

# Caltech Graduate Studies Office

July has arrived and brought plenty of sunshine. It is also the midpoint of the year and a time for reflection and to set new priorities and goals. This past year, we received the largest number of applications in Caltech's history, and graduate enrollment is at an all-time high. In a special October conferral, Caltech awarded its 10,000<sup>th</sup> PhD to Dr. Alistair Hayden (PhD, Geology). "For me, the best part of being at Caltech was not just participating in a top-notch research community, but also serving in various campus roles that led to friendships with multitalented scientists and staff across the Institute," Hayden says. "There are fascinating people with diverse perspectives all over Caltech, so I would encourage current and future Techers to build their community as broadly as possible across campus." On June 11, an additional 145 PhD degrees and 104 MS degrees were conferred, adding to our extensive alumni.

Although it's been a challenging year for us all, we are seeing many positive signs that the campus is returning to better times. Labs are reopening, and restrictions on density have been lifted. Travel restrictions are being eased, and the visiting student program has resumed. With 95% of the Caltech community receiving at least one vaccine dose, graduate students are once again seen gathering in common areas. In June, we saw more than 380 undergraduate students return to campus to participate in summer research and education programs, as well as to begin training for fall-term athletic seasons and competition. Their return is part of Caltech's phased plan to repopulate the campus, under which all students will return to residential living and classroom instruction for fall term.

We must not forget the impact the virus has had and is still having on many parts of the World. Variant viral strains continue to cause uncertainty about when this pandemic will end. However, we are confident our community has become more resilient and stronger than ever. We are fortunate that California has an ample vaccine supply, which has facilitated our plans for the fall term. As a reminder, all students are required to be fully vaccinated and to complete the entrance health requirements no later than August 15, 2021. Details can be found at [wellness.caltech.edu/resources/new-students/health-forms](https://wellness.caltech.edu/resources/new-students/health-forms), as well as in the welcome from Student Wellness Services below.

In this newsletter you will find the following: brief introductions to the Caltech Y, Student Wellness Services, and the Graduate Residential Life team, the resources for graduate students with families, and the required Research Ethics Training Course, as well as important dates. To echo Alistair's advice, we encourage you to build relationships across the Caltech community, and these articles are just an introduction to the many support services across campus. You'll hear more from these offices and more during Orientation on September 20 – 22, 2021.

We will also be continuing our Zoom drop-in hours on August 10 from 1–2 p.m. and August 26 from 10–11 a.m. A reminder and a Zoom link will be sent by email a few days before the scheduled date. September’s Zoom drop-in hours will be announced in the August newsletter.

As a reminder, for more information about life at Caltech, lectures and events, and Caltech news, you can check out our main website at [www.caltech.edu](http://www.caltech.edu).

## The Graduate Studies Office Staff

*David Chan*

*Natalie Gilmore*

*Claudia Andrade*

*Helen Duong*

*Jacob Dalton*

# Student Wellness Services



[Student Wellness Services](#) is excited to welcome you to the Caltech community! Our goal is to support your health and well-being, and ensure you have access to quality healthcare throughout your academic career. SWS offers a range of primary care, counseling, occupational therapy, alcohol and other drug education, training and outreach programs. All of our workshops, groups, and training opportunities can be found on our [website](#). You'll also find lots of self-

help resources, tips, and recordings of past workshops that you can browse at your convenience. Information about the student health insurance plan can be found [here](#).

As an incoming student, you will need to submit your [health form and proof of required vaccinations](#) no later than August 15, 2021, or a minimum of 2 weeks prior to coming campus if you are arriving before September 1. The Institute will require the COVID-19 vaccination as soon as at least one vaccine receives full FDA approval; all students are required to submit either proof of vaccination or a declination form by August 15<sup>th</sup>. Any international student who is unable to access the vaccine in their home country should be in communication with SWS through the [student health portal](#); unvaccinated students will need to quarantine in dedicated quarantine space upon arrival to campus, and SWS will assist students in securing vaccine appointments. Unvaccinated individuals must also continue to wear face coverings indoors and must participate in the surveillance testing program. All COVID-19 campus protocols and resources can be found at the [Caltech Together website](#), which is regularly updated to reflect public health guidance.

We are excited to see you this fall – and looking forward to a full return to in-person activities this September. Welcome to Caltech!

# Caltech Y

The Caltech Y is a student driven organization affiliated with the California Institute of Technology (Caltech). Initially founded in 1916 as a student chapter of the YMCA, the mission of today's Y is to provide programs that promote leadership and self-discovery planned by, and for, students. While the Caltech Y is now a separate non-profit with a staff and a board of directors, the spirit of our founding remains – student-led opportunities that enrich student life and challenge students to grow into responsible citizens of the world.

All Y programs encourage students to become active, engaged participants at Caltech and in the community at large, locally, nationally, and globally. Leadership opportunities are available for students who wish to play an active role on campus either through coordinating volunteer projects, planning outdoor trips, inviting speakers, or serving on the ExComm, the Y's student governing board.



