Why a PhD? This is an exciting time to do science. We face many challenges and opportunities. Participation in the most exciting science requires motivated talent that has been developed to the highest levels: PhD scientists get to decide which research questions get asked and answered. Come join us and develop your career.

Why you? We need your unique perspective. Science is made richer by differences in gender, race, ethnicity, and culture among scientists. This human activity progresses in proportion to the quality and novelty of the research questions posed by its practitioners, and the creative efforts expended in answering them. The value of diversity is that we gain a better understanding of phenomena by having many investigators form and answer research questions from their varied perspectives, and to subject these to experimental verification and reproduction. Cognitive diversity in science benefits from diversity among scientists.

Why Cal State LA? We are serious about research. The NSF lists Cal State LA as the #1 baccalaureate institution of origin of Hispanic STEM PhD recipients among BS/MS US mainland institutions. Our MS programs are among the strongest on the West Coast. If you are motivated to follow a career in research, and want to improve before pursuing the PhD, develop your talents through a demanding two-year research-intensive program. You know that hard work will hone your skills and achievements for success in strong PhD programs. If you are hungry for opportunities to develop your career then a research-based Cal State LA MS is your best option.

Why RISE MS-to-PhD? Our mission is to enrich the American research enterprise by making available to top PhD programs the creativity and intellectual talents of minority individuals. After earning the PhD, we expect our alumni to establish careers as independent investigators and assume leadership positions in their disciplines. In the past decade, 80% of RISE MS-to-PhD Scholars entered top PhD programs. RISE is an important source of well-prepared and motivated minority talent. In the past decade, 135 Cal State LA alumni earned the PhD, and are in postdoctoral appointments or are in professional positions in academia and industry. They are making a positive impact on science. An additional 130 are in PhD programs.

Intense laboratory research with productive faculty principal investigators is at the core of our training program. RISE students have published over 800 journal articles. Academic skills, cognitive background, and commitment to PhD-level success are further developed through a deliberate program of workshops, academic and career advisement, and integration into the rich Southern California research community. We also emphasize development of presentation and scientific writing skills.

Buying Protected Time to Excel. A major grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the NIH provides a salary of $19,000-$21,000 per year so you can devote full time to your research training and academics. Additional funds for tuition and fees, for research supplies, and for professional travel are provided.

Deadline for completed RISE Applications is February 15, 2017. Participation in the RISE MS-to-PhD Program requires admission to a Cal State LA masters program. Apply to Cal State LA through CSU Mentor. Some MS/MA departments require a brief additional application directly to them. Check CSU Mentor and Department Deadlines.

Additional information. Please use the accompanying application form (or download it at http://www.calstatela.edu/centers/moreprograms/RISE/RISEPhD.htm

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