WELCOME

We’re glad you’re here.

The 2016 Graduate Student Planning Committee would like to take a moment to welcome you to the Plant Science Recruitment Weekend. This packet was the brainchild of many students who, like yourselves, found themselves at a terminal point in their lives, and understand that it all can be a little scary. Remember that the future is bright, and Michigan State is a great place to shine even brighter.

As you prepare for your visit, we hope that you find this information useful. Safe travels, enjoy your visit, and we look forward to seeing you this weekend.
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Who We Are...

- Forestry
- Plant Biology
- Horticulture
- Plant Pathology
- Plant, Soil, and Microbial Science
- Crop and Soil Sciences
A number of certificate, non-degree granting programs, or interdisciplinary degree programs are offered within the plant science departments at Michigan State University. Most departments can participate in any of these programs, however, some research topics are more amendable than others. Generally, these special interest programs have a few additional requirements including courses, seminars, or committee requirements. They are a great way to gain expertise in a deep topic area, plus they allow access to great communities and special funding opportunities. If you are interested in learning more about any of these programs, you can find more information at the websites provided.

**Quantitative Biology (QB)**  
https://qbi.natsci.msu.edu/

**Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Biotechnology (PBCB)**  
http://www.hrt.msu.edu/pbgp/

**Plant Biotechnology for Health and Sustainability (PBHS)**  
https://plantmetabolism.natsci.msu.edu/

**Bio-Computational Evolution in Action CONSortium (BEACON)**  
http://beacon-center.org/

**Environmental Science and Policy (ESPP) Doctoral Specialization**  
http://espp.msu.edu/specialization/index.php

**Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, & Behavior Program (EEBB)**  
https://eebb.msu.edu/
ADVICE ON ADVISORS

Interviews can be intimidating, but that is okay.

Just remember that you need to find a good fit too. Ask hard questions, dig deep. Get the most out of your graduate experience by finding an advisor that meshes well with you.
The Ideal Advisor Has...

Compatible Personality       Funding
Has Interest In Mentoring   Common Interests
Happy Graduate Students     Work-Life Balance

WHAT SHOULD I BE ASKING?

This can be a little tricky, but do your best to address each of the following areas to better understand the situation you might be getting yourself into. The best solution is to be open and honest upfront with these concerns.

What is their communication style?
How often do they meet with lab members?
How often are they on campus?
What is your research and who dictates its direction?
What have their previous students done following graduation?
How will your research be funded?
What are your benefits, including stipend and tuition?
How involved are they in the greater scientific community and will you be able to attend and present at conferences?
East Lansing might not be the big city, but it is home to one of the largest college campuses in the nation. With over 50,000 students calling the area home throughout the year, there is no shortage of places to live. There are a few neighborhoods around campus, each with a number of pros and cons. Wherever you choose, we hope you can call it home.

1. On Campus Housing
2. Southside Lansing
3. Eastside Lansing
4. Downtown Lansing
5. Okemos
6. East Lansing

A great way to get immersed in the programs and culture is to room with current students. Ask around or get recommendations from future lab mates!
1) **On Campus**

A solid fallback option, on-campus housing consists of several dorms and university owned apartments. Although infrastructure can be a little dated, on-campus housing offers many community events, is well served by public transportation, and is within walking distance of campus.

2) **Southside Lansing**

For the most part, Southside is quiet and clean although we recommend avoiding the area between Pennsylvania and Cedar. Rent is affordable, and this area might be the most amendable if you are looking to purchase. If you’re not driving, a bike commute will take around 20 min.
3) Eastside Lansing
Located equidistant to campus and Downtown Lansing, Eastside is an easy popular with quite popular for the graduate student body. This neighborhood is probably the cheapest option, and is also an easy commute via bike or bus.

4) Downtown Lansing
Downtown is a fun place both to live and visit. Rent is a little more expensive, however, you will be right in the middle of the hustle and bustle of Michigan's Capital. We recommend driving instead of taking the bus because the commute can take almost 45 minutes.

