2018 Graduate Student Survey

About

Thank you for taking the time to complete the Graduate Student Academic Advising and Funding Survey. If you reply by November 1st, 2018, you could win one of four \$250 cash awards.

This survey is administered by the Graduate School, with technical assistance from Institutional Research in the Office of Data Analytics. All information that would permit identification of individuals will be kept strictly confidential. You can choose to stop the survey and resume later simply by closing the survey. When you want to resume, click on the same question in your email, and you will return to the survey page following the last one you submitted. If you have any questions about the survey, or technical problems while completing it, please contact Sarah Banchefsky at 303/735-4887 or sarah.banchefsky@colorado.edu.

Please click NEXT to begin the survey.

Questions and Feedback

Please reach out to the CU Boulder Office of Data Analytics at www.colorado.edu/oda/contact.

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Graduate Student Survey

What is your best guess as to the total number of years it will take to earn your graduate degree?

- o 1 year
- o 2 years
- o 3 years
- o 4 years
- o 5 years
- o 6 years
- o 7 years or longer

<u>How much influence did the following have on your decision to attend graduate school at CU</u> Boulder?

	No Influence	Weak Influence	Moderate Influence	Strong Influence	Not applicable
My graduate program's reputation	0	0	0	0	0
Specific faculty member(s) at CU Boulder	0	0	0	0	0
Funding/financial support	0				
Cost of tuition	0	0	0	0	0
CU Boulder's reputation	0	0	0	0	0
Ranking of my graduate program	0	0	0	0	0
My interview experience at CU Boulder	0	0	0	0	0
Other (please specify):	0	0	0	0	0

Before starting graduate study at CU Boulder, did you receive accurate information about...

	Yes	No	Not sure/Didn't think about it
the availability of funding for you in the fall and spring semesters?	0	0	0
whether there is funding available in the summers?	0	0	0
the amount of money you would have to pay for student fees?	0	0	0
the intended length of time to complete your degree/program?	0	0	0
the number of years funding is guaranteed?	0	0	0

If you were to start your graduate career again, would you...

	Definitely Not	Probably not	Ambivalent	Probably	Definitely	Not applicable
select this same university?	0	0	0	0	0	0
select the same field of study?	0	0	0	0	0	0
select the same graduate advisor?	0	0	0	0	0	0

Please rate the following aspects of your graduate program:

	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Don't know/Not applicable
Relationship between faculty and graduate students	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sense of community among graduate students	0	0	0	0	0	0
Program space and facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Quality of graduate level teaching by faculty	0	0	0	0	0	0
Availability of courses needed to complete your program	0	0	0	0	0	0
Quality of the graduate curriculum	0	0	0	0	0	0
Quality of academic advising and guidance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Helpfulness of staff members in your department or program	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amount of your financial support	0	0	0	0	0	0

<u>hat extent have tl</u>	ne following fac	tors been an o	<u>obstacle to yo</u>	<u>ur academic j</u>	orogress?

	Not an obstacle	Minor obstacle	Major obstacle	Don't know/Not applicable
Availability of funding	0	0	0	0
Availability of faculty	0	0	0	0
Program structure or requirements	0	0	0	0
Identifying a thesis/dissertation topic or research area	0	0	0	0
Advising	0	0	0	0
Teaching assistant (TA) responsibilities	0	0	0	0
Research assistant (RA) responsibilities	0	0	0	0
Time management	0	0	0	0
Availability of equipment, programs, or tools needed for my research	0	0	0	0
Cost of housing	0	0	0	0
Mental health issues	0	0	0	0
Family obligations	0	0	0	0
Social isolation	0	0	0	0
Current job market	0	0	0	0
Your self- confidence	0	0	0	0
Feeling overwhelmed by all you have to do	0	0	0	0
Other (please specify):	0	0	0	0

How satisfied or dissatisfied have you been with each of the following experiences in your graduate program? If you did not have an experience, select "NA/did not experience".

