

Advancing your Workforce Through Doctoral Education and Research

What is an Industry-Aligned PhD?

The Industry-Aligned PhD creates a structured pathway for companies to engage directly with University of Illinois faculty, research, and graduate education. Through this model, organizations can invest in the development of highly skilled talent while addressing complex, real-world challenges aligned with their strategic priorities. The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is uniquely positioned to support this effort through our nationally recognized STEM programs, interdisciplinary research strengths, and long-standing commitment to excellence in doctoral education.

Why Partner with Us

Companies increasingly seek employees with deep technical expertise, research capability, and the ability to translate discovery into application. The Industry-Aligned PhD offers a way to build that capacity from within your organization. Through this partnership, companies can develop and retain high-potential employees through advanced doctoral training while engaging with cutting-edge research. The model creates opportunities to build sustained relationships with Illinois faculty and research programs, while also providing access to a pipeline of highly trained PhD graduates prepared to contribute in industry settings from day one.

Pathways for Support

We offer two flexible pathways that allow companies to engage in ways that align with your workforce and research needs.

1. PhD Pathway for Current Employees
2. Industry-Embedded PhD Students

Learn More

We are happy to explore possibilities with you. Visit our website at the address below or reach out to the Graduate College at graduatedean@illinois.edu.

