

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING NEW GRADUATE STUDENT ORIENTATION SPRING 2025

**Student Union
Ballroom**

Friday

January 17, 2025

9:00 AM-11 AM



website:

grad.engineering.uconn.edu

UConn

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

New Graduate Orientation AGENDA

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM	Check-In
9:15AM - 9:25 AM	Welcome
9:25 AM - 9:45 AM	Student Resources
9:45 AM - 9:55 AM	Student Health and Wellness
9:55 AM - 10:30 AM	Navigating Grad School
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Graduate Student Union Presentation

Dean and Staff



Ji-Cheng 'JC' Zhao, Ph.D.
Dean of the College of Engineering



Julia Valla
Director of Graduate Studies



Aida Ghiaei
Director of Graduate
Recruitment, Support and Engagement



Jodie LaRosa
Program Assistant



Ananya Shrivastava
Student Research Trainee
Engineering



Hanieh Kashani
Student Administration Assistant

Grad Directors



Monty Escabi, Ph.D.
Biomedical Engineering



Alexandra Hain
Civil Engineering



Julian Norato
School of Mechanical, Aerospace,
and Manufacturing Engineering



Helena Silva, Ph.D.
Electrical & Computer
Engineering



Tim Vadas, Ph.D.
Environmental
Engineering



Avinash Dongare, Ph.D.
Materials Science &
Engineering



Alexander Russell, Ph.D.
School of Computing



Matthew Stuber Ph.D.
Chemical & Biomolecular
Engineering

Programs

Biomedical Engineering

Website:

bme.uconn.edu

Grad Director: Dr. Monty Escabi

Email: monty_escabi@uconn.edu

Materials Science & Engineering

Website:

mse.engr.uconn.edu

Grad Director: Dr. Avinash Dongare

Email: dongare@uconn.edu

Civil Engineering

Website:

cee.engr.uconn.edu

Grad Director: Dr. Alexandra Hain

Email: alexandra.hain@uconn.edu

School of Computing

Website:

computing.engineering.uconn.edu

Grad Director: Dr. Alexander Russell

Email: alexander.russell@uconn.edu

Engineering Education

Website:

grad.engineering.uconn.edu

Grad Director: Dr. Daniel Burkey

Email: daniel.burkey@uconn.edu

Environmental Engineering

Website:

environ.engr.uconn.edu

Grad Director: Dr. Tim Vadas

Email: timothy.vadas@uconn.edu

Electrical & Computer Engineering

Website:

ee.uconn.edu

Grad Director: Dr. Helena Silva

Email: helena.silva@uconn.edu

Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering

Website:

chemical-biomolecular.engr.uconn.edu

Grad Director: Dr. Stuber

Email: matthew.stuber@uconn.edu

School of Mechanical, Aerospace, and Manufacturing Engineering

Website:

mechanical-aerospace-manufacturing.engineering.uconn.edu

Grad Director: Dr. Julian Norato

Email: julian.norato@uconn.edu

WHERE TO GO IF I NEED HELP WITH:

Technical Services

Including:

UConn email support, netID, file storage, computer hardware or software issue

Go to: COE ETS Help Desk

Contact: Coehelp@uconn.edu

Website: ets.engr.uconn.edu

Medical

Including:

Medical insurance, illness, immunizations, international student support

Go to: Student Health and Wellness

Contact: studenthealth@uconn.edu and international@uconn.edu

Website: studenthealth.uconn.edu and iss.uconn.edu

Mental Health

Including:

resources, crisis support, therapy

Go to: Student Health and Wellness

Contact: studenthealth@uconn.edu

Website: studenthealth.uconn.edu

Discrimination, Harassment and Related Interpersonal Violence

Including: Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment, Sexual Assault, Sexual Exploitation, and more

Go to: Office of Institutional Equity

Contact: equity@uconn.edu

(860) 486-2943 and (860) 679-3563

Website: equity.uconn.edu/title-ix/

Visa

Including:

Applying for a visa, required documents, and more

Go to: ISSS

Contact: international@uconn.edu

Website: iss.uconn.edu

Housing

Including:

room information, housing contracts, off campus housing

Go to: Residential Life

Contact: livingoncampus@uconn.edu

Website: reslife.uconn.edu

Professional Education

Including:

how to find an internship, communicating effectively, first year experience

Go to: Engineering Graduate Programs

Contact: aida@uconn.edu & fayekah.assanah@uconn.edu

Website: grad.engr.uconn.edu

UConnALERT System

Including: winter weather, emergency alerts, sign up for notifications

Go to: Office of Emergency Management

Contact: oem@uconn.edu

Website: universitiesafety.uconn.edu

WHERE TO GO IF I NEED HELP WITH:

Academic Support Services

Including:

Coaching, mentoring, and student success workshops

Go to: Academic Achievement Center

Contact: aac@uconn.edu

Website: achieve.uconn.edu

Center for Students with Disabilities

Including:

Determine appropriate accommodations as well as other University services

Go to: CSD

Contact: csd@uconn.edu

Website: csd.uconn.edu

Office of Veterans Affairs

Including:

Addresses specific needs of veterans and service members at UConn.

