

DATES ARE CURRENTLY APPROXIMATE. DEADLINES TO BE FINALIZED IN NOVEMBER, 2009

IGERT: Risk Analysis for Introduced Species and Genotypes Call for Applications for Ph.D. Traineeships Deadlines: self-nomination 15 December 2009; graduate program nomination 8 January 2010

The Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program on Risk Analysis for Introduced Species and Genotypes (ISG-IGERT) seeks applicants for entering the program in Fall 2010, supported by the National Science Foundation. The program educates Ph.D. students to conduct research to improve Ecological Risk Analysis and contribute workable solutions to policy questions and problems affecting management of introduced species and genotypes. The program includes a new graduate minor in Risk Analysis for Introduced Species and Genotypes (ISG minor). Prospective students must also apply to an appropriate graduate program for admission to a Ph.D. degree program. Appendix A describes the program's vision, goals, four focal research themes and Appendix B describes the ISG graduate minor.

The ISG-IGERT program promotes the value of a diverse scientific community and encourages applications from persons from under-represented groups. We have outstanding opportunities for students of underrepresented backgrounds.

Required Application Materials

Items 1-3 below must be compiled into one file (Word or a pdf) with a file name consisting of "IGERT" followed by the student's last name. Item 4 (transcripts) can be in a separate file.

1. Statement of research interest and educational goals of no more than 1500 words, excluding references. The statement must cover the following points:

- Explain your interest in the broad goals of this program, that is, to train scientific leaders who will excel at integrating science with consideration of societal factors to create better public policy and management for introduced species and genotypes. How do these goals relate to your educational and career goals?
- Address how your research interests fit with the conceptual framework of ecological risk assessment and at least one of the focal research themes of the ISG-IGERT program.
- Explain the importance of your research interests.

2. C.V. of no more than two pages.

3. Major degree program and ISG Minor commitment form (see attachment) signed by the Ph.D. student.

4. By **8 January**, letter from major advisor explaining how the student's interests fit into the advisor's research program and the advisor's commitment to and strategy for financially supporting the student for the entire PhD program. The letter can come from the Director of Graduate Studies if a new graduate school applicant has not yet finalized the major advisor.

5. For incoming students, copy of entire graduate school application which needs to include transcripts for all prior undergraduate and graduate degrees. Current students should submit the current unofficial UMN transcript. Please send electronically (scan if necessary).

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Evaluation Criteria

Criteria include: how well the applicant's research interests and educational goals match with the interdisciplinary vision, goals and research themes of the ISG-IGERT; creativity and clarity of ideas presented in the application statement; quality of the academic record; and potential to become a research or policy leader in analysis and management of introduced species and genotypes.

Deadline

- Electronic application for self-nomination due **December 15** and for graduate program nomination due **January 8**; and letter from major advisor due **January 8**;
- Submit by email to the program email address <isgigert@umn.edu> **and** to Professor Dave Ragsdale: ragsd001@umn.edu
- **The subject line must say: ISG-IGERT Application from [insert student's last name]**

If you have questions, please contact:

Dave Ragsdale, ISG-IGERT Admissions Chair, Professor, Dept. of Entomology 612-624-6771 (phone) ragsd001@umn.edu or

Ray Newman, ISG-IGERT Program Director, Professor, Dept. of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology 612-625-5704 (phone) RNewman@umn.edu