5) Okemos
Lansing's neighbor to the East, Okemos is a large suburban community. Rent and cost to buy is a little expensive. That being said, there are a number of shops, malls, parks, and other amenities conveniently located in a quiet, safe neighborhood. Again, we recommend driving if you live over here.

6) East Lansing
The undergraduate community for a large Big Ten School. East Lansing is close to campus and the bars, however, housing can be hit or miss. The atmosphere is what you might expect. Easy bike or bus.
**Employee Parking Pass**  
$122 / semester  
Can park anywhere south of the river

**Commuter Parking Pass**  
$98 per year  
Limited parking options on the outskirts of campus, therefore, you must either walk in or take the bus

_Pro tip: Ride your bike in the fall, and purchase a parking or bus pass only for the spring when it is cold and rainy_

**Campus Buses**  
$50 / semester  
$0.60 per ride  
Good service and reliability. Schedules are available online or real-time via text message

**Megabus**  
$40 or less  
Great way to get to Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, or Chicago

**Flights**  
Varies  
Detroit is largest airport, but Lansing and Grand Rapids also have flights. Take the Michigan Flyer Bus to the airport for ~$50 round trip.

**Amtrak**  
~$100  
Easy and convenient way to get to Chicago or Port Huron
GADDING ABOUT CAMPUS

**IM Sports**
The three sports centers on campus ensure that you are never far from gym amenities.
- Intramural graduate student/staff teams
- Free graduate student classes every day of the week

**Munn Ice Skating**
Either catch a hockey game or enjoy public skate during lunch on weekdays or on weekend evenings.
- Game Tickets $10.00
- Skate Rentals $2.00

**Sporting Events**
At a Big Ten school there is no shortage of sporting events and grad students can purchase highly discounted tickets.

**TIP:** Buy season football tickets in June (includes all 7 homes games and a T-shirt) for $230.00 then sell tickets to the Ohio State or Michigan game and recoup the cost of the entire package!
Dairy Store

Try all 32 ice cream flavors, with names that are bound to cultivate school pride, or sample award-winning cheeses.

- Monday Special FREE tomato soup with grilled cheese purchase

Campus Center Cinema

On the first floor of Wells Hall you can catch 4 movies on the big screen each week that have just come out of theaters! Friday-Sunday 7pm and 9pm showings.

- Admission FREE
  - & Popcorn

Student Union

Another place on campus to get MSU dairy store ice cream. Plus they have a cafe, post office, and bowling in the basement.

- Wednesday Bowling FREE 8-11pm

Wharton Center for Performing Arts

Take in Broadway shows, ballet performances, comedians, symphonies and just about any other performance you can think of, while sitting in plush red velvet seats. Get your tickets through the Center for student pricing.

- Student Tickets $10-25

MSU Calendar of Events
https://msu.edu/calendars.html
**MSU Music School**

Music Graduate Students and faculty put on FREE concerts most weeknights in the Music Building, especially toward the end of the semester.

**Broad Art Museum**

A quaint art museum that has regular, free guided tours on Sunday afternoons at 2pm.

- Admission: **FREE**

**MSU Museum**

The dinosaurs in the basement will refresh you on the Jurassic and Cretaceous eras and the exhibits upstairs are rich in Michigan history. The authentic general store is a must-see.

- Admission: **FREE**

**Beal Botanical and Horticultural Demonstration Gardens**

A peaceful study location and landscaping volunteer opportunity.
**Abrams Planetarium**

Make use of the MSU 24” telescope on public observing nights in the warmer months or take in a planetarium show.

- Friday & Saturday: 8pm
- Sunday: 2:30 & 4:00pm
- Admission: $3.50 (cash only)

**Beaumont Tower**

Climb the 73 stairs to the playing cabin behind the clocks to observe the 49-bell carillon or enjoy the music at a picnic on the lawn. Open to the public on Tuesdays during the semester and on Wednesdays in July for an annual summer concert series.

