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

The Department of Geography, California State University, Long Beach, invites applications for its Master of Arts degree program. Review of applications for Fall admission begins March 1 for priority consideration. We will consider additional applications on a space available basis up until the University's June 1 deadline. Spring admissions are available some years; the deadline for Spring admissions is November 1. Application procedures are detailed below.

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 health geography (in addition, Geography has links with CSULB Center for Behavioral Research and Services; the CSULB Center for Community Engagement; and the Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department)

• **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 (we are 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; we are also linked with 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)

We have two Peace Corps programs:

• The Paul Coverdell Fellowship for returning Peace Corps Volunteers

• The Master International Program for those who want to combine Peace Corps service with a graduate degree.

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

• Professional employment in the public sector: e.g., environmental management, land use planning, hydrology, remote sensing, community and/or international development, intelligence, social research; or the private sector: e.g., market area analysis with GIS, corporate risk analyst, real estate appraiser, community organizations.

• Local and/or international employment
• Teaching at the community college level, or enhancing in-service K-12 teaching.
• Pursuit of a Ph.D. for a career in research or teaching at the university level.

Why Geography at CSULB?
Our MA degree allows those with a passion for geography to explore their topics of interest 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 preparation for the MA program.

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.

We are reasonably priced. Estimated graduate student fees for the Fall 2016 semester are $2,443 for graduate students taking 6 or fewer units and $3,859 for those taking more than 6 units. Limited numbers of fee waivers for out-of-state residents are available on a competitive basis, until state residency can be established (usually one year). For current fee schedule, see: http://web.csulb.edu/depts/enrollment/registration/fees_basics.html

Our department can offer you competitive work and funding opportunities. Assistantships are available in our geospatial technology labs and in large classes (grading, teaching laboratory sections), in addition to research-related assistantships with individual faculty. If you would like to be considered for these opportunities, please indicate your availability and qualifications. Additionally, the Department has a large internship program. Finally, we have a newly created Graduation Research Enhancement Fund to which graduates can apply for assistance with completing their thesis research.

Our department offers a friendly, cooperative, student-centered, nationally and internationally renowned faculty and a great student body. We will not only strive to challenge you intellectually, but also we will work hard to help you define and achieve your educational and professional goals in a timely manner. Our active graduate students have a strong community, great grad-run study spaces, and a student club.

Application Procedures
I. Submit an online application directly to the University at http://www.csumentor.edu.
You will need to have the following sent to CSULB Admissions during that process:
  1. A set of official transcripts covering your bachelor's degree and any postbaccalaureate work (unless you are a CSULB alum).
  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.

II. Please send the following 4 items directly to the graduate advisor:
1. A statement of purpose (approx. 2 pages), in which you address: your proposed geography research project; your professional or personal goals in seeking a graduate degree; how your proposed project relates to our core strengths and/or faculty expertise; any special skills you have which you hope to build on in graduate studies; and your interest in Teaching Assistant (TA) positions (please note your preference for human geography, physical geography and/or geospatial techniques TAs)
2. A paper, report, or mapping project or other comparable work 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).

Letters of reference, statements of purpose, and samples of work may be sent to the Graduate Advisor by e-mail, fax or mail. Referees should use their official institutional e-mail accounts. The applicant’s confidentiality election form must be signed and sent by regular mail or scanned and sent as an attachment.

International students, please note:
All application inquiries from international (F-1 visa) students should be sent to: CCPE-CIE-Apply@csulb.edu
This email address is for International Recruitment office, which assists students with the application process and general information about applying to CSULB.

Review of applications begins March 1 for Fall admission. Competitive applicants are encouraged to meet this deadline.

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