	Very dissatisfie d	Dissatisfie d	Ambivalen t	Satisfie d	Very satisfie d	NA/Did not experienc e
faculty guidance in formulating a research topic	0	0	0	0	0	0
research training before beginning your own research	0	0	0	0	0	0
conducting research in collaboration with one or more faculty members	0	0	0	0	0	0
conducting independent research	0	0	0	0	0	0
guidance on how to maintain research integrity	0	0	0	0	0	0
participating in early research opportunities (e.g., lab rotations, research assistant positions, faculty-advised research projects/paper s)	0	0	0	0	0	0
having organized exposure to faculty and their current research interests	0	0	0	0	0	0

receiving a written set of expectations about academic requirements	0	0	0	0	0	0
and expected progress in your program						

Do you have an official advisor for your graduate school education?

- o Yes
- o No

My graduate advisor encourages me to:

	Strongl y Disagre e	Disagre e	Disagree Somewh at	Agree Somewh at	Agre e	Strongl y Agree	Not applicab le
present research at seminars/colloq uia.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
attend national or regional meetings.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
attend professional conferences.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
deliver talks or present posters at professional conferences.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
co-author in refereed journals with program faculty.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
publish as a sole or first author in a refereed journal.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
write my own grant proposal(s).	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

My graduate advisor ...

	Strongl y Disagre e	Disagre e	Disagree Somewh at	Agree Somewh at	Agre e	Strongl y Agree	Not applicabl e
is knowledgeabl e about formal degree requirements.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
serves as my advocate when necessary.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
helps me secure financial support for my graduate work.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
gives me constructive feedback on my work.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
returns my work promptly.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
promotes my professional development.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
provides helpful advice about career paths within academia.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
provides helpful advice about career paths outside academia.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
assists me in my search for employment.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
overall, performs the role well.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

guides me through major academic milestones (e.g., masters thesis,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
comprehensi ve exams).							

<u>How often do you meet or communicate with your graduate advisor regarding your academic work?</u>

- o Weekly or more
- o Twice a month
- Monthly
- o 2-3 times a semester
- o Once a semester
- o Once a year
- Less than yearly

<u>How often would you *ideally* like to meet with your graduate advisor to discuss your academic progress?</u>

- o Weekly or more
- o Twice a month
- Monthly
- o 2-3 times a semester
- o Once a semester
- o Once a year
- Less than yearly

Please indicate "Yes," "No," or "Not applicable" for the following statements.

	Yes	No	Not applicable
I know whom to contact when I have questions about university procedures.	0	0	0
I know whom to contact when I have questions about department procedures.	0	0	0
I know whom to contact when I have questions about program procedures.	0	0	0
Other than my advisor, there is a faculty member who encourages my academic/professional development.	0	0	0
There is someone I can speak to if I have a conflict with my advisor.	0	0	0
There is a staff member who encourages my academic/professional development.	0	0	0

<u>Is this faculty member who encourages your academic/professional development in your program?</u>

- o Yes
- o No

<u>Is this staff member who encourages your academic/professional development in your program?</u>

- o Yes
- o No

Overall, during my graduate career at CU Boulder, I have felt ...

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Disagree Somewhat	Agree Somewhat	Agree	Strongly Agree
Welcome at CU Boulder (like I belong here).	0	0	0	0	0	0
Welcome in my graduate program (like I belong there).	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valued in my graduate program.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Connected to other students in my graduate program.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Connected to other students outside my graduate program.	0	0	0	0	0	0

How many years of funding were you promised upon admission to your program?

- o 1 year
- o 2 years
- o 3 years
- o 4 years
- o 5 years
- o 6 years or more
- o I don't recall
- o Was not made clear
- o Not applicable

How would you characterize your current financial situation?

