



February 2021

In graduate school we hope that you will become well-rounded scholars and researchers within your chosen field, capable of contributing to academic discourse with new insights and research. Because our goal is not just the mastery of existing research, but the ability to expand and interact with it, your grades in your classes are not the only category used to evaluate your progress. Independent scholarship, cooperative work, and mentoring or leadership all can play a part in becoming a successful scholar.

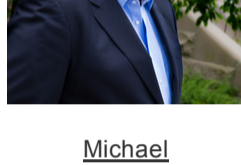
Since grades aren't the full picture of your development as a scholar, OGPS recommends that every student involved in a graduate degree program that lasts more than a year should be formally evaluated every year by their advisor, principal investigator, or director of graduate studies. It isn't intended to be a scary process, but a point to check in and reflect on your successes and struggles from the previous year. The grades you have earned in your courses should be part of this review process, but so should publications, awards, participation in professional organizations, and work with your research group if applicable. We advise students to prepare for this meeting by documenting all of those things – it's possible that your PI doesn't know that you've joined a professional society or that the director of graduate studies didn't realize you were the second author on a recent paper. It's also an important point for you to reflect on where you are struggling. Graduate students are often very good in classes and have the grades to prove it but may be challenged by other elements of graduate education. Independent work, long timelines, and balancing teaching or research duties are some common areas where students may need more help and it's important to talk about that with your advisor.

Many departments already have rigorous review practices in place; we encourage you to approach the process thoughtfully. Other departments haven't been as systematic about reviews, and in those cases, we suggest that you advocate for reviews to be done. OGPS has templates for both a self-evaluation and an advisor's evaluation on [our website](#), that you are welcome to use and edit if your department doesn't have its own forms. Additionally, you and your advisor may find it useful to work on an individual development plan (IDP) to articulate your goals and break them into manageable steps. That is a process that can be useful at all stages of your academic career, but especially as you approach the latter years of your program or the first years of a postdoctoral fellowship. More information about IDPs including templates and other resources can be found at [myIDP](#).

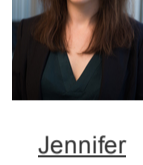
A formal review of your performance as a student or fellow may be stressful, but we encourage you to approach it as an important part of an ongoing conversation between you and your advisor. Ideally, it will help you reflect upon and highlight your strengths while also getting insight and advice on areas that need improvement. With a clear picture of you as a scholar and you and your advisor's expectations, you can plan your next steps and be strategic about how you approach all the research you hope to do.

Sincerely,

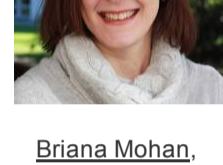
The OGPS Staff and Fellows



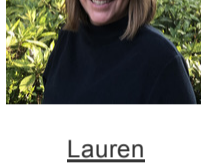
Michael Cunningham,
Assoc. Provost for
Graduate Studies
and Research



Jennifer O'Brien-Brown,
Program
Manager



Briana Mohan,
Senior Academic
and Career
Advisor



Lauren Lukkarila,
Academic
Development &
Resource
Specialist

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Survey on Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Fellow Career Advising Needs

OGPS Fellow, Jaclyn Maraldo, is soliciting information on graduate student and postdoctoral fellow career advising needs. This survey is particularly concerned with the needs of students and fellows who are looking to pursue non-academic careers. Results of the survey will help inform events later this semester, as well as new resources for the OGPS Career Support Canvas page.

The survey should take fewer than five minutes to complete and can be accessed [here](#).

National Postdoctoral Association Conference

OGPS has purchased a bulk registration package for the National Postdoctoral Association Conference which will be held virtually April 15-16. If you are interested in attending, please send an email to ogps@tulane.edu. We have a limited number of spots, and priority will be given to postdoctoral fellows.

GSSA Executive Board Elections

GSSA is currently accepting nominations for its E-Board elections in early April! The available E-Board positions are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, SSE Representative, and International Student Representative. If you are interested in becoming a prominent voice for the graduate student populations of SSE and SLA, please contact Ron Koshita (rkoshita@tulane.edu), GSSA President, for more information and details.

