

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR ADMISSION TO GRADUATE STUDY

**STEP ONE:** Complete On-line Graduate School application form. *Application form available at <https://vwapps.ais.psu.edu/cgi-bin/gradframe.exe/launch/gradframe>*

*\*Indicate University Park campus under choice of campus.*

*\*The Department only accepts students for entry in the **FALL SEMESTER**.*

**STEP TWO: SUBMIT ALL ITEMS BELOW IN ONE COMPLETE PACKET TO:**

The Pennsylvania State University, Graduate Admissions  
**Department of Geography**  
302 Walker Building, University Park, PA 16802-5011.

- Departmental Application for Admission and Financial Assistance Application (*see back of brochure*).
- Two official copies of transcript(s) from each post-secondary institution attended to date. *Transcript request forms are available at: <http://forms.gradsch.psu.edu/ges/transreq-typeon.pdf>*
- Statement of intent.  
*Must be at least one page. Discuss how you came to select your intended fields of specialization, and how your education is related to your professional objectives.*
- Three letters of recommendation.  
*Please Note: We do not supply forms for these recommendations. Letters must be on formal letterhead paper and placed in a sealed, signed envelope.*
- Official GRE Score Report.
- Official scores of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)  
*Required of all students from countries in which English is not the primary language. Penn State also requires that those students from non-English speaking countries who will have teaching assistant responsibilities take an on-campus oral test of English. The test will be administered after admission and arrival on campus.*
- Completed Application for Visa Document. Form available at:  
[http://www.international.psu.edu/international\\_students/PDF/VisaApp.pdf](http://www.international.psu.edu/international_students/PDF/VisaApp.pdf) (*International applicants only*) *All applicable documentation must be included with this form.*

***For questions and further inquires, contact [geoggradsec@psu.edu](mailto:geoggradsec@psu.edu)***

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

The Department of Geography offers, on a competitive basis, a number of teaching and research assistantships each year. In 2007-2008 half-time assistantships (20 hours per week) were awarded \$14,130 per academic year plus a full tuition grant. Modest increases are expected for 2008-2009.

Typical assistantship activities include leading discussion groups or laboratories for introductory courses, or assisting faculty in research projects. Keeping in mind that assistantship awards have the primary purpose of advancing each student's graduate studies, we try to match the academic needs and talents of students with their assistantship activities.

Assistantships are renewed annually subject to satisfactory progress and performance within the time limits established by the faculty for completion of degree work. Eligibility for financial assistance is normally limited to two years for work on the master's degree, with an additional three years for those going on to the doctoral degree after completing the masters. Students entering the program who have completed a Masters degree are eligible for four years of financial assistance toward the doctoral degree.

## GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS:

Outstanding applicants will be nominated for a University-wide Graduate Fellowship or a College of Earth and Mineral Sciences Wilson Award. Minority Fellowships are available for qualified applicants.

For additional information about assistantships, fellowships, and awards, visit the Graduate School's home page at: <http://www.gradsch.psu.edu>.

## DEADLINES:

The Graduate School Form and the Departmental Application for Admissions and Financial Assistantship must be received no later than January 1 for the next Fall semester. Each applicant is encouraged to ensure that **all parts** of the application have been received by the University. Incomplete applications provide only partial information, and are not considered. Applicants may phone the department's Graduate Admissions Assistant (814-865-3434) or e-mail ([geoggradsec@psu.edu](mailto:geoggradsec@psu.edu)) periodically to check on the status of their application.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Candidates must possess a B.A./B.S. degree. Applicants must have maintained during the junior and senior years, overall grade-point averages equivalent to 3.0 (A=4.0) for admission to the Graduate School. GRE scores must be submitted along with application materials as well as official transcripts. **We strongly advise you to take the GREs in or before October to ensure that the scores reach us by our application closing date of January 1.**

Foreign students, other than those from countries where English is the principal language, must take the TOEFL. However, foreign students that have completed a baccalaureate or masters degree program in the U.S. are not required to take the TOEFL exam.

**FACULTY - POTENTIAL ADVISORS:**

**Cynthia Brewer** (Michigan State) Professor and Associate Head. *Cartographic Communication and Visualization; Map Design; Color Theory.* ([cbrewer@psu.edu](mailto:cbrewer@psu.edu))

**Robert P. Brooks** (Massachusetts) Professor of Geography and Ecology and Director of Cooperative Wetlands Center. *Ecology; Conservation and Riparian Areas; Wetland Wildlife; Landscape Ecology.* ([rpb2@psu.edu](mailto:rpb2@psu.edu))

**Andrew Carleton** (Colorado) Professor. *Satellite Climatology; Climate Dynamics* ([Carleton@essc.psu.edu](mailto:Carleton@essc.psu.edu))

