

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<<

COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES



WELCOME GRADUATE STUDENTS

From Dr. Jerry McMurty, the Dean of COGS

The start of the Fall term is always an exciting time at the University of Idaho as many new faces will be joining our graduate student community across all our campus centers and research facilities. If you are a new student to our University of Idaho community, welcome. If you are a returning student, I trust you had a productive Summer completing your field-work, internship, or clinical experience. For all of you, I hope you all found some time this past Summer for some rest, relaxation and quality time with your family and friends.

Fall term starts our next round of graduate and postdoctoral support programming. The College of Graduate Studies is dedicated to providing a wide range of seminars, workshops, and meetings focusing on your success while you are in school and to prepare you for a successful career after you graduate. We have partnered with other

IN THIS ISSUE <<<<

MEET THE COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES FACULTY AND STAFF

UPDATES AND CHANGES TO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

REMINDERS, DEADLINES, AND TIPS FOR SUCCESS

units across campus in order to provide you with the most relevant and timely opportunities for your professional development. Whether this is your first semester as a graduate student or your last, we have support programs in place to assist you. Please take a look at the schedule of activities and join us either in person, if you are on the Moscow campus, or through Zoom if you are in residence at one of our other campus centers.

Working toward a graduate degree will be difficult, challenging, demanding, and can be somewhat isolating. It will also be a time of deep personal growth, intellectual development and change. I applaud you for your dedication and drive, as that is what it takes to pursue a graduate degree. As you move through this academic year, please don't forget to take time for yourself and reflect on your growth as a scholar and developing expert in your field.

The College of Graduate Studies is here to ensure that you have the tools you need to be successful and complete your program. Please don't hesitate to contact our office if you have any questions about our institutional policies or if you have any ideas about new ways we could make yours and others experience here more valuable and beneficial.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry R. McMurtry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Jerry R. McMurtry, Ph.D.



MEET OUR PEOPLE- MAIN OFFICE

Dr. Jerry McMurtry

Dean of the College of Graduate Studies



I came to the University of Idaho in 1995 as an assistant professor in the College of Education. I was previously at Montana State University and was an instructor at Colorado State when I completed my PhD in Human Resource Development. I lead the College of Graduate Studies, which has oversight over all graduate programs at the university. Our college is committed to building the best support system possible and creating professional development opportunities which will enhance the experience for graduate students and post-docs at the University of Idaho. Born in Colorado and raised in Colorado and Wyoming, I consider myself fortunate to have been able to stay in the West and continue to do the things I love. I have two children, who are both proud Vandals.

Stephanie Thomas

Assistant to the Dean



I joined COGS in 2003 as an interdisciplinary program assistant and served in various roles for the college until 2014. I returned in January 2021 after a six-year hiatus teaching English as a second language across the state line to now be the Assistant to the Dean. Like you, I'm a proud Vandal. I received two Master of Arts and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Idaho, but studied at the Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica, Universidad de Salamanca, and Eastern New Mexico University along the way. I plan to finish a PhD in Education in fall 2025. I volunteer for local chapters of international fraternal

organizations dedicated to community service. My favorite is hosting the infamous Care-E-OK (karaoke) to raise money for Bosom Buddies cancer-care fund. I'm very, very happy to be at UIdaho to help you as you pursue and finish your degrees. Lastly, my son plans to join the Vandal family fall 2025 to study pre-med, so there are more proud Vandals on the way!

MEET OUR PEOPLE- MAIN OFFICE

Molly Sheffler

Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Advisor



Hi! My name is Molly Sheffler, (née Patterson – I just got married so you might see that name as well for a little while!), and I am the Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETD) Advisor for the College of Graduate Studies. If you are writing a thesis or dissertation, I am your point of contact for any questions about the formatting, submission, and approval processes. You can find a bunch of resources for the process, including a formatting handbook/template, dates and deadlines, and the link to the ETD website where you can make your submission located [here](#).

I've been fortunate enough to work for the University of Idaho in a few different capacities over the past 7 years and joined COGS as the ETD Advisor 2 years ago. While I grew up in Texas and received my Bachelor of Arts in Arkansas, I made it up to the beautiful inland Northwest as soon as I could!