- o Finances are not a problem
- o Tight but doing fine
- Struggling financially

<u>Please indicate the approximate number of semesters you have received each type of financial support.</u>

	None	1-2 semesters	3-4 semesters	5-6 semesters	More than 6
US Government fellowship, traineeship, or grant	0	0	0	0	0
Foreign government fellowship	0	0	0	0	0
External (to CU) non- government fellowship	0	0	0	0	0
University- funded (non- service) fellowship	0	0	0	0	0
Graduate Research Assistantship (RA)	0	0	0	0	0
Graduate Teaching Assistantship (TA)	0	0	0	0	0
Graduate Part-Time Instructor (GPTI)	0	0	0	0	0
Need-based financial aid/loans	0	0	0	0	0
Non need- based financial loans	0	0	0	0	0
Off-campus (non- academic) employment	0	0	0	0	0
On-campus (non- academic) employment	0	0	0	0	0
Employee benefit or employer funding	0	0	0	0	0

Personal savings	0	0	0	0	0
Support from parents or relatives	0	0	0	0	0
Support from spouse or partner	0	0	0	0	0
Graduate School Awards	0	0	0	0	0
Travel grant(s)	0	0	0	0	0
Other funding (please specify):	0	0	0	0	0

About what percentage of your financial expenses (e.g., academic, cost of living) will be covered by your doctoral funding this semester (i.e., your RA, TA, GTPI)?

- o 0% None of it
- o 1-25%
- o 26-50%
- o 51-75%
- o 76 99%
- o 100% All of it

Please estimate the amount of *undergraduate* educational debt (if any) and the amount of *graduate* educational debt (if any) you will have to repay when you have completed your graduate degree at CU Boulder.

Undergraduate educational debt	\$0	○ \$1 - \$9,999	○ \$10,000- \$19,999	\$20,000- \$29,999	○ \$30,000- \$39,999	○ \$40 \$49,99
Graduate educational debt	\$0	○ \$1 - \$9,999	\$10,000- \$19,999	\$20,000- \$29,999	\$30,000- \$39,999	○ \$40 \$49,99

Are t	e criteria for eligibility for financial support within your program clear and understandable
0	Yes
0	No
	e tell us morewhat is not clear and understandable about the eligibility for financial
supp	ort within your program?
_	
_	
_	
_	
_	
How	many professional conferences have you attended during graduate school? (Include all
local,	national, and international conferences. Your best guess is fine.)
0	None
0	1
0	2
0	3
0	4
0	5
0	6
0	7
0	8
0	9
0	10
0	11
0	12
0	13
0	14
0	15
0	16
0	17
0	18
0	19
0	20
0	21+

For how many of these conferences have you received any additional financial support (beyond an RA, TA, or GTPI stipend) for conference expenses such as registration, travel, and accommodations?

- None of them
- 0 1
- 0 2
- 0 3
- 0 4
- o **5**
- 0 6
- 0 7
- 0 8
- 0 0
- 0 9
- 0 10
- 0 11
- 0 12
- 0 13
- 0 14
- 0 15
- o **17**
- o 18
- 0 19
- o **20**
- o **21**+
- Not applicable

From where did you receive additional conference funds? (Select all that apply.)

- My program
- A research grant
- A conference travel grant
- Other institutional funds (please specify):

What percentage of your conference expenses is typically covered by these funds? (Your best estimate is fine.)

- o **1-24%**
- o 25-49%
- 0 50-74%
- o 75-100%

<u>Participating in conferences is affordable for</u> me.

- Strongly Disagree
- o Disagree
- Disagree Somewhat
- Agree Somewhat
- o Agree
- Strongly Agree
- o Not Applicable

I have avoided attending professional conferences because of the out-of-pocket expenses.

- Strongly Disagree
- o Disagree
- Disagree Somewhat
- Agree Somewhat
- o Agree
- Strongly Agree
- Not Applicable

Are you in your final year of graduate study?

- o Yes
- o No
- o Unsure

<u>Did you enter your degree program</u> intending to pursue a career in academia?