- Tuesdays (semester): 12:00-12:30pm
- Wednesdays (July): 6:00-7:00pm

**Demmer Shooting Sports Educational & Training**

Indoor and outdoor archery ranges as well as interior firearm ranges. Open to the public Friday 4:30-9pm, Saturday 11:00am-8pm, and Sunday 1:00-7:00pm.

- Equipment rentals: FREE
- 1.5 Range Session: $5.00-15.00
EXPLORING LANSING

Lansing provides venues and events varied from the college town vibe you will find in East Lansing. Here are a few of the tried and true staples of the capitol city, but you can stay informed of the latest events by using the online Lansing Events Calendar.

http://www.lansing.org/events/
**Old Town**
Lansing’s original downtown and boutique district. In addition to art galleries, cafes, and specialties stores, check out the festivals and phenomenal Absolute Gallery Chamber Music and General Store concerts.

**Riverwalk Community Theater**
Entertaining and reasonably priced

**Lansing River Trail**
Bike, walk, or run the 13 miles of paved trail that stretches from campus to South Lansing, through wooded groves and multiple parks.

**Potter Park Zoo**
Open year round with over 500 animals and a stellar light display over the holidays.

**Pruess’ Pets**
A miniature zoo you can enjoy even if you aren’t in the market for a pet.

**Lansing Minor League Baseball**
Beers are $2 on Thursdays and the fireworks after games are fabulous. The baseball is, well, minor league baseball.

**NCG Eastwood Cinema**
Tickets for all show times are $5 on Tuesdays.
WHERE TO DRINK (AND EAT)

East Lansing

HOPCAT :: Mighty extensive beer list
BEGGAR’S BANQUET :: Cozy with wine specials
CRUNCHY’S :: Burgers and karaoke
DUBLIN SQUARE :: Pub-Dub before 9pm, Club-Dub after, ½ off Wednesdays
AI FUSION :: Go for lunch specials and 25% off sushi on Monday
PEANUT BARREL :: Cheap, good food and free pool on Wednesday nights
UDON SUSHI :: Quirky must-see with free potato salad while you wait
**Downtown Lansing**

**MIDTOWN BREWING COMPANY** :: Craft brewery with a side of pub grub

**BEER GROTTO** :: Craft beer bar with growlers available for purchase

**AMERICAN FIFTH SPIRITS** :: Lansing’s own distillery. They give distillery tours and welcome bringing your own food/games

**TAVERN & TAP** :: Spacious American pub

**SOUP SPOON** :: Delightful upscale, affordable café

**DAGWOOD’S** :: Classic “townie” bar, get the fried pickles

**MORIARTY’S** :: The place to go for darts and live music without a cover

**Old Town**

**THE CREOLE** :: New Orleans themed venue dishing out French and African fusion cuisine and funk music

**ZOOLIE’S TAVERN & COSMO’S PIZZA** :: Order the popcorn with truffle oil

**GOLDEN HARVEST** :: Eclectic diner that won’t disappoint
SEASONAL FESTIVALS

**January**  Lansing Art & Craft Beer Fest

**April**  Capital City Film Festival
            Beerfest at the Ballpark

**May**  East Lansing Art Festival

**June**  Festival of the Sun, Festival of the Moon
          Lansing Beer Fest

**July**  Lansing JazzFest

**August**  REOTown Art Attack!
            Renegade Theater Festival

**October**  Octoberfest

**December**  Silver Bells in the City

**Common Ground Music Festival**

A full week of concerts of all genres

**The Grand List of Festivals**

[www.lansing.org/events/local-festivals](http://www.lansing.org/events/local-festivals)
**Burchfield Park**

With 540 acres of scenic woods, trails and beach this is the largest park in the county. Canoe and kayak rentals and trips, pedal boat rental, cross country skiing and rentals, sledding, hiking trails, disc golf, mountain biking, softball diamond, and fishing.

