Presidential Graduate Assistantship

Managing Evolving Systems

The School of Life Sciences invites applications for the Presidential Graduate Assistantship (PGA) program at Arizona State University beginning Fall 2027.

Ever wonder why cancer has been so hard to cure, why mosquitoes are still responsible for killing hundreds of thousands of people every year despite the availability of many different insecticides, or why we have to get re-vaccinated for the flu every fall?

These are all evolutionary problems, yet people have not taken an evolutionary approach to solving them. At ASU, we are recruiting students to help develop evolutionary approaches to these evolving diseases. Applicants with an interest and background in interdisciplinary approaches to managing evolving systems like infectious diseases, cancer, pests, weeds, microbiomes and ecosystems can apply to any of the School of Life Sciences PhD programs.

PGA students will design and carry out novel research testing ideas on how to prevent, slow or redirect the evolution of therapeutic resistance and other undesirable properties in rapidly evolving systems. PGAs will join a dynamic, supportive environment that brings together wet lab, field, modeling and conceptual approaches in collaborative teams. The PGA program is committed to developing independent scholars and provides inclusive mentorship aimed at doctoral students whose research, teaching and service align with the ASU Charter.

ASU School of Life Sciences
Arizona State University

About the PGA program

- **The Presidential Graduate Assistantship** The Presidential Graduate Assistantship is a merit-based award created to support th recruitment, professional development and faculty mentoring of doctoral students in all fields whose research teaching and service will contribute to advancing the ASU Charter.
- **The PGA** provides opportunities for professional development, faculty mentoring and recruitment of doctoral students enrolled in on-campus immersion programs.
- Recipients are expected to enroll in an on-campus immersion doctoral program for a minimum of 9 credit hours each academic semester (or as determined by their unit).

Program details

- **Financial support:** Full tuition, a stipend and health insurance are available to eligible applicants, contingent upon satisfactory academic progress.
- **Research opportunities and individualized mentoring:** Each doctoral student will work with a mentoring team and have the opportunity to tailor their experience to their research interest and goals.
- **Professional development:** Cohorts of scholars participate in specialized training, workshops and networking provided by the Office of Inclusive Excellence and the ASU Graduate College.