**Robert Crane** (Colorado) Professor and Director of The Alliance for Earth Sciences, Engineering, and Development in Africa (AESEDA). *Remote Sensing; Climatology; GCM Modeling.* ([crane@essc.psu.edu](mailto:crane@essc.psu.edu))

**Paul Desanker** (Michigan Tech) Associate Professor. *Climate Change; Environmental Assessment; Modeling and Management; Regional Assessment; Integrated Modeling; Landscape Ecology; Carbon Management* ([desanker@psu.edu](mailto:desanker@psu.edu))

**Lorraine Dowler** (Syracuse) Associate Professor. *Feminist, Cultural, and Social Geography.* ([lxdl7@psu.edu](mailto:lxdl7@psu.edu))

**Roger Downs** (Bristol) Professor. *Behavioral Geography; Environmental Cognition; Geographic Education* ([rd7@psu.edu](mailto:rd7@psu.edu))

**William Easterling** (North Carolina) Professor and Dean of College of Earth and Mineral Sciences. *Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change; Agricultural Climatology; Natural Resources.* ([easter@gis.psu.edu](mailto:easter@gis.psu.edu))

**Rodney Erickson** (Washington) Professor and Executive Vice President and Provost. *Economic and Industrial Geography* ([rae@psu.edu](mailto:rae@psu.edu))

**Amy K. Glasmeier** (California-Berkeley) Professor. *Economic Geography; Regional and Development Economics; Public Policy; Urban Planning* ([akgl1@ems.psu.edu](mailto:akgl1@ems.psu.edu))

**Deryck H. Holdsworth** (British Columbia) Professor. *Historical Geography of North America; Urban and Historical Geography.* ([dwh6@ems.psu.edu](mailto:dwh6@ems.psu.edu))

**Alex Klippel** (University of Bremen). Assistant Professor. *Spatial Cognition, Geographic Event Conceptualization, Wayfinding, Location Based Services, Multimodal Communication, Conceptual Modeling.* ([auk23@psu.edu](mailto:auk23@psu.edu))

**C. Gregory Knight** (Minnesota) Professor. *Cultural Ecology; Water Resource Management; Africa* ([cgk@psu.edu](mailto:cgk@psu.edu))

**Derrick Lampkin** (Arizona) Assistant Professor. *Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis* ([djl22@psu.edu](mailto:djl22@psu.edu))

**Ikubolajeh Logan** (University of California) Professor. *African and Third World Development; Human Dimensions of Environment & Resources Analyses; Globalization* ([bil2@psu.edu](mailto:bil2@psu.edu))

**Alan MacEachren** (Kansas) Professor and Director of Geographic Visualization Science, Technology, and Applications (GeoVISTA) Center. *Cartography; Scientific Visualization; Geographic Information Analysis; Environmental Cognition* ([alan@geog.psu.edu](mailto:alan@geog.psu.edu))

**James McCarthy** (California-Berkeley) Assistant Professor. *Environmental; Political Ecology; Political Economy of Natural Resources and Rural Development; Economic Geography* ([mccarthy@geog.psu.edu](mailto:mccarthy@geog.psu.edu))

**Erica Smithwick** (Oregon State) Assistant Professor. *Landscape and ecosystem ecology, Disturbance ecology & disturbance synergies, Ecosystem simulation models, Climate change and ecosystem carbon storage, Fire and soil nitrogen, Microbial community composition and function, Spatial statistics* ([smithwick@psu.edu](mailto:smithwick@psu.edu))

**Alan Taylor** (Colorado) Professor and Director of Vegetation Dynamics Laboratory. *Biogeography; Environmental Management; Landscape Change* ([aht1@psu.edu](mailto:aht1@psu.edu))

**Petra Tschakert** (Arizona) Assistant Professor. *Natural Resource Management; Participatory Development and Rural Livelihoods (particularly in West African drylands).* ([petra@psu.edu](mailto:petra@psu.edu))

**Melissa W. Wright** (Johns Hopkins) Associate Professor of Geography and Women's Studies. *Social Theory; Feminist Theory; Latin America; World-Systems Analysis; Spatial Analysis* ([mww11@psu.edu](mailto:mww11@psu.edu))

**Brent Yarnal** (Simon Fraser) Professor. *Climatic Change and Variation; Physical, Human, and Policy Dimensions of Global Environmental Change* ([alibar@essc.psu.edu](mailto:alibar@essc.psu.edu))

**Karl Zimmerer** (California-Berkeley) Professor and Head of Department. *Human-Environment Interactions; Political Ecology; Agrobiodiversity, Food Security/Vulnerability, and Climate Change; Environmental Conservation, Development, and Globalization; New Models and Historical Ideas of Landscape Processes.* ([ksz2@psu.edu](mailto:ksz2@psu.edu))

For a complete faculty list, please visit <http://www.geog.psu.edu/people/faculty.html#complete>

## **ABOUT UNIVERSITY PARK:**

The Pennsylvania State University Park Campus is located in the municipality of State College, where the social and cultural life of a small-scale urban setting is enhanced by access to a scenic rural landscape and many recreational opportunities. New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, D.C., and Pittsburgh are from three to five hours away by road. Regular commuter flights from State College Airport (SCE) connect to major airline hubs in Atlanta, Cincinnati, Detroit, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. For more information on State College, access the town's home page on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.statecollege.com> or Penn State's home page at: <http://www.psu.edu>.