When I'm not busy meticulously checking your margins, I'm spending as much time as I can outdoors with my husband and our golden retriever, Yogi. I am so excited to work with you all to achieve your academic goals!

Michael Decker

Director of Graduate Student Support Programming

Michael Decker is the Director of Graduate Student Support Programming. He earned his M.A. in English literature from the University of Idaho in 2021. He oversees the COGS programming calendar and grant/fellowship initiatives. Michael also does work in mental health research with a focus on financial precarity. His professional goals focus on creating community in university settings and increasing graduate student access to essential resources like mental health support and professional development opportunities.



MEET OUR PEOPLE- MAIN OFFICE

Jan D'Amico

Graduate Support Specialist



I joined COGS in January 2024, and since then have been learning a lot about the steps to help students have a great educational experience here at the University of Idaho. I have garnered a wealth of administrative experience working for a local attorney for 25 years, and that experience has proven to be valuable in my position here at UI. The team at COGS is incredible to work with, they are all knowledgeable and willing to help at any time. I genuinely appreciate that, as there is a lot to learn here!

I have 2 adult children, one lives here and works for the City, the other lives in California and followed my path; she works for an attorney. I am a member of local fraternal organizations and enjoy participating in charitable events. I really love all the beautiful things living in Moscow offers and spend a lot of time walking around town enjoying the people and places that make this a lovely place to call home.

Brittany Dodson

Graduate Support Specialist

I joined COGS in May 2024, after completing my MA in Anthropology, here at the University of Idaho. I work in the main COGS office, primarily working with study plans, graduation applications, and answering general questions by phone and email. Graduate school was a life changing experience for me and I'm excited to be able to help future students navigate their post-baccalaureate journey! I have thoroughly enjoyed learning more about how the 'backstage' of higher education works and getting to problem solve with students and faculty as we navigate the process.

Outside of work I enjoy spending time with my husband and our two boys, working with horses, reading, writing, and taking classes that spark my interest.



MEET OUR PEOPLE- MAIN OFFICE



Amanda Palmer

Graduate Support Assistant

My name is Amanda Palmer and I am a doctoral candidate in the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences, studying youth development through recreational programs. I also completed a Master's degree at UI in 2020. A native of Bothell, Washington, I have lived in Moscow with my husband and four children since 2012. In my position as the graduate assistant for Graduate Student Support Programming, I have designed and managed the Canvas COGS resource "course" for graduate students and postdocs, which includes schedules and recordings of all graduate support programs throughout the year. In addition, I helped develop and refine workshops in the "Grad Student HOW TO" series, including the "Steps to Your Graduate Degree" workshop. A few of our workshop series are offered in person, but nearly every workshop is offered via Zoom to provide accessibility to online and distance students. Most all workshops are also recorded and available to watch later. I have consistently observed that students are much more likely to attend if their mentors or advisors encourage them to. Thank you for your support of our Vandal grad students!

MEET OUR PEOPLE- ADMISSIONS



Polixenia Tohaneanu

Director of Graduate Admissions

My name is Polixenia (or Polly) Tohaneanu and I am the Director for the Graduate Admissions Office. I also function as an international academic credential evaluator and DSO (I review eligibility for I-20s). I am a French teacher by training. I hold a BA in French from the University of Bucharest and an MA in French Literature from the University of Cincinnati. I started working in the Graduate Admissions office at the U of I back in 2016 and was instantly captivated by my role as a facilitator for graduate education.

My time as a graduate student was one of the most transformational experiences in my life. In my position at COGS, I get to help our students embark on the same life-changing and enriching journey. I was fortunate to receive the support from the College of Graduate Studies to pursue my passion for higher education and had the opportunity to attend national conferences for professional associations in higher education. I am a contributor to the NAFSA Association of International Educators. I presented in international panels and international credential evaluation workshops. I am also part of several AACRAO committees on setting standards and best practices for U.S. higher education. I like connecting with students and hear their inspirational stories. I am fluent in French and I am now learning Spanish. I sometimes surprise students who speak these two languages and start conversing with them their native language.

