“The biochemistry Ph.D. program at The Graduate Center is the only one of its kind. It appeals to a wide variety of interests spanning fields such as structural biology, bioinformatics, enzymology, and organic synthesis. The diversity of research interests matches the diverse faculty and students. Because CUNY is a consortium of colleges, students have access to more facilities, faculty, and technology than they would at just one campus.”
—Alison Domzalski
Biochemistry Doctoral Student

“Aside from welcoming international students from all walks of life, The Graduate Center also proved to be a vibrant, interconnected, and a beautiful community. The biochemistry Ph.D. program gave me the platform to learn valuable research skills and techniques from different faculty mentors. My many research experiences have shaped my career aspirations, and I must say I have enjoyed every bit of the journey.”
—Solomon Haizell
Biochemistry Doctoral Student

“I am extremely happy with the Ph.D. program in biochemistry at The Graduate Center. The program offers a unique interdisciplinary education. The faculty are exceptionally passionate about their field and are committed to their students’ success. The training, resources, and the opportunity to collaborate with renowned researchers from other premier institutions have helped me to generate quality research, build a foundation of research expertise, and prepare for my career as a scientist.”
—Roksana Azad
Biochemistry Doctoral Student
Researcher, Structural Biology Initiative, Advanced Science Research Center
Program Specifics
- Courses are taught at The Graduate Center, while research opportunities are found at CUNY college campuses throughout New York City and at affiliated institutions (the New York Structural Biology Center, the American Museum of Natural History, and the New York Botanical Garden). The ASRC and medical center laboratories are available for research and collaboration. Resources at three nearby university campuses are also available.

- A standard biochemistry core and advanced course curriculum as well as a specialized molecular biophysics track are available to students in the program. Mastery of current bodies of knowledge in biochemistry including macromolecular structure and function, molecular biology, enzymology and metabolism, biologic and biophysical chemistry, and techniques for analysis of structure and function is achieved through core and advanced courses during the first two years (60 credits). Research rotations are required during the first year to allow students to become familiar with faculty research.

- Milestones in the path to the degree include the first-level and second-level examinations, given respectively at the end of the first year of study and before the end of the third year, and a doctoral dissertation based on original research.

- State-of-the-art equipment supporting research efforts is housed at CUNY's senior college campuses and at the ASRC. Representative techniques include high resolution and solid state NMR, EPR, UV, and optical spectrosopies including laser techniques and circular dichroism; microcalorimetry; rapid kinetic measurements; surface plasmon resonance; cryo-electron microscopy; confocal microscopes; LCMS, GCMS and high-resolution mass spectrometry; cell cytometry; advanced imaging; small molecule x-ray crystallography; high-throughput crystallography; and high-performance computing.

Financial Aid
- All biochemistry doctoral students are provided with five years of financial support (CUNY science scholarships), tuition waiver, and subsidized health insurance (NYSHIP) that includes major medical, dental, and optical plans. Parental accommodation is offered to new parents for the birth or adoption of a child. Part of the award is provided as a paid teaching fellowship.

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