The Paul D. Coverdell Fellows Program
California State University, Long Beach

About the Coverdell Fellows Program

Founded in 1985 at Teachers College, Columbia University (and formerly known as Fellows/USA), the Coverdell Fellows Program is now a network of partnerships between the Peace Corps and more than 90 universities across the country. Competitively selected Coverdell Fellows undertake service internships in high-need American communities and receive financial aid while working toward their graduate degrees. Returned Peace Corps Volunteers may apply to enroll in a Coverdell Fellowship at participating universities at any time after successfully completing Peace Corps service.

Coverdell Fellows and CSULB Geography

The CSULB Coverdell Fellows partnership was founded in 2011. Coverdell Fellows at CSULB have the opportunity to earn a Master’s degree in Geography, which encompasses 4 core areas of specialization: Human Geography, Geospatial Technologies and Methods, Environmental and Physical Geography, and Global Studies.

Our Coverdell Fellows may also undertake service internships benefitting underserved American communities. Fellows will spend approximately six hours per week in their internship during their first semester of study and will develop their internship experience into a 3-6 unit Project or Thesis to be completed during the third or fourth semester of study. These internships will take place in organizations with missions ranging from environmental remediation and justice to GIS mapping to urban sustainability.

Requirements

To apply to the CSULB Geography program as a Coverdell Fellow:

A. Submit an application directly to University Admissions, which is done online at https://www2.calstate.edu/apply. Cal State Apply will request the names of two recommenders and send each of them a link to submit their letter of recommendation. Guidelines may be found on our website.* Please also have the following sent to CSULB Admissions:

1. A set of official transcripts covering your bachelor’s degree and any post-baccalaureate work
2. GRE scores, no more than five years old (optional).
B. Send the following to the graduate advisor:*

1. A statement of purpose, which addresses your intention to serve as a Paul D. Coverdell Fellow, your interests in geography, your professional or personal goals in seeking a graduate degree, how your interests relate to our four core areas and/or faculty interests, and any special skills you have that you can build on in graduate studies (approx. 2 pages)

2. A writing sample (paper, report, or mapping project) that you feel best showcases your interests, abilities, and potential

3. A copy of your Description of Service (DOS) from the Peace Corps

Your statements of purpose, DOS and writing sample may be sent to the Graduate Advisor by e-mail, fax or regular mail. Referees should use their official institutional letterhead. Review of applications begins March 1 for fall admission; the University deadline to apply is June 1. The spring application deadline is November 1.

Financial Support

Coverdell Fellows at CSULB receive the following benefits:

- out-of-state tuition waiver for students not currently living in the state of California, up to $7128
- a student assistantship for the first full year (up to $5,500) with the possibility of a second year
- a waiver of 3-6 units of degree requirements based on the Volunteer's past experience and academic degree.

Program Contacts

To learn more about CSULB Coverdell Fellowships, please contact:

Graduate Advisor
Department of Geography
California State University, Long Beach
(+1) 562-985-7529
CLA-Geo-Grad-Advisor@csulb.edu

* For referee guidelines and more information about our program, please see:
http://www.cla.csulb.edu/departments/geography/graduate/