

A red banner with a white logo on the left and stylized white graphics of a chalice and flames on the right. The text is in white.

 Claremont Graduate University
Office of Student Engagement



Happy New Year! I am very excited to welcome our returning first-year students and our new community of scholars beginning this Spring. Over the break, I hope that you relaxed and recharged and that you're ready to meet the Spring semester excited about your academic journey.

Throughout the academic year, you will receive information and important reminders from the Dean of Students Office, Office of Student Engagement, and Office of Student Life, Diversity and Leadership. These offices work closely with our students to provide co-curricular experiences outside the classroom. They have planned programming designed to build community and promote student success. It is critical that you connect with scholars and faculty early and often and that you take advantage of the resources and activities CGU has curated to support your success. Our FLOURISH in the First Year

Program (FYE) introduces our new cohort to the CGU community and resources to support their success as first-year students and beyond. THRIVE hosts opportunities for first-year graduate scholars of color to connect through intersecting identities and dialogue. Our IGNITE program pairs first-year students and student mentors to help guide the first year more intimately. Additionally, CGU hosts a robust calendar of Center for Writing and Rhetoric workshops and Preparing Future Faculty webinars through the Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters.

We realize these are very challenging times and the importance of the investment you've made in fulfilling your academic life- journey. There will be challenges, and we are committed to serving and supporting you during your career with CGU.

Thank you for contributing your flame of knowledge to our collective light.



Quamina Carter
Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

BUILDING COMMUNITY

FYE programming is working towards supporting students, as well as assisting folks with finding and building their community within our services and programs. Please visit our [Advancing Equity](#) webpage to see the progress we are making to advance our commitment to anti-racism, fostering an academic community of inclusive excellence, and creating real changes to systemic injustice. As part of our Strategic Plan, CGU is prioritizing diversity planning, fostering respect for others, and promoting the recruitment, retention and success of our students, faculty, staff and trustees.

Virtual Drop-In Hours

The Office of Student Engagement is offering drop-in hours the first two days of the spring semester. Students should take this opportunity to get connected with resources, address any tech issues, receive help navigating to their virtual classes, or meet with a student support specialist and get rid of those first week jitters. The Student Engagement team will be available via Zoom during the following days and times:

Tuesday, January 18

11:00am - 2:00pm (PT) | Ask Me Pop-up | [Register Here](#)

Wednesday, January 19

4:00 - 6:00pm (PT) | Ask Me Pop-up | [Register Here](#)

EVENTS

We invite all first year students to register for our upcoming events. This spring we will offer a variety of modalities for you to join us from anywhere. Please note, any student that registers for an on campus event will need to have completed the necessary steps for attending in-person gatherings through Student Health Services (SHS) and have approval from the Dean of Students Office. For more information, visit our [Covid-19 response page](#) for students.

February Events

First Year Experience Spring Kickoff

Hosted by New Student Orientation and First Year Experience

Date and Time: TBD

We invite all first-year students to join us for our spring kickoff. This event will provide students an opportunity to network and socialize, build their graduate scholar community, and be introduced to support resources.

We will partner with the Claremont Colleges Library and offer a scavenger hunt to take place in groups of 5 throughout the event. This will help you become familiarized with library services and features while providing you with an opportunity to win swag and prizes.

*Due to current COVID restrictions, we are planning to host this in-person community building event in late February. Stay tuned for the registration link!

Financial Literacy: Managing Personal Finances as a Graduate Student

Hosted by the Office of Financial Aid

Friday, February 25, 2022 | 11:00am-12:00pm PT | Virtual

[RSVP](#)

Navigating the financial aspects of graduate school can prove challenging. In this session, members of your Financial Aid team will discuss methods by which you can manage your personal finances while enrolled at CGU. Join us for an interactive session exploring budgeting tips and strategies that will help make each dollar go farther.

