HENRY E. RIGGS SCHOOL OF APPLIED LIFE SCIENCES

Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Life Sciences

PhD

The mission of KGI's PhD in Applied Life Sciences is to endow a select group of students with expertise in research areas relevant to applied biosciences with the ability to use interdisciplinary tools and approaches to solve problems, and with the motivation to translate knowledge to beneficial applications to advance new horizons in the applied biosciences. The program is designed to prepare students for research and development positions in a variety of bioscience industrial or academic environments.

About the Program

KGI’s PhD program enriches students experiences in both science and business aspects of the bioscience industry, making them unique among the graduate pool. All applicants must have completed a master’s degree focused on applied life sciences. Completion of the PhD Program is anticipated to require at least an additional three years of full-time study beyond the master’s degree with the possibility for extension depending on the particular research project.

Graduates of KGI’s PhD program are expected to:

- Apply rigorous research methodologies to original, independent experimental, theoretical, and/or computational work in applied bioscience.
- Understand the translation of basic science and engineering discoveries into products and processes, which benefit society.
- Adhere to ethical principles in research, development, and business issues inherent in the bioscience industries.
- Develop both a broad understanding of current scientific advances and mastery in an area of interdisciplinary science of relevance to applied bioscience sufficient for conducting original research.

STRONG FOUNDATION
Draw upon a unique interdisciplinary and applied educational foundation through continued studies and applied research.

ORIGINAL RESEARCH
Gain competence in the methods of scientific inquiry by conducting and communicating original research for their theses.

TRANSLATE DISCOVERIES
Become adept in the translation of science and engineering discoveries into products and processes that benefit society.
KGI offers two tracks in PhD

Traditional track
The student is conducting PhD studies on KGI premises under supervision of Henry E. Riggs School of Applied Life Sciences or School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences faculty. To foster interdisciplinary research, the student may have one or more research advisors. One advisor must be a KGI faculty member; additional advisors may be from collaborating institutions.

Industry-Sponsored track
The student is sponsored by a biotechnology or pharma company. This track involves the student conducting studies at the company site and periodically visiting KGI. In addition to the company research advisor, the student must be supervised by a KGI faculty advisor.

Required Classes | Semester
- PhD Milestones and Doctoral Research | 13.5 units
- Current Topics in Applied Life Sciences & Ethics / Responsible Conduct of Research | 1.5 units

Application Requirements
An online application form is required that contains questions about your personal and educational background. Additional requirements can be submitted along with your online application or separately:

- Personal Statement
- Resume
- 2 Letters of Recommendation
- Transcripts
- Standardized Test Scores (GRE, GMAT, MCAT)
- English Language Proficiency (TOEFL, PTE, IELTS, iTEP)
- $75 non-refundable application fee

Admission Interviews: A phone, Skype, or on-campus interview may be required for admission. The Office of Admissions schedules individual interviews after an application is complete.

Application Review: The Admissions Committee and PhD Program Committee is made up of faculty and senior administrators who will thoroughly and conscientiously review each application.

How to Apply

Dates and Deadlines
Start Term: Fall
Application Deadline: February 28
Offers Available: April 30

Prerequisites
- Earned master’s degree from an accredited institution
- Minimum of 3.0 (4.0 basis) average GPA in master’s degree
- At least 48 units of relevant course work
- Financial support approval letter from a sponsorship company for sponsored applicants
- Strong oral and written communication skills

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