



Master of Arts in Geography California State University, Long Beach

Master of Arts Program, Department of Geography California State University, Long Beach

The Department of Geography at California State University, Long Beach, invites applications for its Master of Arts degree program. We are accepting applications for Fall 2012 admission until 15 April 2013.

Geography at CSULB has four main emphases:

- *Human Geography*, including urban cultural and historical geography, critical human geography, feminist geography, social geography, economic geography, and medical and health geography (Geography is involved in the CSULB Center for Behavioral Research and Services and the Center for Community Engagement)
- *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)
- *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; we have 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)

This MA is suitable for graduates with any of the following professional goals:

- 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).
- Teaching at the community college level, or enhancing one's background as an in-service K-12 teacher.
- Pursuit of a Ph.D. for a career in research or in teaching at the university level.

Why Geography at CSULB?

Our MA 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 often discovered later in a student's academic career, our program welcomes students with bachelor's degrees in other disciplines. Ideally, such students will have completed the equivalent of a minor in geography. If not, the graduate advisor will advise areas for study in advance of the MA program.

The Department of Geography has **funding available** for MA students in the form of teaching and research assistantships and lab-tech positions. These assistantships are competitive and are available to students with interests in all four core areas of study.

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 masters-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 2012 semester are \$1,953 for graduate students taking 6 or fewer units and \$3,369 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, until State residency can be established (approximately one year).

Our department offers a friendly, cooperative, student-centered, nationally and internationally renowned faculty, who work hard to help graduate students define and achieve their educational and professional goals in a timely manner. Our active graduate students have a strong community as well as a student club.

Our department offers competitive work opportunities. Assistantships are available in our geospatial technology labs and in large classes (grading, teaching laboratory sections), in addition to research-related assistantships. If you would like to be considered for these opportunities, please indicate your availability and qualifications. Additionally, the Department has a large internship program.

To learn more about the CSULB Department of Geography, please visit <http://www.csulb.edu/geography/>.

To apply, please send the following to the graduate advisor:

1. A 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 (approx. 2 pages)
2. A paper, report, or mapping project that you feel best showcases your interests, abilities, and potential
3. A signed copy of the confidentiality election form
4. Three confidential letters of reference (see referee guidelines)

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

1. A set of official transcripts covering your bachelor's degree and any postbaccalaureate work
2. GRE scores.
3. 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, please note, you need to contact the CSULB Office of International Education as a critical first step in your application 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, fax or post. Referees should use their official institutional e-mail accounts. The confidentiality election form should be signed and sent by regular mail or scanned. All materials should arrive by April 15 for Fall admissions.

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