MEET OUR PEOPLE- ADMISSIONS

Jaye Hasselmann-Cox

Graduate Admissions Specialist/ DSO



Hi! My name is Jaye Hanselmann-Cox, and I am a Graduate Admissions Specialist and DSO in the Graduate Admissions within the College of Graduate Studies. I've lived in various parts of the PNW and came to Moscow to earn my education. I graduated from the University of Idaho in Spring 2023 with a BA in English with an emphasis in Professional Writing and Communications. As an admissions specialist, I help prospective students with their graduate applications from start to finish, beginning with when an application is submitted up until an admission decision is made. As a DSO, I collaborate with my team to review domestic and international academic credentials, as well as keep up to date on how to best support our international applicants. One of the things I enjoy most about my position is directly interacting with our applicants to learn more about themselves and their experiences when applying to graduate school. I firmly believe bridging that connection is essential to student support and their self-actualization. Outside of the office, I enjoy cooking, baking, and writing contemporary poetry!

Chelsy Massa

Graduate Admissions Specialist/ DSO

I am a graduate admissions specialist and DSO in the Graduate Admissions office. I help both domestic and international students through the application process. I also help my fellow processor and the Director of Graduate Admissions to review the many aspects of applications and ensuring smooth processes for both the student and academic department. I am a WSU alum with a BA in History and received my MA from Norwich University. I moved to Moscow in the Summer of 2020 from being a student in China learning Mandarin. I love being a part of the Vandal family and having a job that is some of the first faces of the University for students to meet.



Meet our people- Recruitment and Communications

Taylor Brady

Communication and Marketing Specialist



Hello! I am the Communication and Marketing Specialist for the College of Graduate Studies here at the University of Idaho. Originally from Arkansas, I lived in the South and the Midwest before moving to the PNW. I came to Moscow two years ago to support my partner while she earns her graduate degree here at the University of Idaho. While working at UI, I served as the Graduate Student Support Coordinator for COGS and as an Instructor of First Year Writing before becoming the Graduate Communication and Marketing Specialist. In this role, I design outgoing communication for graduate recruitment, application processes and student enrollment and work with academic departments across UI to get the word out about their graduate programs.

I hold an MFA in English from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and also work as a writer and editor. Outside of the office, I enjoy playing video games, lifting weights, completing puzzles, and exploring National and State Parks. On the weekend you can probably find me at the Moscow Farmers Market.

Brian Tibayan

Communication and Marketing Specialist



Hello! My name is Brian Tibayan. I am a fourth-year Ph.D. candidate in Curriculum and Instruction in the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences. I am teaching ED 504: Improv for 3MT Presentations this Fall. My research interests include applied theatre, science communication, and diverse practices in education. I'm also an actor with an MFA in Theatre Arts from the University of Idaho, earned in 2020 and I've performed in various productions in the US and the Philippines. Since 2018, I've been a Graduate Support Assistant for the College of Graduate Studies (COGS),

starting as a social media writer and events coordinator. My role then shifted to videography, where I now produce, direct, write, and edit videos for the College. I'm always on the lookout for exciting stories about our graduate student community. You can explore these narratives by checking out Grad Stories [<https://bit.ly/cogsgradstories>] or the COGS YouTube channel [<https://bit.ly/UoflCOGS>]. I'm always happy to talk, listen, and help our graduate students in any way I can. You'll likely see me in Morrill Hall, on campus, or at various coffee shops, probably writing, editing videos, and enjoying my go-to non-caffeinated drink

Meet our people- Extension

Alissa Korsak

Communication and Marketing Specialist



Alissa is the primary marketing content and channels strategist for University of Idaho Boise and the College of Graduate Studies. Serving as a liaison for U of I Boise and the College of Graduate Studies, Alissa leverages and activates strategies in partnership with the University Communications & Marketing (UCM) department to advance U of I's brand strategy. She is the main point of contact for marketing and communications requests for U of I Boise and the College of Graduate Studies and can be reached at akorsak@uidaho.edu or (208) 771-0821.

Jennifer Radil

Senior Budget Specialist, Provost Office/Budget Office

My name is Jennifer Radil and I am the Business Officer for the College of Graduate Studies. I earned my B.S. in Business from the University of Colorado. I have worked at the University of Idaho since 2014 and joined COGS in 2019. My role is to support the Dean and staff of COGS with financial stewardship, financial transactions, budget planning, and personnel actions. When I am not crunching numbers and budget planning, I enjoy reading, hanging with my poodle Luna and hiking in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado.



