Ideas Continued

We decorated our gathering area with some simple decorations and signs of appreciation and had a little something planned for every day.

Activities included: an open house for the graduate students in the college with food and visiting, chips and salsa, and snacks after the devotional for grad students and faculty, soup and special desserts for lunch one day, breakfast during a few hours one morning, and lunch at the Cannon Center with some of our faculty.

We had a great time being together.

[IP&T](#)

We did treats in the grad student lounges the Monday of Grad Student Appreciation Week, with thank you cards from the deans.

The individual grad programs also did small recognitions for their students with treats.

[Marriott School of Business](#)

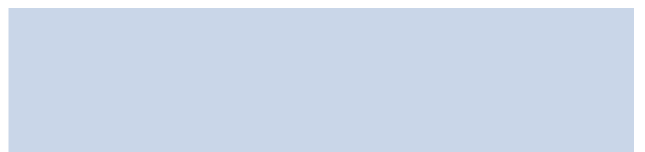
We had an ice cream party with games (Mario Kart, giant checkers, foosball, & Spikeball) to celebrate our graduate students.

[Electrical & Computer Engineering](#)



This year the Statistics Department went bowling for Graduate Student Appreciation Week! We ordered pizza and reserved the whole bowling alley at the Wilk. We had a great turnout of graduate students, faculty, and their families who joined us and enjoyed a night of bowling together. Almost every lane was full! It was wonderful to see their smiling faces and see how much fun they had together.

[Statistics](#)





Graduate Student Society

Thank you, 2022-2023 Graduate Student Society (GSS) Leadership!

We appreciate the time & service of the 2022-2023 GSS leadership & college delegates: Kabir Rajput, Spring Cullen, Jenna Cook, Jennie Jasperson; Mishelle Kehoe, Adriannah Metta, Lucas Lundy, Jessica Yauney, Dayna Kirby, Kiana Schlenker, Jenna Sousa, Jesus Mata, Matthew Johnson, Sierra Nichols, Sunnie Nield, Warda Usman, & Brenda Armstrong.

2023-2024 Graduate Student Society Leadership



Jennie Jasperson

GSS President

Sacramento, CA

Marriage, Family, & Human
Development MS student
studying parental socialization of
economic & racial inequality



Carson Dover

Vice President of Operations

Centerville, UT

Marriage, Family, & Human
Development MS student studying
romantic relationships & sexual
behaviors in emerging adults



Haylie June

Vice President of Events

Racine, WA

Sociology MS student studying
motherhood, student parents, first-gen
college students & rural communities



Warda Usman

Vice President of Engagement

Islamabad, Pakistan

Computer Science PhD student
researching computer systems
designs & mechanisms that result
in improved privacy & security

Upcoming Events



Graduate Studies Summit

Wednesday, June 14

8:30a-2:00p

3220/22/24 WSC

Graduate Coordinators &
Program Managers

Registration now open

Graduate Student Events

Thursday, September 7
An Evening for New Graduate Students

6:00p, WSC Ballroom

for all graduate students admitted in 2023
(winter, spring/summer, fall)

Thursday, September 14
Meet the Dean

11:00-1:00, FPH lawn

for all graduate students admitted in 2023 (winter,
spring/summer, fall)

Thursday, October 19
Fall Professional Development Seminar
11:00-2:00, WSC Varsity Theatre

Thursday, November 16
Women's Forum
6:00-8:00, Hinckley Center Assembly Hall

Graduate Studies University Conference Workshop

Tuesday, August 29

1:00 p.m.

251 TNRB

Graduate Associate
Deans, Department
Chairs, Coordinators, &
Program Managers



Graduate Studies Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging Statement



BYU
Graduate
Studies

Former Presidents' Home
Provo, UT, 84602

801-422-5091

gradstudies@byu.edu

gradstudies.byu.edu

Graduate Studies seeks to nurture a community grounded in unity, mutual respect, and charity toward all. We strive to support graduate programs at Brigham Young University in the following ways:

1. We will develop policies and procedures that promote the recruitment, admission, retention, and support of all current and eligible prospective graduate students including students of color, women, and other underrepresented groups.
2. We strive to support an environment where multiple perspectives are shared, challenged, and valued for optimal learning so graduate students may become sensitive citizens and ambassadors, informed and aware of both diversity and culture, helping to make our BYU community and the broader communities in which they live more just, unified, and inclusive.
3. We will partner with BYU faculty, staff, and administration to foster an environment of inclusivity in all graduate programs where individuals of diverse backgrounds can succeed together in fulfilling BYU's aims and mission.
4. We will support graduate programs in mentoring and advancing graduate faculty of color, women graduate faculty, and graduate faculty from other underrepresented groups, encouraging diverse perspectives and contributions to enhance the graduate education experience.
5. Graduate Studies will annually assess for accountability by measuring outcomes from year to year regarding our stated aspirations and/or university guidelines.