The ILR School’s MS/PhD program educates the next generation of scholars in the multidisciplinary field of industrial and labor relations. It is designed for students who wish to pursue academic careers that involve research on organizations, work and employment relationships from a variety of perspectives.

Alumni Spotlight:

BECKY PALUCH
ILR PhD ’19: Assistant Professor
University of British Columbia, Sauder School of Business

“The ILR PhD program is a place where you can choose your own intellectual path. The opportunity to develop as an independent scholar is a valuable feature of the ILR MS/PhD program. Because I was never boxed into any particular program of study, I was able to explore various topics through my classes and now feel excited and passionate about my research interests.”
ILR Faculty

ILR has more full-time faculty involved in teaching and research that spans the broad range of work and employment disciplines than any other educational institution of its kind. Research is a core component of ILR’s mission, and our faculty are social scientists whose research covers a broad range of employment and workplace topics. Faculty members are drawn from a variety of social science disciplines including psychology, economics, sociology, history, law and human resource management. They are organized into four departments:

- Human Resource Studies
- International and Comparative Labor
- Labor Relations, Law and History
- Organizational Behavior

ILR’s faculty also includes labor economists and statisticians—jointly appointed with the Department of Economics and the Department of Social Statistics—offering a rich intellectual environment for the study of workplace issues.

What You Should Know Before You Apply

The size of the MS/PhD program (32 students) facilitates close collaborations among students and faculty and fosters joint research projects and publications. In consultation with a student’s committee members, students are encouraged to develop a curriculum that suits their particular interests. MS/PhD students are also encouraged to take advantage of opportunities to take classes and work with faculty in other fields at Cornell, including psychology, sociology, economics, political science, communications and management.

Application Requirements

Transcripts - Transcripts from all colleges or universities you’ve attended.

Recommendations - Two academic letters of recommendation are required.

Statement of Purpose

GRE/GMAT - Applicants are required to submit scores from either the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT).

Writing Sample - Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a writing sample. Applicants who have already completed a master’s degree may submit a copy of their master’s thesis.

TOEFL/IELTS - Required for non-native English-speakers. Students who have completed at least two years of study at a university in an English-speaking country do not need to take the TOEFL/IELTS.

Where have ILR PhD Students Gone After Graduation?

Recent ILR MS/PhD graduates have obtained tenure-track faculty positions at top-tier schools of business and labor relations, including: Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, Pennsylvania State University, The Ohio State University, University of Illinois, McGill University and University College London, among others.

Financial Information

Students receive tuition, stipend and health insurance for five years and serve as teaching and research assistants for faculty.

Application deadline

Fall 2021 Admission - December 15, 2020

www.ilr.cornell.edu/phd