

**Request for Proposals:
WSU Strategic Graduate Recruitment Visits**

Consistent with Wayne State University's Strategic Plan, which strives for collaboration, integrity, innovation, excellence and diversity and inclusion, the Wayne State University Graduate School is invested in assisting its various graduate programs in recruiting and retaining graduate students from diverse and inclusive backgrounds. To this end, the Graduate School has developed a [Portfolio Review Toolkit](https://gradschool.wayne.edu/faculty/portfolio-review): <https://gradschool.wayne.edu/faculty/portfolio-review> to assist programs and an [Application Support](https://wayne.edu/admissions/graduate/application-support/) page: <https://wayne.edu/admissions/graduate/application-support/> to assist applicants during the admissions process.

Also consistent with the University's Strategic Plan, the Graduate School values all people and understands that their unique experiences, talents and perspectives make our program stronger and make all involved better people. The Graduate School also recognizes that students are more likely to find programs attractive if they have built relationships with programs prior to the application process. To this end, the Graduate School is pleased to announce a request for proposals to participate in a new WSU Strategic Graduate Recruitment Visits program to enable departments to engage in relationship-building, attract students who have the potential for success at a research university, promote students' development, and enhance our goal of developing and maintaining a student body from diverse and inclusive backgrounds. Proposals are due **February 15, 2018**.

Aims of the program:

- To promote the WSU Strategic Plan by increasing the diversity and inclusiveness of the WSU doctoral student body.
- To broaden participation of students who are underrepresented in their disciplines such as students from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds and first-generation college students.
- To increase the visibility of and interest in WSU doctoral programs among promising students and their home institutions.
- To enhance WSU's reputation as an institution known for its excellent preparation of students from diverse backgrounds who are bound for graduate studies.

Description of participants and programming:

- Participants will consist of up to 30 non-WSU domestic sophomore and junior undergraduates who show promise for doctoral studies. Their applications will include a recommendation from a faculty member that includes some indication of the applicant's motivation, perseverance, and persistence.
- Competitive application process will be held in July 2018 after which participants will receive coaching for their 1-2 day WSU visit in September or October 2018.
- The WSU visit will include workshops on the graduate application process including writing personal statements and seeking letters of recommendation as well as visits with faculty and current students.

Eligibility and Requirements:

- Departments with at least one PhD program are eligible to apply for funds.
- Faculty must agree to work with the Graduate School and other departments to organize the visit.
- The Graduate School will cover up to \$350 airfare for up to 15 students and mileage for an additional 15, meals for the visiting students, and a \$50 payment for current graduate students who agree to house a prospective student. Departments must be able to cover other costs including additional meals, airfare costs, or lodging.

Proposals must include the following elements:

- Cover letter or memo in support of the program, signed by the Department Chair.
- Proposal of no more than 3 pages that includes responses to the following items:
 - Describe the program's current recruitment practices including organization of recruitment visits onsite or at conferences.
 - Describe the need for attracting a diverse pool of applicants to your PhD program and the number of students the program would like to invite (maximum 5 per program).
 - Describe the program's existing practices as well as the success of those practices to recruit and retain students from diverse backgrounds.
 - List the faculty members who will participate in the recruitment visit and their qualifications for participation (e.g., mentoring awards or recognition, number of Ph.D.'s completed in the last 10 years, research funding, active research projects, activity in efforts to recruit and retain students from diverse backgrounds in an inclusive manner). The Chair, Graduate Director, or a faculty member must be identified as the point of contact, in charge of coordinating the department's effort.
 - Describe the department's ability to cover other costs to be accrued.
 - Describe the manner in which the department will advertise or market the event to students.

For more information, contact Associate Dean Annmarie Cano at acano@wayne.edu.