## **GEOGRAPHY AT PENN STATE:**

The Pennsylvania State University offers M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Geography. The faculty encourage graduate students to arrange courses of study appropriate to their individual needs and aspirations. Programs in geography may be directed toward a career in public service, teaching and research, private industry, or one of the many other vocational opportunities open to geographers.

Students may concentrate their study on topics that fall within the special skills and interests of the faculty. Current specialties include behavioral geography; biogeography; cultural geography; feminist geography; geographic representation and analysis (including cartography, computer mapping, geocomputation, geographic information science, geographic information systems application, remote sensing systems, geographic visualization, and data modeling); geographic thought; geography of the developing world; historical geography; human dimensions of global environmental change; landscape; political geography; nature-society relations; regional economic development; satellite, synoptic, and dynamic climatology; social geography; urban geography; and water resources.

Penn State's graduate program in geography helps students design programs tailored to their specific interests and needs. Thus, there are few formal requirements and many opportunities for students to pursue their own interests under the guidance of the faculty. Each student's work is supervised by his or her academic adviser and by a committee consisting of two additional members of the graduate faculty for master's students and three or more additional members for doctoral students. For more information on the department, please visit our home page at: <http://www.geog.psu.edu>.

## **FACILITIES AND LABS:**

The Geography Department is housed in a modern building with four computer laboratories dedicated to research, development, and instruction in GIS and image analysis. The Microsoft Windows XP-based labs provide cartographic design, image processing, and multimedia applications, the latest GIS and remote sensing software, and a variety of data processing and programming applications. An advanced laboratory houses sixteen Microsoft Windows XP workstations equipped with ESRI's ArcGIS and other commercial and locally-developed software. All department computing facilities offer Ethernet connections to Penn State's IBM super parallel computer and the Environment Institute's Cray supercomputer.

The Department hosts the Peter R. Gould Center for Geography Education and Outreach. The Gould Center promotes innovative instructional design strategies that improve the quality and accessibility of geographic education. The Gould Center is affiliated with the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences John A. Dutton e-Education Institute.

The Department also maintains environmental geography laboratories that house all of the field and laboratory equipment needed for dendroclimatic and dendroecological research, and palynological research on vegetation dynamics.

The University Libraries system is one of the leading academic research library organizations in the country and includes a map collection of over 300,000 items. The Historical Collections and Labor Archives are particularly rich for reconstructing nineteenth- and twentieth-century geographies.

**APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY  
THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Mr./Ms/Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_  
(last name) (first name) (middle name)

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Field(s) of Interest (Choose 3 and rank 1-3):

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> behavioral                   | <input type="checkbox"/> geographic information science                  | <input type="checkbox"/> political ecology             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> biogeography                 | <input type="checkbox"/> geographic information systems                  | <input type="checkbox"/> poverty                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cartography                  | <input type="checkbox"/> geographic thought                              | <input type="checkbox"/> regional economic development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> climate change               | <input type="checkbox"/> geovisual analytics                             | <input type="checkbox"/> remote sensing                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cryosphere                   | <input type="checkbox"/> GIS applications                                | <input type="checkbox"/> simulation and modeling       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cultural                     | <input type="checkbox"/> globalization                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> social                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cultural ecology             | <input type="checkbox"/> hazards   | <input type="checkbox"/> spatial cognition             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> data- and knowledge-modeling | <input type="checkbox"/> historical                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> time-space dynamics           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> developing world             | <input type="checkbox"/> historical GIS                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> tree ring analysis            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> economic                     | <input type="checkbox"/> human dimensions of global environmental change | <input type="checkbox"/> urban                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ecosystems ecology           | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape ecology                               | <input type="checkbox"/> vegetation dynamics           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fire ecology                 | <input type="checkbox"/> political                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> visualization                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> gender                       |  | <input type="checkbox"/> water resources               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> geo-computation              |  | <input type="checkbox"/> wetlands                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> geographic education         |  |  |

List persons writing letters of reference for you and email address:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

I  do  do not waive my right of access to confidential letters of recommendation submitted on my behalf.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**REMINDER:  
Application Deadline is January 1<sup>st</sup>**