Check out what students have shared about their Caltech Y experience:

<https://youtu.be/b90zFJsGcSw>

# Office of Residential Experience

Get to know the Graduate Residential Life team.

## Caltech Graduate Reslife Team 2021-2022



**Isabel Peng, Grad RLC**  
**Email:** [ipeng@caltech.edu](mailto:ipeng@caltech.edu)  
**Building:** 366 S Catalina Ave, #101  
**About:** Originally from Vancouver, Canada, Isabel is a full-time staff in the Office of Residential Experience. She enjoys exploring different neighborhoods in LA and trying out new restaurants.



**Miggy Chuapoco, Central Cats RA**  
**Email:** [mchuapoc@caltech.edu](mailto:mchuapoc@caltech.edu)  
**Building:** 438 S Catalina Ave, #108  
**Option:** Bioengineering  
**About:** Miggy likes to engineer new viruses to be used as therapeutics during lab time and LOVES eating/cooking/exploring new foods (sweets especially) in his free time.



**Rebecca Gallivan North Cats RA**  
**Email:** [rgalliva@caltech.edu](mailto:rgalliva@caltech.edu)  
**Building:** 1040 E Del Mar Blvd, #103  
**Option:** Material Science  
**About:** Originally from the Seattle area, Rebecca loves the outdoors, grey misty days, and traveling to see the amazing diversity that covers our planet!



**Rui Cheng, South Cats RA**  
**Email:** [rui.cheng@caltech.edu](mailto:rui.cheng@caltech.edu)  
**Building:** 450 S Catalina Ave, #105  
**Option:** Environmental Science & Engineering  
**About:** Rui, pronounced as "Ray", is a G4 and loves snowboarding, road trips and national parks.

Get in touch with us at:  
[gradrescaltech.edu](http://gradrescaltech.edu)



The Graduate Residential Life team regularly organizes social and educational events throughout the year to foster and enhance community building within the graduate residential community. In the past, we've hosted programs including financial literacy workshops, career

services workshops, brunch in the Cats, fitness tournaments, baking/cooking tutorials, game nights, and much more. We send a quarterly community survey to gather feedback from residents on past and future events, and we love to incorporate new ideas into our programming calendar. As a resident, you will be added to the monthly graduate residential life newsletter mailing list and receive information on upcoming residential events and important announcements.

## Resources for Graduate Students with Families

Student parents make up approximately 2% of the graduate student population at Caltech. Therefore, the Graduate Studies Office has put together a website that includes a comprehensive list of the resources, services, policies, and programs to help student parents meet their family care obligations while pursuing their academic goals:

[gradoffice.caltech.edu/current/graduate-student-parents](https://gradoffice.caltech.edu/current/graduate-student-parents).

This year we are excited to announce the re-opening of a new Children's Educational Center on campus, where priority enrollment is being given to graduate student parents and post-docs. More information will be coming soon. This past January, the Graduate Studies Office also initiated a Parent Support Program fund of up to \$10,000 per year based on demonstrated need, and requests can be submitted at any time by filling out a short [application form](#). In August, we are planning a Zoom meeting for graduate student parents to get to know one another and to find out more about these resources and other childcare options. If you have or are planning to have a family, please email Assistant Dean [Natalie Gilmore](#) so we can be sure to include you in any updates, future events or news.

## Research Ethics Training Course

Training in Responsible Conduct of Research is required of all students. You can complete this requirement online through the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Program course. This can be done by logging on to [Access.Caltech](#) using your Caltech username and UID, and following the link "Research Ethics Education (CITI)", and then under Main Menu/My Courses add the course titled "Required RCR Training for Students and Postdocs". The course takes about an hour to complete and the results are automatically transmitted to Caltech. You are only required to complete this training once during your graduate program. You are asked to complete the training module no later than the start of the fall term (September 27, 2021).

## Calendar and Important Dates

- July 20: Graduate Studies Zoom Drop-in hour (5–6 p.m. PST)
- July 29: Graduate Studies Zoom Drop-in hour (7–8 a.m. PST)
- August 10: Graduate Studies Zoom Drop-in hour (1–2 p.m. PST)
- August 15: Deadline to confirm vaccination status
- August 26: Graduate Studies Zoom Drop-in hour (10–11 a.m. PST)
- September 1: Graduate students begin arriving for fall term; fall health coverage begins
- September 16–17: International Student Orientation
- September 20–21: Graduate Student Orientation
- September 22: Caltech's annual Teaching and Learning Conference
- September 27: Last day to complete the Responsible Conduct of Research course
- September 27: Start of fall term and first day of classes\*
- October 26: First paycheck for students receiving a stipend through Caltech

\*Fall instruction will be in person, and classes are not expected to have a remote option.

## Contact Us

Website: [www.gradoffice.caltech.edu](http://www.gradoffice.caltech.edu)

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