THE SCHOLARSHIP

The Department of Physics is pleased to announce the Randall D. Ledford Scholarship I. This is a four-year half-tuition scholarship awarded to a promising incoming physics major attending Wake Forest University. The award is worth a minimum of $91,000.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for this award:

- Complete the Wake Forest University application for admission either in paper or online. See http://www.wfu.edu/admissions/.

- At least one recommendation should come from someone who can comment on your potential in science.

- Include a brief letter asking to be considered for the Ledford Scholarship, describing how you became interested in science, and describing your career aspirations. Please send your brief letter to:
  Ledford Scholarship
  Department of Physics
  Olin Physical Laboratory
  Wake Forest University
  Winston-Salem, NC 27109-7507

The deadline for the Ledford Scholarship is January 1.

QUESTIONS?

Want to find out more about our department or the scholarship? Please come and visit. We can coordinate your visit with our admissions office and a campus tour. Give me a call, write, or send e-mail:

Keith Bonin, Ph.D.
Department of Physics
Olin Physical Laboratory
Wake Forest University
Winston-Salem, NC 27109
Telephone: 336-758-4962
Fax: 336-758-6142
E-mail: bonin@wfu.edu
http://www.wfu.edu/physics/

Thank you for your interest in physics. I hope that you will take the time to find out more about us.

Sincerely,

Keith Bonin, Ph.D.
Chair
Department of Physics
Wake Forest University
Wake Forest offers unsurpassed opportunities for students who wish to study physics. Wake Forest combines the values and emphasis on close faculty-student interaction that is characteristic of small colleges, while offering the opportunity to engage in research with internationally recognized scientists.

At Wake Forest, nearly all your classes will be small, and your physics classes will average only ten students. More important than class size is what happens outside the classroom. Your teachers are accessible; our faculty come here because they sought what we so uniquely offer – an opportunity to balance teaching and research, a place where they can continue to make new scientific discoveries while still having time to work one-on-one with undergraduates aspiring to become scientists.

You will be encouraged to participate in research. We do not require it, but most of our students choose to pursue this experience. You will not just read about science – you will become a scientist. There is a good chance that you will co-author a publication or present a scientific paper at a national meeting. We have special grants available to allow you to stay here for the summer working on research. Other grants fund student travel to national meetings to present their work. You will be able to work with biophysicists who are probing the fundamental processes of life, astrophysicists who are modeling things from the beginning of the universe to the creation of gravity waves during black hole collisions, solid state physicists who are laying the groundwork for the next generation of lasers and radiation detectors. You will have an opportunity to work, not only with our own fourteen physics faculty, but also with the scientists from around the world who frequently visit to collaborate and use our facilities.

We have remarkable facilities, including a state-of-the-art short-pulse laser lab, a leading center for nanotechnology that has already spun off two companies (one for solar electricity and the other for efficient lighting), the speedy DEACNET parallel scientific supercomputing cluster used by the computational physicists in the department, an innovative lab developing flexible organic electronics, and combined atomic force and optical microscopes used for studies of cancer cells and to develop next-generation sequencing methods for drug discovery. These facilities are all available to our undergraduates.

Smaller universities have historically been the most effective at preparing future scientists, as demonstrated by the demographics of those who hold doctorates in physics. Wake Forest, with its rare blend of outstanding facilities, extraordinary faculty, and small college values, is uniquely suited to develop in students a passion for learning and exploration that is the hallmark of all great scientists.