March Event

Coping with the Load Part 2: Reference Management Software

Hosted by Shelby Lamar (they/them), Preparing Future Faculty

Thursday, March 10, 2022 | 12:00-1:00pm PT | Virtual

[RSVP](#)

This workshop gives you tools to thrive during graduate school by showing how the free reference management software Zotero can save time and prevent citation frustrations. Organizing all your sources, reading notes, and entering citations manually can be overwhelming and cost precious time, especially when working on a long-term project like a thesis or dissertation. The earlier you start using a reference management system, the easier it will be to take notes, write papers, make bibliographies, and organize your research.

April Events

Realizing Equity Research Symposium

Hosted in collaboration with CGU's THRIVE program, Transdisciplinary Studies, and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

Friday, April 8, 2022 | 9:00am - 12:00pm (PT) | Virtual

Join scholars from across academic disciplines in showcasing research on positive social transformation from students committed to scholarship in equity and justice. Themes for consideration are: Intersection of Differences, Power & Diversity of Representations and Society and Culture Contexts. We encourage you to [read more](#) about our symposium and come support your peers selected to present their research this spring.

Navigate and Engage | Your Career Journey

Hosted by the Career Development Office

Tuesday, April 26, 2022 | 12:00-1:00pm PT| In-person
[RSVP](#)

Control your destiny. Engage in your career journey as you navigate your academic journey. Are you seeking a new industry or establishing a succession in your industry? The Career Development Office is a full comprehensive career center that will guide, coach, and empower you to articulate your accomplishments and establish connections. Join us today to learn more about how to engage in your journey.

ONLINE TOOLS

New Student Orientation on Canvas

The New Student Welcome Pages on Canvas are available to [Fall 2021](#) and [Spring 2022](#) students. Both pages introduce students to the resources, and student service offices available at CGU. The Canvas pages are self-paced and will remain available during your time at CGU. To begin, we encourage you to review the following modules in particular:

- Financial Aid and Literacy (Module 2, page 7)
- Student Life and Community at CGU (Module 3)
- Shared Resources at The Claremont Colleges (Module 4)
- Technical Help and Resources (Module 5)
- Navigating Your First Week (Module 6)

Flourish in Your First Year Program is on Canvas

Created with you in mind and to get you engaged and informed, the [FLOURISH in Your First Year Experience \(FYE\) Canvas site](#) connects first year students to upcoming events across the university, resources to set you up for success and announcements about forthcoming activities. Stay tuned for our weekly discussion posts from the Office of Student Engagement.

ASK Workbook: Your Pathway to Success!

Graduate school is a journey toward academic and career success. Your journey is unique to your needs and interests and requires tools and resources. Rather than overload you with a ton of information, we wanted to call your attention to a few sections of the [ASK Workbook](#) that would be of particular use this term.

- **Section 6** – [Professional Development](#)
 - **Section 8** – [Student Life, Diversity & Leadership \(SLDL\)](#)
 - **Section 10** – [Financial Literacy](#)
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IGNITE PEER MENTOR SPOTLIGHT



Meet Christina F. Kolas (she/her)

Christina is a second-generation Greek-American scholar. She is a second-year English doctoral student working towards an Earl Modern Studies Concentration while earning a Women's and Gender Studies Certificate and a Certificate in College Teaching with Claremont Graduate University's Preparing Future Faculty program. Christina received her BA in English and MA in English, both from California State University, Fullerton. Christina's areas of focus are in English Renaissance Literature, William Shakespeare, Edmund Spenser, Christopher Marlowe, and John Milton. Christina's research interests include feminine psychology, critical race studies, sexuality and desire, the virgin trope, and self-actualization. Christina is also the 2021-2022 Vice President of the Claremont Graduate Student Council and is a mentor for the IGNITE Student Mentorship program. She currently works as a Substitute Teacher in K-12 education.

"When I began my doctoral journey at CGU in fall 2020, I was a mentee. I could not have navigated my first year in a doctoral program without the community and resources I gained from IGNITE. I have loved being able to transition from mentee to the role of mentor this year because I get to support a first-year graduate student in the same way I felt supported by continuing CGU's inclusive campus culture. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know my mentee in and outside of the classroom."

HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

- Please email us at student.engagement@cgu.edu