Go to: Office of Veterans and Military Programs **Contact:** veterans@uconn.edu

Website: veterans.uconn.edu

Ombuds Office

Including:

serves as a neutral resource who provides confidential and informal assistance to students

Go to: Ombuds Office

Contact: cinnamon.adams@uconn.edu

Website: ombuds.uconn.edu

Graduate Assistant Leave and/or Employee Accommodations

Including:

GA medical leave of absence and employee accommodation.

Go to: Human resources

Contact: megan.stimson@uconn.edu

Website: hr.uconn.edu/ga-leave-administration

Employee Assistance Program

Including:

counseling and referrals for additional services to assist with personal, work-related problems

Go to: Human Resources

Website: hr.uconn.edu/employee-assistance-program

Academic Leave of Absence

Including: if you need temporary separation from the university, holds your place in your program.

Go to: Office of Graduate School

Contact: gradseparation@uconn.edu

Website: grad.uconn.edu/graduate-students/voluntary-separation/

WHERE TO GO IF I NEED HELP WITH:

Student Organizations

Including:

leadership, professional development, community support

Go to: Engineering Graduate Programs

Contact: aida@uconn.edu

Website: grad.engr.uconn.edu

Career Services

Including:

exploring careers, interview prep, mentorship, networking

Go to: Center for Career Development

Contact: theodore.menounos@uconn.edu

Website: career.uconn.edu

Payroll

Including:

GA appointments, payroll deductions, benefits

Go to: GA Onboarding

Contact: gena.twarz@uconn.edu

Website: grad.uconn.edu

Class Registration

Including:

add/drop a class, holds, class scheduling

Go to: Office of the Registrar

Contact: registrar@uconn.edu

Website: registrar.uconn.edu

Transportation

Including: Bus routes, off campus housing transport, regional transit

Go to: transportation Services

Contact: transportation@uconn.edu

Website: transpo.uconn.edu

Orientation Worksheet

**Please see your advisor to complete this worksheet*

Student Name: _____

Department/program: _____

Major Advisor: _____

Professional Goals for my First Year:

Classes I should take in my First Year:

My Qualifying exam will be (approximate date/format):

Three years from today (August 2028), I plan to have completed the following milestones:



Roundtable discussion

- **What classes should I take in my first semester?**
- **How can student organizations help me be successful as a student at UConn?**
- **When is my qualifier exam?**
- **How can I find internships?**
- **How often should I meet my advisor?**
- **How do I balance taking classes, being a RA or TA ?**
- **What are the expectations for graduate student teaching assistants?**
- **What are the best practices for managing time and balancing coursework with research?**
- **Where can I find housing, medical support, transportation support if I can't drive etc**
- **How do I access mental health and wellness resources on campus?**
- **Are there workshops or seminars for professional development?**
- **What resources are available for developing my writing and presentation skills?**
- **How do I handle conflicts with peers or faculty members in an academic setting?**
- **What are the expectations for professional behavior and communication in my program?**
- **How do I apply for grants or funding for my research projects?**
- **What are some common challenges faced by graduate students, and how can I prepare for them?**

visit our website:
grad.engineering.uconn.edu



ENGR 5450-001

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

For Spring 2025

For first year Engineering students who want to make the most of their graduate journey!

CLASS HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Essential tools for graduate success**
- **Strategies to graduate on time**
- **Build a powerful network now**
- **Identify your advocates**
- **Find mentors who inspire**

WEDNESDAYS

2:30 TO 3:20 PM

at Cast 204



SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER!

Credit: 1.0 | Prerequisite: None | Format: In-person



TIMELY TOPICS

Spring 2025 Student Track



TIMELY TOPICS

Timely Topics is a series of opportunities to engage with subject matter experts on topics relevant to graduate education. Every session is open to all who wish to attend, however, The Graduate School highlights three tracks (student, faculty, and administrative) to help registrants identify which sessions may be most relevant to their interests. This flyer includes sessions for graduate students and postdocs. Sessions for the faculty and administrative tracks are listed on the [Timely Topics webpage](#), along with slides, recordings, and resources from past sessions.

REGISTRATION

All sessions are virtual. To register for any of this semester's Timely Topics series, click the button below.

