

# Freedom and Focus: Support Graduate Students at Caltech

Caltech graduate students are the scientists and engineers of the future—and the present.

They push the frontiers of knowledge and innovation to propel discovery. They inspire faculty members—and one another—with fresh perspectives and novel ideas. And it's fellowships that help ensure that Caltech can continue to attract the most talented and ambitious students.

Most endowed fellowships are not tethered to advisers, laboratories, or federal grants, which allows fellows to freely explore and partner with the research groups of their choice. This latitude—a hallmark of graduate study at Caltech—sparks interdisciplinary problem-solving, creative collaborations, and the cross-pollination of ideas across campus.

**“The true value of a fellowship at Caltech is immeasurable. Fellowships provide students with freedom and resources to venture into uncharted areas of research.”**

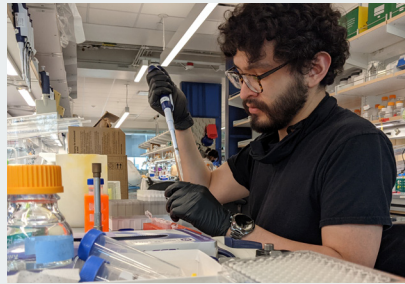
David Chan  
Professor of Biology and  
Dean of Graduate Studies

## Graduate Students: Pushing the Boundaries of Research



### Bringing Exoplanets in View

With support from the David and Catherine Thompson Fellowship in Space Studies, Niyati Desai can pursue research at the intersection of astronomy and aerospace engineering. Using novel techniques and advanced instrumentation, she aims to image never-before-seen exoplanets that are 10 billion times dimmer than the bright stars they orbit.



### Pioneering Novel Gene Therapies

Thanks to the Arie Jan Haagen-Smit Fellowship in Biological Sciences, Joe Martinez can pursue his passion to advance human health. In the laboratory of biologist Michael Elowitz, Martinez is leveraging the power of synthetic biology to develop living devices that can deliver lifesaving treatments to diseased tissues that are inaccessible using conventional medical technologies.



### Quashing a Drug Epidemic

The Roger and Marjorie Davisson Fellowship supported Shiyu Zhang's work on mathematical models to analyze a real-world national drug crisis. Helping us better understand how opioid use disorder takes hold and evolves in a community, her research data reveal that effective intervention requires a holistic approach, beyond simply restricting access to opioids.

## The Gordon and Betty Moore Graduate Fellowship Match



Caltech is committed to giving graduate students unfettered opportunities to explore and take intellectual risks before deciding on an academic research “home.” Toward this end, we aim to secure \$600 million in endowed fellowship support, which will fund every graduate student’s first and second years. (Currently, all doctoral students receive financial support in the form of fellowships and/or research and teaching assistantships.) Thanks to generous donors who gave during our recent fundraising initiative, *Break Through: The Caltech Campaign*, we are already halfway toward this goal.

To inspire others to join us in providing this essential support for graduate students, Gordon (PhD ’54) and Betty Moore committed \$100 million to establish the Gordon and Betty Moore Graduate Fellowship Match. The match offers \$1 for every \$2 invested in fellowship endowments.

So students have the freedom to follow their curiosity wherever it may lead, fellowships amplified by the Moore Match are intended for use across the Institute. However, donors may designate preferences for specific fields of research, or for students who meet specific criteria, such as scholars historically underrepresented in STEM.

### Endowed Fellowship Funding Levels

#### **Fully Funded Fellowship: \$1.5 million**

**Your gift of \$1 million**, augmented with \$500,000 from the Moore Match, will establish a \$1.5 million endowment that fully covers the annual cost of supporting one graduate student each year in perpetuity.

#### **Partially Funded Fellowship: \$750,000**

**Your commitment of \$500,000**, augmented with \$250,000 from the Moore Match, will establish a \$750,000 endowment that partially covers the annual cost of supporting one fellow. This option was created for donors who want to advance the careers of aspiring researchers, but not at the level of a fully endowed fellowship.

*A named endowment is a meaningful way to honor a loved one or a mentor, or to forge a lasting link between your own name and Caltech. You may name your endowment, whether it funds a full or partial fellowship.*

### Current-use Fellowship Funding Level

**Expendable Two-year Fellowship: starting at \$100,000** (amount varies by graduate program)

**Your gift of at least \$50,000 per year for two years** will fund a named fellowship to support one graduate student for the first and second years of study.

To start a conversation about how you can help tomorrow’s innovators achieve their full potential, please contact:

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