- Yes
- o No
- o Don't know/Unsure

Which of the following best describes your *ideal* professional employment immediately after you complete your graduate degree?

- Tenure track faculty at a research institution
- Tenure track faculty at a liberal arts institution
- Non-tenure track faculty
- Faculty at a community college
- Teacher at a secondary level
- Postdoctoral researcher, fellow, or associate
- o Research, academic setting
- Research, non-academic setting (e.g. national lab, industry, medical center)
- Professional in a field for which my program prepared me
- Other employment (please specify):

o Don't know

How important are each of the following factors to you for selecting a career?

	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important
Location	0	0	0	0	0
Availability of grant funding	0	0	0	0	0
Work-life balance	0	0	0	0	0
Family, health, or other personal considerations	0	0	0	0	0
Quality of life (e.g., hours, location, work environment)	0	0	0	0	0
Income	0	0	0	0	0
Advancement opportunities	0	0	0	0	0
Ability to use my graduate education	0	0	0	0	0
Other (please specify):	0		0	0	0

How would you prefer to receive news and information from the Graduate School?

	Disliked	Not preferred	Neutral	Preferred	Highly preferred
CU Boulder Today, student (daily)	0	0	0	0	0
CU Boulder Today, grad student newsletter (monthly)	0	0	0	0	0
Graduate School website	0	0	0	0	0
Focused emails with timely info (news, deadlines)	0	0	0	0	0
In-person meetings or live presentations	0	0	0	0	0
Student portal					
Other method (please specify):	0	0	0	0	0

Demographic Information

Demographic questions include personal and perhaps sensitive information. This information will be used to determine how graduate students' experiences may vary for members of different groups on the CU Boulder campus. Responses are confidential.

<u>Are you a U.S. citizen or permanent</u> resident?

- o Yes
- o No

What is your race/ethnicity? (Select all that apply.)

- Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian or Asian-American
- Black or African-American
- Middle Eastern or North African
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- White
- Other (please specify):
- Prefer not to answer

Are you a member of a historically marginalized sexual or gender identity? This includes, but is not limited to: Gay, lesbian, pansexual, asexual, intersex, trans, non-binary, fluid, genderqueer, and agender.

- o Yes
- o No
- o Prefer not to answer

<u>Do you have any of the following disabilities or conditions? (Select all that apply.)</u>

- Learning disability or ADHD
- Mobility or sensory disability (e.g., prosthetic, spinal cord injury, hard of hearing, low vision, etc.)
- Chronic mental health condition (e.g., depression, PTSD, etc.)
- Chronic medical condition (e.g., cystic fibrosis, diabetes, chronic pain, etc.)
- Other disability or chronic condition please specify:
- None of the above
- Prefer not to answer

Which best describes your family's financial situation most of the time when you were growing up?

- Very poor
- Enough to get by
- Comfortable
- Wealthy

What best describes your current family unit?

- Single without children
- Single with children
- Couple without children
- Couple with children

Does	your partner/spouse live with you?		ou have or adopt any of your children
0	Yes	during	g graduate school?
0	No, but in the same geographic area	0	Yes
0	No, we are long-distance	0	No
How r	many children do you have?	How !	useful are the resources provided by
0	1	CU B	oulder for childcare?
0	2	0	What resources?
0	3	0	Not at all useful
0	4	0	Somewhat useful
0	5 or more	0	Very useful
		0	Not Applicable
How r	many of your children are under 5		
years			
0	0		
0	1		
0	2		
0	3		
0	4		
0	5 or more		
<u>What</u>	do you like most about your graduate prograr	<u>m?</u>	
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\A/I : :			Jamatia O
vvnici	n aspects of your graduate program do you fir	<u>ıa prot</u>	olemauc?

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Is th	ere anything else you'd like to tell us?
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•	

Thank you for taking the time to provide us with your thoughts and feedback! If you are finished with the survey, please click the *"Finish"* button below.