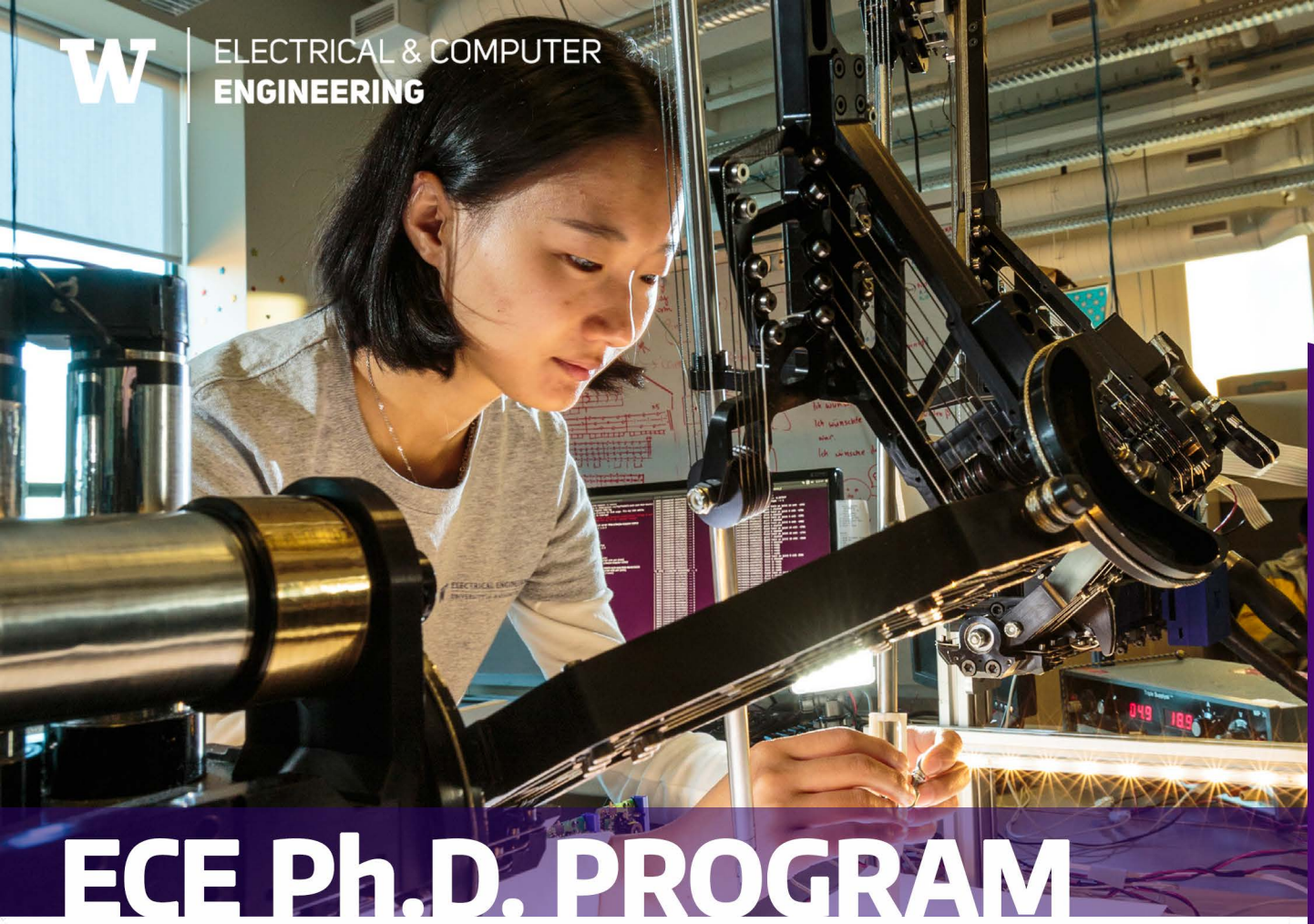

ELECTRICAL & COMPUTER ENGINEERING

ECE Ph.D. PROGRAM

The University of Washington Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering Ph.D. Program prepares students to impact the future. From positions in industry to academia, graduates address pressing challenges in healthcare, energy, the environment, communication and more. To gain technical expertise, Ph.D. students work closely with distinguished faculty on research and pursue their own innovative projects, preparing them to make a difference in the world.

CAREERS

Located in Seattle, Washington, graduate students are in close proximity to prominent technology companies as well as a vibrant start-up community, making UW ECE an ideal location to launch a career. Master's Degree graduates enjoy rewarding positions at research institutions or in industry, working for companies such as Microsoft, Apple, Boeing, Facebook, Google, Amazon, IBM, Agilent, T-Mobile, Verizon, Motorola, Qwest, National Instruments and more.

PREREQUISITES

In addition to curiosity, critical thinking and problem-solving skills, graduate students have a strong background in math, science and programming. A bachelor's degree in electrical engineering is not required. The following prerequisites are recommended:

- EE 215, EE 233 and EE 235
- Programming skills at the level of CSE 142 and CSE 143

#18 ranked ECE graduate program in the U.S. (U.S. News & World Report, 2025-26)

#1 startup generator of any UW department. (UW CoMotion, 2025)

#2 best public university in the U.S. (U.S. News & World Report, 2025-26)

Ph.D. Admissions AY2025-26: 642 applicants / 65 offers

PH.D. PROGRAM

RESEARCH AREAS

UW ECE is active in most research areas of electrical and computer engineering, including the following:

- Data Sciences
- Computing & Networking
- Electronic, Photonic, and Integrated Quantum Systems (EPIQS)
- Biosystems
- Robotics & Controls
- Power & Energy

COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY

UW ECE is proud to have a strong contingent of diverse students, faculty and researchers. The department exceeds the national average for women tenure-track faculty, with 22% female faculty. UW ECE also supports students attending the annual Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing and National Society of Black Engineers.

> "I value the culture of mentoring between graduate students. I had a senior graduate student reach out to me and offer assistance from literally day one. She was my rock throughout grad school."
>
> - Ahlmahz Negash, Ph.D. student

ENTREPRENEURIAL ENVIRONMENT

UW ECE is a leader in entrepreneurship efforts across campus, with the second most engineering start-ups. Technology developed in labs is frequently translated into the business community for real-world impact. In 2018, faculty and students, in collaboration with the UW commercialization hub CoMotion, reported the following:

UW ECE since FY2013:

- **24%** of all UW Engineering patents
- **60** Startup companies
- **746** New patents filed
- **181** Individual licensed technology
- **57** Companies that have licensed ECE technologies

GETTING INVOLVED

UW Engineering has a welcoming and vibrant community of networks and support systems across campus, including the ECE Graduate Student Association, IEEE Women in Engineering, National Society of Black Engineers, American Indian Science & Engineering Society and many more.

ELECTRICAL & COMPUTER **ENGINEERING**

Questions? contact us at:
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