**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

Q: If my application materials are not completed by the deadline, will my application still receive consideration?
   A: We strongly encourage the full application to be submitted by the deadline, including all of the supporting materials and transcripts. However, partially-completed applications, and even late applications, may still be considered for admission. There is no guarantee that a late application will receive full consideration. For international student, submission by the deadline will help avoid problems with immigration and visas.

Q: My application status says I was accepted. How do I know if I will receive financial assistance to attend?
   A: If you have been admitted, you may receive financial support in the form of a Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA). A smaller number of students are supported in the first year on a Graduate Research Assistantship (GRA). Finally, some students find support through UCF or non-UCF fellowships. The financial offer generally comes after the notification of acceptance to the program. We do not admit students without financial support, including tuition and fees. However, financial support will depend on the availability of department funds and may vary from $14,000 to $29,000 annual stipend.

Q: What is the level of financial support in the first year?
   A: Most students receive an annual stipend of $20,600 to cover the cost of living expenses. The department covers tuition (in the manner of a GTA tuition waiver), and local fees are deducted from the student’s total stipend. Health Insurance is free which is covered by the College of Graduate Studies.

Q: Should I submit a pre-application directly to the department?
   A: Pre-applications are strongly encouraged. First, we may be able to give some feedback to the student on the application, before consideration of the formal online application. Second, there is often a strong possibility that the department can find fellowship opportunities, UCF or non-UCF fellowships, that either pay additional stipend money or even cover the full cost of the graduate degree program. Finally, we often invite top domestic applicants for a site visit at our expense (when funds are available). Pre-applications help us to arrange those visits.

Q: What does a pre-application include?
   A: Pre-applications include a CV/Resume, Statement of Purpose, and Unofficial Transcripts.

Q: How do I submit a pre-application? What is the pre-application submission deadline?
   A: Submit pre-applications via e-mail to soto@ucf.edu by November 30th for the following Fall term.

Q: How do I know if the UCF Department of Physics has the right opportunities to match my interests?
   A: Our department covers a wide range of research interests, with many active and well-funded faculty. The prospective student is encouraged to directly contact any faculty he/she might be interested in working with. In addition to that, we often work to arrange a site visit at our expense for domestic applicants. This is another opportunity to meet faculty, students, and other prospective students.
Q: How many students are supported on Graduate Teaching Assistantships and Graduate Research Assistantships?
   A: This varies from year to year. An average of 20 new student may be supported by the department through Graduate Teaching Assistantships.

Q: When can I expect to find out about the status of my application?
   A: The decision deadline is April 15th, however the department may still contact applicants after April 15th if there are available funding opportunities.

Q: Should I first submit an application to the M.S. program instead of the Ph.D. program?
   A: If your ultimate goal is to graduate with a Ph.D. in physics, you are strongly encouraged to apply to the Physics Ph.D. program. Applications to the M.S. program does not make acceptance more likely, and most of our students do not transition from the M.S. program to the Ph.D. In addition, we generally do not offer financial assistance to M.S. students except in some rare instances. PhD. students may request to receive a Master’s Along the Way once they have completed all the MS program requirements.

Q: If I already have financial aid or a fellowship, what should I do?
   A: In this case, it would be helpful to let us know that you already have financial support. We expect that all of our students have financial support. This is usually provided by the department. By letting the department know that you have a fellowship or other source of financial support, it allows us to use the financial resources we have to support other students.

Q: What is the cost of living in Orlando Florida?
   A: Contact the Graduate Society of Physics Students (GSPS) at ucf.gsps@gmail.com for information about cost of living expenses, housing, etc. You may also contact the Physics Women Society at pws.ucf@gmail.com

GSPS Officers – Fall 2016:
Shima Mirzaei: President
John Beetar: Vice President
Cameron Nickle: Treasurer
Westley James: Secretary

PWS Officers – Fall 2016:
President: Marta Anguera
Vice president: Negar Otooshi
Treasurer: Priyanka Vaidya
Secretary: Xin (Joyce) Qiao