

INVITATION TO GRADUATE STUDY IN GEOGRAPHY AT CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

The Department of Geography at California State University, Long Beach, invites applications for its master's degree program. We accept applications for Fall 2011 admission until 15 April 2011.

Geography at CSULB has four main emphases:

- *geospatial technologies and methods*, including GIS, remote sensing, cartography, geovisualization, quantitative methods, qualitative methods, and field techniques (a NASA Regional Earth Science Applications Center is housed in the Department; our Map Lab does custom mapping and GIS analysis for the surrounding municipalities and regional agencies)
- *human geography*, including urban cultural and historical geography, critical human geography, social geography, economic geography, and medical geography (Geography is involved in the CSULB Center for Behavioral Research and Services and the Center for Community Engagement)
- *environmental and physical geography*, including biogeography, hazards, hydrology and water resources, arid lands geomorphology, and Mars geography (Geography is affiliated with the Institute for Integrated Research in Materials, Environments, and Society; it has a partnership with Geological Sciences in the Geoscience Diversity Enhancement Program; and the Department participates in the Environmental Science and Policy Program and the Emergency Services Administration online M.S. degree program)
- *global studies*, including globalization, regional geographies, political geography, world urbanization (Geography is affiliated with the CSULB International Studies Program, Russian Studies Program, and India Studies Center)

The degree is suitable for those graduates with any of the following professional goals:

- It prepares those who are interested in professional employment in the public sector (e.g., analyst in environmental management, land use planner, hydrologist, remote sensing analyst, community development specialist, intelligence analyst) or the private sector (e.g., market area analysis with GIS, corporate risk analyst, real estate appraiser).
- The M.A. in Geography qualifies one to teach at the community college level, and it enhances one's background as an in-service K-12 teacher.
- The M.A. in Geography at CSU, Long Beach, is also very beneficial to those interested in pursuing a Ph.D. for a career in research or in teaching at the university level.
- The degree allows those with a passion for geography to explore a topic of interest to them with sophistication and depth.

Because geography is a discipline that often is discovered later in a student's academic career, our program admits many students with bachelor's degrees in other disciplines. Ideally, you should have completed the equivalent of a minor in geography. If not, the graduate advisor will identify areas in which you should take courses in those areas early in your stay with us or before you get here. This is a common situation, and Geography at CSULB welcomes students from a wide variety of majors.

Long Beach is the most frequently requested of the 23 CSU campuses and it features the largest library in the CSU system, with excellent online access, as well as access to the UCLA and USC research libraries. CSULB is an attractive campus near the beach in a pleasant, livable community. The campus has been deemed among the best value public colleges in the nation by *The Princeton Review*, among the top 4 public master's-granting universities in the West by *U.S. News and World Report*, the 5 safest campuses in the United States by *Security Magazine*, and the 6 most diverse master's granting campuses in the U.S. by *U.S. News*.

Estimated graduate student fees for the Fall 2011 semester are \$1,877 for graduate students taking 6 or fewer units and \$3,026 for those taking more than 6 units. For out-of-State students (except teachers, military personnel, children of California residents, and those who graduated from a California high school), there is an out-of-State surcharge estimated at \$372 per unit. Limited numbers of out-of-State surcharge fee waivers are available on a competitive basis, however, until State residency can be established (approximately one year).

Ours is a friendly, coöperative, and student-centered faculty, who work hard to help graduate students define and achieve their educational and professional goals in a timely manner. There is a community of active graduate students, as well as a student club in which graduate students participate.

The Department does offer some competitive work opportunities. Assistantships are available in our geospatial technology labs and in large classes (grading, teaching laboratory sections). There are sometimes research-related assistantships, too. If you would like to be considered for these opportunities, please indicate your availability and qualifications. Additionally, the Department has a large internship program. Many of our graduate students work outside the university and complete their coursework and degrees part-time.

To learn more about the CSULB Department of Geography, please visit <http://www.csulb.edu/geography/>. For more information on the requirements of the master's degree program in geography, please see <http://www.csulb.edu/depts/geography/masters.html>. A flyer summarizing program highlights is also available at <http://www.csulb.edu/geography/geoma11.pdf>.

To apply, please send (or arrange to have sent) to the graduate advisor the following:

- A 1½ -2 page statement of purpose, which addresses your interests in geography, your professional or personal goals in seeking a graduate degree, how your interests relate to our four core strengths, and any special skills you may now have that you can build on in graduate studies.
- A paper, report, or mapping project that you feel best showcases your interests, abilities, and potential
- A signed copy of the confidentiality election form (<http://www.csulb.edu/geography/confidentiality.pdf>)
- Three confidential letters of reference (referee form: <http://www.csulb.edu/geography/referee.xls>)

Additionally, you must also apply directly to the University itself, which can be done online at <http://www.csumentor.edu>. You will need to have the following sent to CSULB during that process:

- A set of official transcripts covering your bachelor's degree and any postbaccalaureate work
- GRE scores.

For English as a second language applicants, test scores demonstrating command of English: a TOEFL score of at least 550 (paper) or 213 (old computer-based) or 80 (new Internet-based) or an IELTS score of at least 6.0.

International students need to contact the CSULB Office of International Education as a critical first step in the process: <http://www.csulb.edu/cie/>.

Letters of reference, statements of purpose, and writing samples may be sent to the Graduate Advisor by e-mail or fax. Referees should use their official institutional e-mail accounts for this purpose. The confidentiality election form should be signed and sent by regular mail. All materials should arrive by 15 April 2011 for the Fall 2011 semester admissions.

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