Program highlights

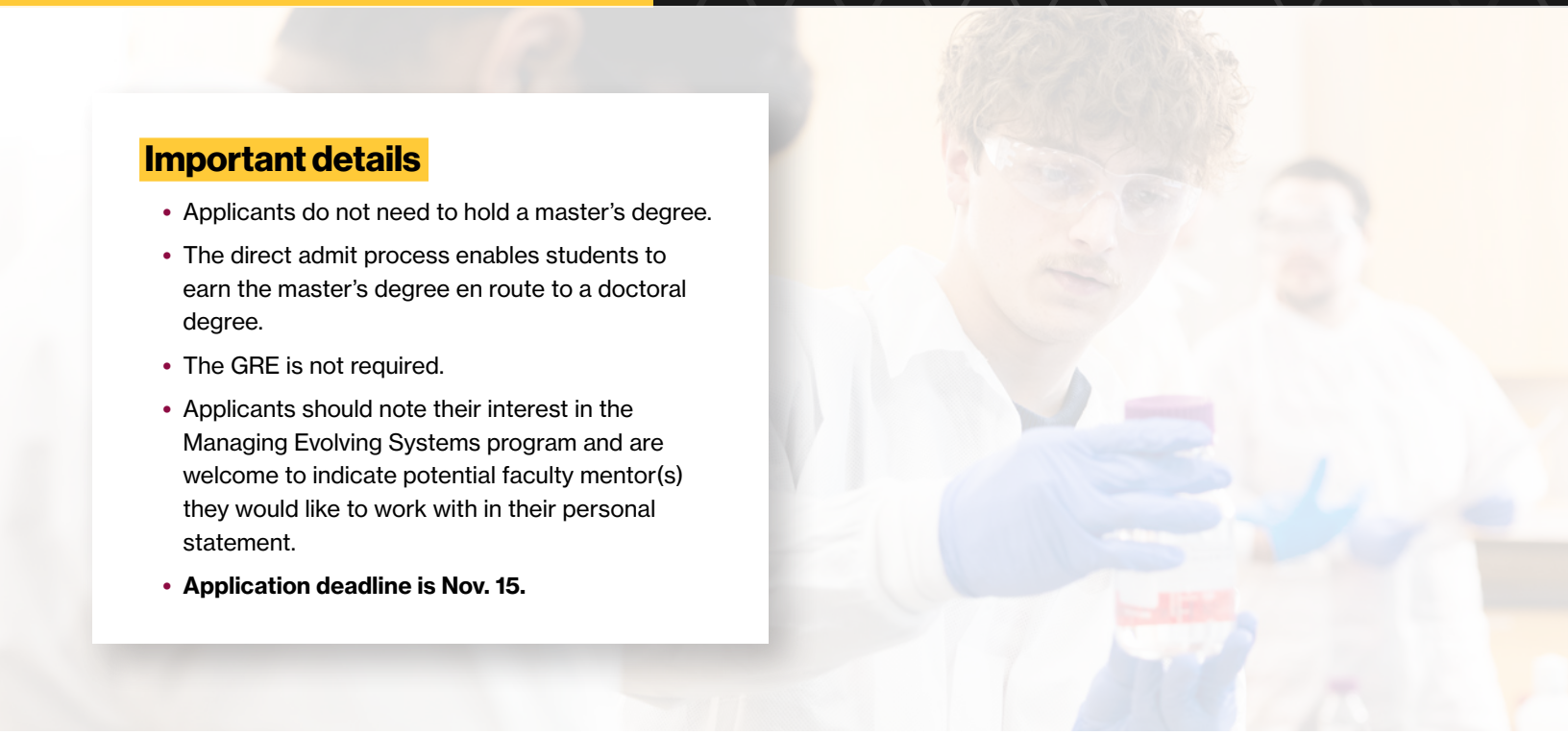
We are recruiting two doctoral students to start at ASU Tempe campus in Fall 2027.**Our school offers:**

- Personalized and interdisciplinary mentoring teams.
- Training with international leaders in evolutionary systems research.
- Membership in a supportive cohort as part of the PGA community.
- Collaborative learning with researchers from different fields across ASU.
- The opportunity to make an impact on real-world problems.

Application information and inquiries

Candidates may apply to any of the doctoral programs in the School of Life Sciences. Detailed information can be found here including application requirements:

- Graduate admission application and application fee (or note fee waiver if applicable).
- Official transcripts.
- Three letters of recommendation.
- Current curriculum vitae or resume.
- Personal statement.
- If applying to the History and Philosophy of Science PhD, a sample of the applicant's written work.
- Proof of English proficiency (if applicable).



Important details

- Applicants do not need to hold a master's degree.
- The direct admit process enables students to earn the master's degree en route to a doctoral degree.
- The GRE is not required.
- Applicants should note their interest in the Managing Evolving Systems program and are welcome to indicate potential faculty mentor(s) they would like to work with in their personal statement.
- **Application deadline is Nov. 15.**

About Arizona State University

ASU is a large, comprehensive, research university and for nearly two decades, has transformed into the "New American University," one dedicated to the simultaneous pursuit of excellence, broad access to quality education, and meaningful societal impact. By our Charter and Design Aspirations, we center inclusion and success as values that drive the enterprise; adopt inter- and transdisciplinary approaches to teaching and learning as ways to address society's greatest challenges; and develop innovative partnerships to produce master learners across the lifespan. To learn more about ASU, visit **asu.edu**.

Inquiries may be directed to Beckett Sterner at **beckett.sterner@asu.edu**.

Deadline to apply: Nov. 15, 2027

For more information visit sols.asu.edu/pga.