[REGISTRATION](#)

CONTACT

DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDENT ADMINISTRATION

Megan Petsa | megan.petsa@uconn.edu

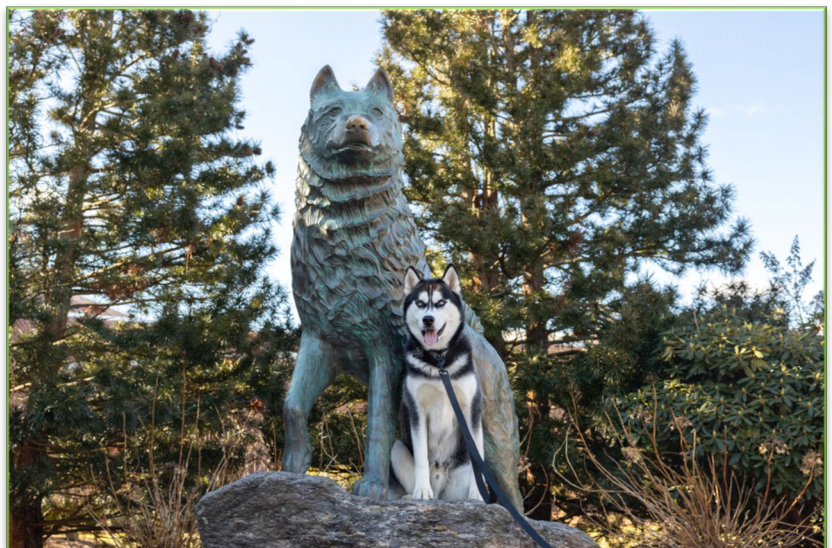
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Whetten Graduate Center

gradschool@uconn.edu

grad.uconn.edu/timely-topics

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

SEEKING EXTERNAL SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

UConn's [Office of National Scholarships and Fellowships](#) (ONSF) advises and mentors students seeking prestigious, nationally-competitive scholarships and fellowships. In this session, staff from ONSF will discuss several specific opportunities that might be of interest to both early- and late-career graduate students (e.g., NSF-GRFP and Fulbright), and highlight resources to help graduate students from all backgrounds identify opportunities for which they might be eligible.

DATE: Wednesday, January 29, 2025

TIME: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

FACILITATORS:

Vin Moscardelli, Director, Office of National Scholarships & Fellowships

GETTING TO CONFERRAL: MASTER'S DEGREES AND GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

This session will discuss the Office of the Registrar's degree audit process for master's degrees and graduate certificates, including 6th Year Certificate programs. Degree Audit staff will share auditing terms and timeline, degree requirements for Plan A and Plan B, as well as the thesis submission process. Time will be available at the end of the session for participants' questions.

DATE: Wednesday, February 12, 2025

TIME: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

FACILITATOR:

Sandra Cyr, Master's Degree and Graduate Certificate Programs Registrar Specialist

GETTING TO CONFERRAL: DOCTORAL DEGREES

This session will discuss the Office of the Registrar's degree audit process for doctoral (Ph.D.) students. Degree Audit staff will share auditing terms and timeline, degree requirements, the master's on the way process, and the dissertation submission process. Time will be available at the end of the session for participants' questions.

DATE: Wednesday, February 12, 2025

TIME: 2 :00 PM - 3:00 PM

FACILITATOR:

Jenn Horan, Doctoral Degree Registrar Specialist





PROMOTING MENTAL HEALTH

This informative and interactive workshop will increase graduate students' knowledge of the range of mental health resources on campus as well as helpful self-care and stress management strategies.

DATE: Wednesday, March 5, 2025

TIME: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

FACILITATOR:

Alyson Faires, Staff Psychologist, SHaW Mental Health



BUILDING FINANCIAL CREDIT AND DEALING WITH DEBT

In this workshop, we'll discuss financial credit, credit scoring, and how to use credit wisely. Further, we will also talk about dealing with debt and what to do when you can't pay your bills. This workshop will be provided by the UConn Financial Education Program.

DATE: Wednesday, April 2, 2025

TIME: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

FACILITATOR:

Faye Griffiths-Smith, Personal Finance Educator, UConn Extension

To register for any of this semester's Timely Topics series, click the button below.

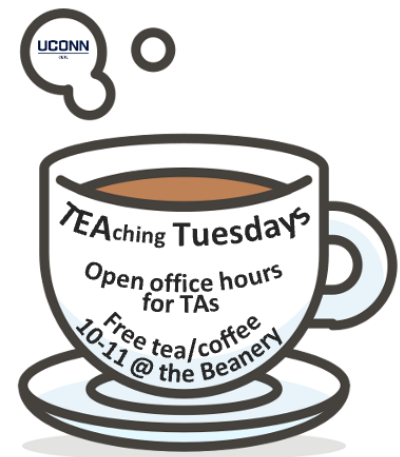
[**REGISTRATION**](#)

UConn
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Spring 2025 Professional Development For GAs and Postdocs

TEA_{ching} Tuesdays – New! Themed Weeks!

- 10-11 AM @ the Beanery
- All who come will get a free tea, coffee, or other light refreshment.
- Come to discuss the weekly theme and any challenges/wins you have had in the classroom.
- Meet other people interested in learning how to improve their teaching skills.



28-Jan Welcome!

4-Feb How to understand student behavior.

11-Feb AI

18-Feb Working at a small teaching college

25-Feb Empowering students with intellectual disabilities

4-Mar Lesson planning

11-Mar Balancing coursework and teaching responsibilities

Spring Break

25-Mar Navigating being a women in STEM

1-Apr Motivating reading/ increasing focus time

8-Apr How to make lessons more dynamic when they are dictated to you

15-Apr Getting students to engage

22-Apr Come learn about CIRTL

29-Apr TBD

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