

## Travel Grants

One of the proven ways to increase the representation of women in science and engineering is to provide young scholars at the beginning of their careers with opportunities for professional exposure in scientific meetings. Not only are they recognized for their research, they also have the opportunity to meet well-known scientists, other students, and successful women faculty who can serve as role models.

WiSE provides travel grants to USC Ph.D. students and postdoctoral fellows in science and engineering departments to attend scientific meetings in cases where either the participation by the student or the subject matter of the student's talk or poster serves to increase the representation of women in science and engineering.

To be eligible, the student/postdoctoral scholar must be an author on the abstract and present either a talk or a poster at the proposed meeting. The specified dollar amount or 50% of the travel expenses, whichever is less, will be paid by WiSE, provided that the student or postdoctoral scholar's advisor makes an equal contribution of the total meeting expenses from their research funds.

Award Amount	Travel Distance
\$300	Within the State of California
\$500	Within the United States
\$700	International

Reimbursement of the award amount or 50% of the approved travel expenses, whichever is less, will take place after submission of all receipts, according to University regulations.



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## About the WiSE Program at USC

The Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE) program was founded in 2000 by a \$20 million anonymous gift to the USC endowment for the purpose of increasing the representation of women in science and engineering.

WiSE administers a series of creative programs and funding opportunities to encourage scientists and engineers at all stages, from undergraduate students to senior professors, to select USC as an institution in which to study, conduct research, and develop successful careers.

We invite you to visit our website to learn more about and apply for our programs.

[www.usc.edu/wise](http://www.usc.edu/wise)

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Women in Science and Engineering

wise

Programs for  
Ph.D. Students  
and Postdoctoral  
Scholars

USC  
UNIVERSITY  
OF SOUTHERN  
CALIFORNIA

## Programs for Ph.D. Students and Postdoctoral Scholars

The WiSE program seeks to increase the representation of women in science and engineering at USC and beyond.

The WiSE program at USC is distinct among similar efforts for its comprehensive series of programs that target scholars at various stages of their careers, not just at the faculty level.

WiSE administers several programs aimed at Ph.D. students and postdoctoral scholars, focused on recruitment and retention of outstanding early-career scientists.

Program	Award
Ph.D. Student Top-off Award	\$5,000/year for two years
Ph.D. Merit Fellowship	\$5,000/year for one year
Postdoctoral Fellowship	\$25,000/year subsidy for two years
Travel Grants	\$300-\$700 (depending on distance)
Childcare Subsidies	\$4,000 annually
Fellowship to accommodate Pregnancy, Childbirth and Adoption	Variable award

### Eligible Departments

#### USC College

Biological Sciences  
Chemistry  
Earth Science  
Kinesiology  
Mathematics  
Physics and Astronomy

#### Viterbi School of Engineering

Aerospace and Mechanical  
Aeronautics and Space Technology  
Biomedical  
Chemical and Materials Science  
Civil and Environmental  
Computer Science  
Electrical  
Industrial and Systems



### Ph.D. Top-Off Awards

The Graduate Top-Off Fellowship program facilitates the recruitment of outstanding doctoral students to USC. Funds from the WiSE program provide \$5,000 stipends to each of four incoming Ph.D. students, nominated by their departments in the USC College and the Viterbi School of Engineering, and may be renewed for a second year pending good progress in the student's program.

Nominees must be offered some other substantial form of support: a fellowship (with a stipend at least equal to that of a 50% graduate assistant), a 50% teaching assistantship or a 50% research assistantship.

### Merit Fellowships for Continuing Ph.D. Students

The Merit Fellowship for Current Doctoral Students is offered to current Ph.D. students at USC who demonstrate exceptional work in their field. Two recipients are selected annually from the USC College and two from the Viterbi School of Engineering. Each one-year WiSE Fellowship carries a stipend of \$5,000.

Candidates are nominated by the faculty. In order to be eligible for a WiSE Merit Fellowship, the students must have passed their qualifying examination and must be funded by a 50%-time research assistantship, teaching assistantship, or fellowship.

### Postdoctoral Fellowship

The primary goal of the postdoctoral program is to attract outstanding postdoctoral fellows to USC, and to prepare them for successful academic careers by providing them with excellent research and professional development opportunities and mentoring. Up to four \$25,000 subsidies will be awarded each year in matching funds to excellent candidates who plan to work with USC faculty members who are known to be good mentors and who have a strong track record of successfully placing students and postdoctoral fellows in academia.

## Fellowship Support to Accommodate Pregnancy, Birth, and Adoption

One of the most important issues to increasing the representation of women in science and engineering is the balance of career and family obligations. For young scientists and engineers, this balance primarily involves childbirth, adoption, nursing and infant care. The WiSE fellowship program helps Ph.D. students or postdoctoral scholars and their advisors solve any conflicts that arise between the constraints of pregnancy, childbirth, adoption, nursing and infant care and the continuing work of the research program.

The program engages participants at all levels: advisor, department chair, dean, and university administration, in an effort to help a Ph.D. student or postdoctoral scholar who is pregnant and gives birth or adopts a child to continue her or his career with the least possible interruption. The fellowship also aims to send a clear message to young scientists and engineers that the academic environment is family-friendly. This will encourage Ph.D. students or postdoctoral scholars to continue their academic training and later consider academia as a viable career option.

Postdoctoral scholars with full funding and full-time Ph.D. students with 50% time assistantship funding who become pregnant, give birth, or adopt a child and are enrolled in one of the WiSE eligible departments are eligible to apply.

### Child Care Subsidy

WiSE awards annual child care subsidies for eligible doctoral students and postdoctoral scholars with primary childcare responsibilities. The child must be in the infant through pre-school age range, and already enrolled at in the USC Child Care Program.

The WiSE child care subsidy is paid in a monthly supplement which is equivalent to \$4,000 over a 12 month time period and can be prorated mid-year.

