

# Why would you like doing PhD at the University of Oregon?

When you are deciding where do you want to do your PhD, an important consideration should be **why is that university a right fit for you, and what that city/state offers to you?**

I strongly believe that choosing a right university/city is as important as choosing a right advisor because **you are going to spend next 5-6 years of your life in that university/city**. For your holistic development, you need an environment that allows you to grow holistically. **Note: PhD is not your life. It is one aspect of your life, and you should have a life beyond your lab!** It can be hard to focus on research if you do not have something to keep you going for years. Let me lay down some reasons (among many others), **why University of Oregon and Eugene, Oregon is a right place for you.**

- We offer **fully funded PhD to every student**. You will get an opportunity to teach and mentor students, and you will be leading your own research with full independence.
- Almost all the US universities offer a fully funded PhD, but then what is so special about UO. Well, **the cost of living at Eugene, Oregon is significantly less** in comparison to states like California, Washington, New York, Pennsylvania, and so on. This implies **as a PhD student, you can own a car and live in a studio apartment, and still save money**. You are a PhD student; you should have an opportunity to have all the comforts as an industry professional.
- Even affording a car and studio apartment is possible in several midwestern and southern US states, then what makes UO special? First, **UO/Eugene is surrounded by a beautiful landscape**. We have river flowing through the city/university. We have mountains all around us. Eugene is lush green with mind-blowing flora and fauna all around.
- **Eugene is a little more than an hour away from the enchanting Oregon costal line**. From the beautiful Florence beach to Tillamook, you can spend a full day at the coast, observe massive rocks, stunning and pristine waterfalls, hike mountains, indulge yourself in river rafting and kayaking, and drive through national forests. If you are lucky, you may even get a glimpse of black bears, living in their natural habitat in the mountains.
- One of the most popular thing about US is its national park system. These national parks are just a portal in time that illustrate unimaginable landscapes, flora, and fauna. **Eugene is one of those rare cities, which is close to five national parks: Crater Lake, Lassen, Olympic, Cascades, and Mount Rainier**. Additionally it is close to **two national forest systems: Mount Hood and Mount Shasta**. Most of these locations you can hit within a drive of 1.5 - 5 hours. Imagine a long weekend, where you are camping in these national parks and forests.
- It is possible that you are not a very outdoorsy person, but there is something more for Eugene to offer you: its weather. **You will get to experience all the four climates, but more importantly, neither is extreme**. Neither do we experience extreme heat and summer, nor do we experience cold snowy winters that freeze your skin. Neither is Eugene dry like cities/states where it rarely rains, nor does it have humidity. You can experience all the seasons and still have a pleasant weather.
- Finally, **UO/Eugene/Oregon is a progressive state**. You will feel invited here. **People will not judge you for your skin color, race, gender, and religion**. The policymakers of this state **understand the rights of their people and respect the choice of women**.