

American Museum of Natural History



Richard Gilder
Graduate School
Ph.D. in Comparative Biology



Welcome from the Dean

It is my pleasure to introduce you to the Richard Gilder Graduate School at the American Museum of Natural History. You already may be familiar with the Museum's outstanding exhibitions and public education programs, cutting-edge research, global expeditions, and vast collections of specimens, cultural items, and astrophysical data. You may not know that we also have a long-standing commitment to academic training that has been an integral part of our mission for more than 100 years. In 2008, we began offering our innovative Ph.D. in Comparative Biology, which makes us the only Ph.D. degree-granting museum in the Western Hemisphere. The Ph.D. degree is a natural extension of our mission: "To discover, interpret, and disseminate—through scientific research and education—knowledge about human cultures, the natural world, and the universe."



The curriculum of the Ph.D. program in Comparative Biology focuses on the history and interactions among species, within and between biotas, and across time and space. Throughout the course of study, students have access to the unparalleled resources of the American Museum of Natural History, including its world-renowned collections; distinguished curators and other scientists serving as faculty; legacy of excellence in field discovery and theoretical advances; and public mission in science education, with unique student training opportunities in exhibitions and K-12 educational programs. Students also receive exceptional support in a number of ways, including personalized, faculty-focused mentoring; fellowships and scholarships; a state-of-the-art graduate student center within our landmark buildings; and access to the Museum's natural history library and its spectacular new reading rooms.

The 21st century is widely viewed as the "century of biology," and the Richard Gilder Graduate School Ph.D. program in Comparative Biology prepares our graduates to be leaders in this new century, with careers in academia, industry, government, or the private sector. I urge you to consider becoming one of them. Explore the wide range of the Richard Gilder Graduate School's university-level educational activities—which includes graduate and postdoctoral fellowships, an innovative Master of Arts in Teaching Earth Science Residency Program, and small grant programs—at rggs.amnh.org or contact us with any additional questions at info-rggs@amnh.org.

Most sincerely,
John J. Flynn



Flexibility

- Unique combination of traditional courses and electives, including fieldwork
- Teaching experiences, ranging from university-level courses to the Museum's exhibition and K-12 education programs
- Special opportunities for intensive individual investigations

Extraordinary Depth

- Learn from world-renowned faculty
- Study cutting-edge tools, concepts, and methodology
- Access unparalleled collections, labs, and computational resources



Student Focused

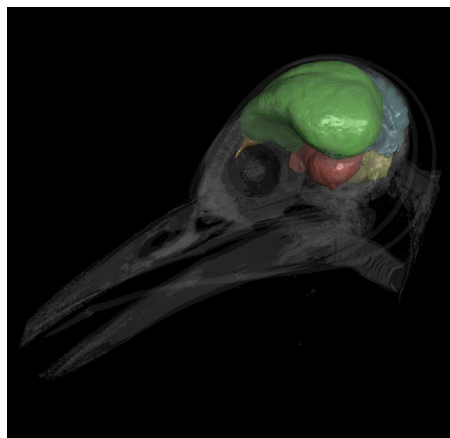
- Personalized advising and mentoring from faculty
- Exceptional financial support, including full tuition support
- Career counseling and guidance from a dedicated scientific and graduate-school staff



Curriculum

An accelerated intensive, immersive, flexible, and field-, lab-, and collections-based program of study:

- Core courses (3 required: *Evolution; Systematics and Biogeography; and Grantsmanship, Ethics, and Communication*) give students a broad overview of the conceptual basis, tools, and methods for studying life.
- Immersive elective courses allow students to achieve a depth of knowledge in an array of topics.
- Museum seminar series expose first-year students to a broad range of research disciplines and topics.
- Mentored teaching experiences include opportunities at the Museum and at partner universities, or in the Museum's exhibition or education programs.
- Directed research culminates in defense of the Ph.D. dissertation.





About the Museum

- Founded in 1869
- 18-acre campus adjacent to Central Park with more than 20 buildings
- 170 scientists, including more than 35 curators/professors
- More than 30 million specimens and artifacts
- One of the world's finest natural history libraries containing more than 500,000 volumes
- More than 50 field expeditions each year
- New forms of collections, including frozen tissue and genomic and astrophysical data



The Richard Gilder Graduate School Offers Unique Resources

- Access to one of the world's greatest natural history collections
- A legacy of leadership in field and theoretical sciences
- Interdisciplinary approaches to research
- A public mission, providing a bridge between science and society
- State-of-the-art graduate center in historic 1897 building
- About 40 graduate students from the RGGs Comparative Biology and partner university Ph.D. programs in residence.



Ph.D. in Comparative Biology Application Requirements

Applications are due December 15.
Please visit amnh.org/rggs to apply.

Bachelor's Degree

Undergraduate degree from an accredited institution

Official Transcripts

From all institutions attended

Three Support Letters

Required from instructors, research advisors, or other mentors

Two Essays

Descriptions of research interests and experience

\$50 Application Fee

Required with application

Proficiency in English

TOEFL or IELTS score required for non-native English speakers

Interview

Finalist candidates will be interviewed.

Faculty Sponsors

Applicants are urged to contact a RGGS faculty member or members prior to submission of their application.

*GRE (General) & GRE (Subject)
are no longer required or accepted.*

Photos: A. Balanoff, E. Chapman, D. Finnin, A. Keding, D. Kim/© AMNH

Questions? Email admissions-rggs@amnh.org

200 Central Park West, New York, NY 10024-5192 | Phone: 212-769-5055 | Fax: 212-769-5257