**Lake Lansing North Park**

Over 5 miles of trails which include many boardwalks. Picnic shelters, sand volleyball courts, and softball diamond.

**Hawk Island Park**

Swimming, volleyball, and horseshoes in the summer and tubing in the winter.

**Fenner Nature Center**

Four miles of trails that span a host of ecosystems and includes a paved trail that comes in handy during the mucky months.
**Harris Nature Center:**
This Okemos nature center rents snowshoes or cross country skis and gives quaint guided moonlight walks.

**Woldumar Nature Center:**
An absolutely adorable nature center in south Lansing. Check out the maple sugaring demonstration in March.

**Northern Tier Trail**
This paved trail in the heart of East Lansing connects eight community parks and recreation facilities. See map for where to hop on this trail [https://www.cityofeastlansing.com/DocumentCenter/View/1862](https://www.cityofeastlansing.com/DocumentCenter/View/1862)

**Lansing Parks and Rec**
Produces an annual activity book of classes and events
Belle Isle Park
A Detroit gem with an aquarium, conservatory, zoo, athletic fields, hiking paths, a lighthouse, a public beach and pavilions. Best of all, everything is free.

The Detroit Princess
In the summer months, an evening cruise on Detroit Princess is a wonderful way to take in the city from the waterfront. Very affordable ($20.00 for 3 hours). Go straight up to top deck for views of the city, the bar, and the live music and dance floor, which gets more groovy as the night goes on.

Detroit Jazz Festival
A great festival that takes place on multiple stages on the riverfront in September.

Fox Theatre
A historic performing arts venue that was build in 1928 as a movie palace for the Fox movie theater chair.
The Fillmore
A popular music venue in the heart of downtown Detroit that hosts popular and obscure musicians of many genres.

Henry Ford Museum
See the evolution of motor vehicles and receive discounted admission if you are a Bank of America member.

Greenfield Village
A village from 1929, complete with blacksmiths, looms, and carriages.

Detroit Institute of Arts Museum
Only $7 with student ID!

Michigan Science Center
Discover exhibits, live shows, and IMAX, 4D theater and planetarium shows.

Detroit Sport teams
Tigers (baseball), Lions (football), Pistons (basketball), and Red Wings (hockey)
**Art Prize**
An enormous art competition that takes over the entire city each fall. Over 1500 entries and nearly half a million attendees.

**Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park**
A great botanical garden with neat sculptures, a conservatory, butterfly house, and a gorgeous amphitheater that serves as a concert venue in the summer.

**Grand Rapids Public Museum**
An expansive museum with exhibits on everything from prohibition and discovering King Tut to fossils and robots. Plus, there is a carousel!

**Rosa Parks Circle Ice Skating**
Enjoy a lovely outdoor ice skating experience in the heart of Grand Rapids. Public skating every day of the week Dec 3rd - March 6th.

Admission + Rental Skates $2.00
EXPLORING MICHIGAN
UPPER PENINSULA

Lake Superior
Camp, hike, and paddle the largest and coldest of the Great Lakes.

Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum
Tour several maritime buildings and learn about the destructive power of the Great Lakes.
Admission $13.00

Marquette and Copper Harbor
Charming towns with great places to camp on the beach and see the Northern Lights.

Mackinac Island
Take a ferry to the past - carriages, fudge, and the Grand Hotel in addition to water sports.

Isle Royale National Park
Catch the ferry from Copper Harbor to the largest island on Lake Superior. Closed during the winter season.
**Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore**

Hiking and camping along sandstone cliffs and waterfalls! Taking a Pictured Rock Boat Cruise is the best way to fully appreciate the cliffs. Dress warmly if you want to sit on the top deck.