Vandalweb Switching to MyUI

On Monday, Sept. 9, [MyUI](#) replaced VandalWeb as U of I's primary dashboard, and links to VandalWeb will redirect to the [MyUI information page](#). OIT encourages users to log in to MyUI, explore its features and replace VandalWeb bookmarks with links to MyUI. If you encounter issues with the platform, [submit a ticket](#). MyUI will continue to improve and evolve, so [contact the MyUI team](#) with your ideas and feedback.

Reminders

COGS Guides

Need assistance filling out your study plan, finding TA/RA resources, looking for grad workshops, or need a graduation checklist? Check out our helpful resources page at <https://www.uidaho.edu/cogs/resources/student-resources>.

We have all sorts of helpful guides, resources, and reminders to help you in all areas of your graduate study!

ETD Reminders

Please remember to strive to complete the ETD process as soon as you are able. Your document must be approved by your committee and department chair in ETD ProQuest by 5 p.m. December 13th to graduate this term. This means Molly AND all your committee members must have approved the document by this date. If you submit the final revisions on this date, there will not be enough time for your committee members to review and approve. Failure to provide adequate time for approvals could delay your graduation term.

Reminders

Graduating Soon?

You can find checklists, guides, and other helpful documents at the following web page: www.uidaho.edu/cogs/resources/student-resources/thesis-dissertation

Remember, **it is your responsibility to complete the following before graduating:**

- Major Professor (and Committee members) appointed
- Satisfied Degree Audit
- Application to graduate for the current term
- Completed thesis/non-thesis/dissertation requirements



Reminders

Dates and Deadlines

We can't recommend staying on top of dates and deadlines strongly enough! Be sure to familiarize yourself with our Dates and Deadlines web page, and see the deadlines below for those anticipating graduating this Fall semester:

Thesis/Dissertations

Nov. 8 2024

– Submit Request to Proceed

Nov. 22 2024

– Complete Final Defense

Dec. 2 2024

– Submit final version to ETD

Dec. 13 2024

– Final document approved in ETD

Non-Thesis

Dec. 13th 2024

– Submit the Non-Thesis Project Report



More information about dates and deadlines can be found here:

www.uidaho.edu/cogs/deadlines/thesis-dissertations

Upcoming Events

Wondering about graduate news, events, and workshops? Check out COGS calendar! You can find all the latest grad events by visiting <https://www.uidaho.edu/cogs/news-events/calendar>.

To check out a comprehensive list of our grad workshops, visit <https://www.uidaho.edu/cogs/resources/workshops>.

College of Graduate Studies Calendar

Time	Event
Tuesday, September 24, 2024	
3pm	Prestigious Fellowships Workshop Series: Introduction to Fellowship Applications
Wednesday, September 25, 2024	
12:30pm	Making Research Data Management Easier (Graduate Student Essentials)
12:30pm	International Postdoc Communication Workshops
Thursday, September 26, 2024	
10am	Doctoral Defense for Khanal
1pm	Grad Researcher Community Group Meeting
Monday, September 30, 2024	
10am	Doctoral Defense for Arp
Tuesday, October 1, 2024	
3pm	Prestigious Fellowships Workshop Series: The Application Process and Components
Wednesday, October 2, 2024	
11am	Graduate Student Mental Health Series: Grad Mental Health for Online and Remote Students
Thursday, October 3, 2024	
1pm	Grad Researcher Community Group Meeting
Monday, October 7, 2024	
10am	Grad Student HOW TO: Format Your Thesis or Dissertation

Upcoming Events



U of I Grad Students, would you like to earn
\$1000 in 3 minutes?

Top research presentations advance to state competition for more \$!

Thursday, November 14th at 2:30pm
Vandal Ballroom, Bruce Pitman Center, Moscow

Sign up by November 7th

Visit <https://www.uidaho.edu/cogs/three-minute-thesis> for more information



University of Idaho
College of Graduate Studies



NOW HIRING

We want your Talent!

