



Department of Geography and the Environment

Prospective Graduate Student

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *What are the admission requirements and application deadlines?*

All graduate program admission requirements can be found on the Office of Graduate Education admissions website: <https://www.du.edu/academics/graduate-programs> .

Our on-campus programs (PhD, MA, and MSGIS) begin only in the Fall quarter (early September) each year. The priority application deadline is January 15 and final submission deadline is April 15. The online MSGIS program has quarterly matriculation dates and admission deadlines.

2. *What funding opportunities are available?*

Each year our department has a limited number of Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) positions. GTA award benefits include tuition waiver, a monthly stipend, and health care coverage. These positions are competitive, and awards are given based on the quality of the applicant and alignment of research interests with our department.

For non-native English speakers there is an additional English speaking minimum requirement for Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) positions. Please consult the Office of Graduate Education admissions website for more information: <https://www.du.edu/graduate-education/admission/international-students/requirementsdeadlines> . Before applying for a GTA funding position, please ensure you meet those proficiency minimums if you are a non-native English speaker.

On occasion Graduate Research Assistantships (GRA) opportunities are available directly from faculty members for a specific research project.

Other financial aid inquiries should be directed to the Financial Aid office.

3. *Do I need to find a potential advisor before applying?*

It is not required. But applicants to the on-campus graduate program are encouraged to reach out directly to professors with common research interests. Establishing a relationship with a potential advisor and beginning to formulate a research thesis/dissertation/project idea can be very beneficial in the application process.

4. *Are GRE scores required for admission to the graduate programs?*

No. GRE scores are no longer required.

5. *Can my application fee be waived?*

The Department of Geography and the Environment is unable to waive application fees. If you are in communication with a faculty member who may potentially serve as your advisor, that faculty member can make a special request on your behalf for the fee to be covered. Such requests can only be considered if: 1) you have established relationship with a faculty member who will serve as your advisor, and 2) you meet all the requirements for admission to the graduate school, including English language requirements for Graduate Teaching Assistantships.