President's and GSSA's Awards for Excellent Teachers

We all remember teachers who impacted our lives. Do you have a professor at Tulane who has gone the extra mile for you and changed your life? If yes, consider nominating that person for the President's Award for Excellence in Graduate and Professional Teaching. The deadline is February 26. The nomination form is available [here](#).

Members of GSSA (students in the School of Liberal Arts and the School of Science and Engineering) have another opportunity to recognize outstanding educators with the GSSA Faculty Appreciation Award. To nominate a professor for this award, please write a 3-6 sentence statement about a faculty member that has gone above and beyond in helping you in the past year and send the statement to [Ron Koshita](#), GSSA President. Nominations will be accepted until March 10.

Women Making Waves

Mark your calendars! Tulane University's 7th annual women's leadership conference, Women Making Waves, is taking place virtually, Tuesday, March 2 through Wednesday, March 3, 2021.

Each year the Office of Alumni Relations celebrates the career successes of our alumnae in order to further inspire and motivate Tulane women to seek leadership positions in the workplace and in their communities. This year's panel discussions will include "Herstories," where alumnae share their personal journeys to professional success, and "Pathways to Leadership," a discussion about specific programs, advanced degrees, credentials, etc. that contribute to one's rise to leadership.

There will be plenty of networking opportunities for participants to connect throughout the day - both individually and via small group discussions.

There is no fee to attend, but advanced registration is required. All members of the Tulane community are welcome to attend. More information and registration details can be accessed [here](#).

Career and Academic Resources

Our career and academic resources are all available on Canvas! We encourage you to visit the sites regularly as OGPS Staff and Fellows work to add new articles and information often.

One-on-one appointments are available with Dr. Lauren Lukkarila, Briana Mohan, and Jennifer O'Brien-Brown, which you can schedule through Canvas.

OPPORTUNITIES

Fulbright Grants

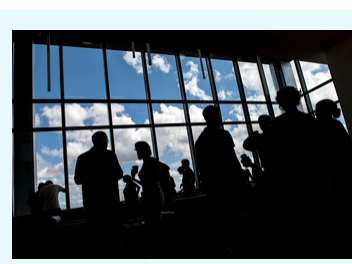
Are you interested in going abroad to conduct independent research? Or maybe you have plans to serve as an English Teaching Assistant or pursue a graduate degree at an international university after graduation? If so, you could be an excellent candidate for Fulbright US Student Program!

Fulbright provides grants for individually designed research projects, English Teaching Assistant Programs and graduate study abroad. If selected, during your time as a Fulbrighter, you will meet, work, live with, and learn from the people of your host country, sharing daily experiences. Direct interactions in the classroom, field, home, and in routine tasks will allow you to gain an appreciation of others' viewpoints and beliefs, the way they do things, and the way they think. For more information and to register for information sessions which begin Friday, March 5, please click [here](#).

Webpage for Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Fellow Opportunities

OGPS is notified periodically of opportunities for Tulane graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. These can range from part time work-study jobs to assistantships, to full time employment opportunities after graduation. This month we have received information about a career advisor position at the Teachers College at Columbia University, which is now accepting applications. Please check our [new webpage](#) frequently as we will try to update this page when we learn of new openings.

[Learn More](#)



IMPORTANT DATES

Notices in Canvas

We will be using Canvas to send a once-a-week announcement with upcoming workshops in OGPS, CELT, the Howard Tilton Memorial Library, and other university organizations as they come up.

Upcoming OGPS Workshops

Mar. 3, 9:30am-11am
Career Considerations for International Students and Postdocs

Mar. 5, 11am-12:15pm
Understanding the Basic Principles of Academic Research Writing (Part 1)

Mar. 18, 2pm-3pm
Conducting Your Job Search

Mar. 24, 10am-11am
Interview Skills and Preparation

Mar. 26, 11am-12:15pm
Understanding the Basic Principles of Academic Research Writing (Part 2)

Mar. 31, 2pm-3pm
Informational Interviewing and Networking (Part 1)

More workshops and more details about workshops will be included in the announcements from Canvas. All workshops in Spring 2021 will be held virtually, registration is required.

GAPSA Guidance Webinar

The GAPSA Guidance webinar on campus offices associated with equity, diversity and inclusion is Thursday, March 4 at 5 pm. Be on the lookout for an email with registration and question submission details.

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