University of Idaho - Soil and Water Systems Department is seeking Research Assistants

Description: Engage in research focusing on Assessment and Development of Regenerative/Climate Smart Management Practices in Production Ag Systems. We are seeking highly motivated and qualified students to explore the ability of current, incremental, and regenerative cropping systems to improve nutrient cycling and water use efficiency within complex landscapes and over varying climatic gradients. Research will involve field experimentation, remote sensing, and hydrologic crop modeling. The students will be part of a large interdisciplinary project funded through a USDA Climate Smart Partnership Grant.

Qualifications: Applicants for the positions will have an undergraduate (MS) or graduate degree (PhD) in hydrology, water resources, soils, agronomy, environmental chemistry, agricultural engineering, environmental engineering, or a related field. The successful candidates will be familiar with water and nutrient cycling in soils, an understanding of crop systems, GIS/remote sensing, Python/R programming, and basic spatial modeling and statistics. The students are expected to have excellent communication and interpersonal skills and to participate in field data collection. We highly encourage motivated students eager to gain a deeper understanding of the sustainable dryland cropping systems and are willing to work interactively in team research to apply for these assistantships.

Financial support: Each successful candidate will receive tuition support and stipend, and financial support to participate to a relevant conference each year.

To apply: Please send a Personal statement, Curriculum Vitae, Unofficial transcripts, and contact information for three references to (PhD) Erin Brooks at ebrooks@uidaho.edu,

Timeline: Review of applicants will start immediately and continue until the position is filled.

***SEND YOUR APPLICATION
MATERIALS TO:***

ebrooks@uidaho.edu



NOW HIRING

We want your Talent!

**University of Idaho - Soil and Water Systems
Department is seeking Graduate Research Assistants**

Description: The Department of Soil and Water Systems at University of Idaho located in Moscow, Idaho, is seeking a motivated student either at M.S. or Ph.D. level to conduct research in Hydrology and Water Resources. The students will join a collaborative team of university professors and state and federal agency personnel focused on improving our understanding of how forest management and wildfires impact water resources in watersheds across the western United States. Research will primarily address the effects of forest management and wildfires on surface runoff, sediment yield, and water quality. However, the students might also be involved in field data collection campaigns, laboratory analyses, and spatial data management and interpretation. Additionally, they will be expected to present their findings at national or international conferences and publish in peer-reviewed scientific journals. The students will be based in the Department of Soil and Water Systems and will work under the supervision of Dr. Mariana Dobre and Dr. Erin Brooks.

Qualifications: Applicants should have an undergraduate or graduate degree in hydrology, water resources, soils, civil/environmental engineering, or a related field. The ideal candidates will be familiar with or demonstrate interest in learning GIS/remote sensing, Python/R/Fortran programming, and basic spatial modeling and statistics. Strong communication and interpersonal skills are essential. We highly encourage motivated students who are eager to deepen their understanding of forested ecosystem management and who thrive in a collaborative research environment to apply for these assistantships. Experience with hydrologic models, particularly the Water Erosion Prediction Project (WEPP), is desirable but not required.

Financial support: Each successful candidate will receive tuition support, a stipend, and financial support to attend a relevant conference each year.

To apply: Please send the following materials to Mariana Dobre at mdobre@uidaho.edu:

Personal statement
Curriculum Vitae
Unofficial transcripts
Contact information of three references (if applying for the PhD position)

Timeline: Review of applicants will start immediately and continue until both positions are filled.

**SEND YOUR APPLICATION
MATERIALS TO:**

mdobre@uidaho.edu



Opportunities

BECOME A MENTOR!

The University of Idaho's McNair program is looking for graduate student mentors committed to fostering student success in graduate school.

BENEFITS OF MENTORING

- Develop strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Practice being a leader
- Become competent in responsible student development
- Practice giving and receiving constructive feedback



EXPECTATION FOR OUR MENTORS:

- Attend our effective mentorship training August 29th | 5:00 - 7:30 PM
- Monthly meetings with 2-3 scholars
- Attend (1) mentor-mentee social per semester
- Submit mentor-mentee meeting logs in a timely manner

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:
AUGUST 21, 2024**

APPLICATION DETAILS

<https://forms.gle/n3RneqnCcmZbTUdU8>



QUESTIONS?

Contact us at:
mcnair-trio@uidaho.edu

*Although the deadline to join this term has past, there is always opportunities to join in the future!