- Sunset or Daytime (2.5 hrs) $37.00

**Porcupine Mountains**

Venture up during the first two weeks of October when fall color is at its peak. We recommend the Escarpment Trial, Summit Peak, and the Lake Superior trail. And for the adventurous, camp anywhere along any trail for free.
EXPLORING MICHIGAN MAINLAND PARKS

Headlands International Dark Sky Park
Located in Emmet County, MI this park offers an amazing view of the night sky

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
Sand dunes and beaches: what more do you need?

Houghton Lake
This 9 ft deep lake is crystal clear and makes for great swimming and paddling in summer and skating in the winter.

January Tip Up Town Festival Michigan’s largest Winter Festival takes place on the frozen Houghton lake complete with fireworks, carnival rides, contests, and aerial performances.

Rent affordable Canoes or Kayaks at Campbell’s Canoeing and paddle the picturesque AuSable River. Day trip and overnight camping options are available.

North Higgins Lake State Park Only 15 minutes from Houghton Lake, there are 174 modern campsites, picnicking, swimming, 2 mini-cabins, a boat launch, and over 8 miles of trails.
EXPLORING MICHIGAN
MAINLAND TOWNS

Frankenmuth
Michigan’s little Bavaria is home to the Cheese Haus, Kern's Sausages, Murdick's Fudge, the world’s largest Christmas store, and an adventure park.

Holly Renaissance Festival
Consists of a series of weekend festivals in the summer and fall in Holly, MI with particularly good jousting and pirate shows.

Traverse City
A summer tourist town with beaches and hotels along the shore line and a few alpine ski resorts. Known as a supreme fruit growing area and home of the Cherry Festival!

Holland Tulip Time Festival
An annual showcase of millions of tulips.

MAKE IT TO CANADA!
With three different points to cross the border, Sault Ste. Marie, Port Huron, and Detroit, it is easy to travel and visit places in Ontario like Toronto, Hamilton, or Windsor.
MAKING FRIENDS

Graduate Student Organizations (GSOs)

The first place to turn when looking to make friends outside of your lab is your department GSO, which facilitates social and professional networks by providing social events, educational opportunities, and industry engagement.

HOGS Horticulture Department
PLB GSO Plant Biology Department
ACRS Crop and Soil Science Department
SPORE Pathology Department

Campus clubs

Most clubs at MSU are also open to graduate students and are a great way to connect with people who love similar hobbies or to learn something new. See the complete listing: https://michiganstate-community.symplicity.com/
RESOURCES FOR UNDERREPRESENTED IDENTITIES

**Alliance for Graduate Education & the Professoriate (AGEP)**

A NSF program that supports recruitment, retention, and graduation of US students in doctoral programs of the natural and social sciences, mathematics, and engineering with a focus on substantially increasing the number of underrepresented US minorities who will enter the professoriate in STEM and SBE disciplines.

MSU Chapter Website [http://grad.msu.edu/agep/](http://grad.msu.edu/agep/)

**Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)**

A society of scientists dedicated to fostering the success of Chicanos/Hispanic and Native American scientists to attain advanced degrees, careers, and positions of leadership in science.

National Website [http://sacnas.org/](http://sacnas.org/)
**Graduate Women in Science (GWIS)**
An interdisciplinary society of scientists dedicated to advancing the participation and recognition of women in science and to foster research through grants, awards, and fellowships.

MSU Chapter Website [http://gwismsu.weebly.com/](http://gwismsu.weebly.com/)

**Campus-wide Resource Centers**

**Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD)**
Website [https://www.rcpd.msu.edu/](https://www.rcpd.msu.edu/)

**Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, and Transgender (LBGT) Resource Center**
Website [http://lbgtrc.msu.edu/](http://lbgtrc.msu.edu/)

**Women’s Resource Center (WRC)**
Website [http://wrc.msu.edu/](http://wrc.msu.edu/)

**Family Resource Center (FRC)**
Website [https://www.frc.msu.edu/](https://www.frc.msu.edu/)