



DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY
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October 9, 2025

Dear Prospective Graduate Program Applicant:

I invite you to apply to the [Graduate Program in Physics and Astronomy](#) at UC Davis. This is a world-class research- oriented Ph.D. program, with an M.S. degree awarded at an intermediate stage.

The UC Davis Physics & Astronomy Department has an exceptionally active and broad research program with 39 full-time faculty and over 160 graduate students in a wide array of experimental and theoretical research areas: cosmology, astrophysics, particle physics, condensed matter physics, biological physics, nuclear physics, string theory, and complexity sciences. The department has undergone significant expansion in recent years, adding excellent and dynamic junior faculty while maintaining a tradition of supportive mentoring to create a truly exceptional graduate program. Our physics graduate students enjoy access to state-of-the-art research facilities, renowned professors, and worldwide networking that comes from being part of the prestigious UC system.

Funding: The graduate program is a top priority of the campus, and UC offers significantly higher than average financial support. All of our incoming graduate students are fully supported through fellowship and student employment packages.

Faculty: The Physics Graduate Group includes 39 physics department faculty plus 8 external faculty are members of the physics grad group. Our faculty are distinguished and visible in their respective research areas ([Learn more](#)).

Location: Davis is located in Northern California and enjoys a comfortable climate year-round, with easy access to San Francisco and the bay area, Lake Tahoe and world class skiing, and nearby Napa Valley. Davis is a vibrant university town with an active food, art, and music scene, including the Mondavi Center, a world-class concert hall on the Davis campus.

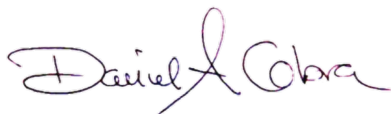
Facilities: Graduate students are able to work in a multidisciplinary environment with access to multiple centers and labs including: International collaborations at the CERN Large Hadron Collider and Fermilab, the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Brookhaven National Laboratory, SLAC, the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, the UC Davis Center for Neuroscience, and the telescopes of the W. M. Keck and Lick Observatories.

Diversity: UC Davis has one of the most diverse undergraduate populations in the nation, and we are striving to reflect this diversity among graduate students, postdoctoral researchers and faculty. 24% of the faculty members in our department are female and the campus has

programs in place to increase diversity at all levels. UC Davis is also an APS Bridge Program Member Institution.

To ensure full consideration, applications should be completed by December 15, 2025. Applications received before June 1 2026 will be considered if space remains available. I encourage you to submit your application online as soon as possible ([Apply](#)).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Daniel Cebra". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Daniel Cebra
Professor and Chair