

Dear Prospective Graduate Student,

Thank you for your interest in the Environmental Science Masters Degree Program at California State University, Los Angeles. To apply to our program, two separate applications must be completed: 1) the University application [<http://www.calstatela.edu/univ/admiss/>] to be submitted to the University Admissions Office, and 2) the Environmental Science Masters Degree Program application to be submitted to the Department of Biological Sciences. Each application must be accompanied by an official set of transcripts.

Enclosed you will find a copy of our program application form. You are also provided with a set of guidelines for preparing this application. A checklist is included to help ensure that your application package is complete.

We accept applications to the Master of Science Degree Program in Environmental Science twice a year. These are due:

- **August 1<sup>st</sup>** for the Fall Quarter of the same year.
- **February 1<sup>st</sup>** for the Spring Quarter of the same year.

Please carefully read all instructions and do not hesitate to contact the Department of Biological Sciences or the CEA-CREST office if you need more information. Only completed applications that are submitted by the deadline will be considered!

Crist Khachikian, Ph.D.  
Environmental Science Program Director  
The Center for Environmental Analysis (CEA-CREST)

## Checklist for the application for admission to the graduate degree program

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Completed University Application              | <input type="checkbox"/> Statement of Purpose            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Completed Program Application                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Three Letters of Recommendation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Identification of Potential Research Advisors | <input type="checkbox"/> Official Transcripts            |

### Guidelines for preparing the application package

#### University Application

Refer to the University Application guidelines.

#### Program Application

You need to identify a potential Faculty Advisor whether you choose the research or the professional track. This is a key first step in the application process. Note that a successful program application for the research track requires confirmation of acceptance into a research laboratory. Evidence of completed interviews with three faculty members in your area of interest will also qualify you for entrance into the program as a research-track student, as well as entrance as a professional-track student. We recommend that you first visit the CEA-CREST website to explore the research interests of the Environmental Science faculty. Then schedule an appointment with the faculty of interest via email or telephone. If you are off campus, you may want to schedule all interviews for the same day. To prepare for the interviews we recommend that you read representative publications of the faculty member selected and formulate a list of questions regarding the research field and research environment:

Sample questions might include:

- How many graduate students has the faculty member supported, and how many are currently being supported?
- What funding is available for student support?
- Where have graduates been placed after completing the program?
- How much time will the faculty advisor have for you?
- How much time does it take to complete the Master's Degree?

In addition, you should be prepared to answer questions addressing:

- Your research interests
- Your expectations for the program
- Your immediate and long-term professional plans

#### Statement of Purpose

Please comment on your specific research interests, your academic goals, and how our program can be of help to you. Comment on why you chose our program, what qualities make you a suitable candidate, and how you could contribute to our program. Please do not submit an essay about your general life experiences; the program would like to know about your academic and scientific qualifications.

#### Letters of Recommendation

Three letters of recommendation are required. Choose professional individuals (e.g. research supervisor, supervisor in science related employment, professors) who are best suited to comment on your intellectual talents, motivation, interactions with peers, work attitude and performance. Ask these individuals to make specific comments on your suitability for the degree program.

#### Official Transcript

You need two sets of official transcripts for your application to the Graduate Degree program in Environmental Science. One is for our program and one is to be submitted to the University Admissions Office.

**DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES  
THE CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

**APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO THE MS DEGREE PROGRAM IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES**

Admission to the MS Degree Program in Environmental Science is contingent upon review and acceptance of your application by the Environmental Science Program Director and the admissions committee. Submit this application, along with materials listed in the application letter, directly to:

Hilary Jones  
CEA-CREST, Cal State LA, BS 140  
5151 State University Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90032-8201

<b>Name:</b> _____			<b>Social Security #:</b> _____		
Last	First	MI			
<b>Date of Birth:</b> ____ / ____ / ____			<b>Sex:</b> M ___ F ___		
<b>Ethnic Background (optional):</b> _____					
<b>Mailing Address:</b> _____					
Street		City		State	Zip
<b>Phone:</b> _____			<b>Email:</b> _____		
<b>Quarter applying for:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Fall <input type="checkbox"/> Spring        _____ Year					
<b>Choose track:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Professional <input type="checkbox"/> Research					
<i>(note: you can change your track within the first two quarters of attendance)</i>					
<b>If research track is chosen please choose your area of research interest (please circle one):</b>					
Environmental Biology			Environmental Engineering Science		
Environmental Hydrogeology					

**Educational Background:** List undergraduate institution, major area, dates attended and degree awarded.

Institution	Major	Dates Attended	Degree Awarded

<b>Undergraduate GPA:</b>	_____
<b>GPA in major:</b>	_____
<b>Post-baccalaureate GPA:</b>	_____
<b>GRE Scores (if taken)</b>	<b>General</b> ____ <b>Subject</b> _____

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First MI

**Work in Progress:** Please list any coursework in which you are currently enrolled.

**Institution:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Term:** \_\_\_\_\_

Department	Course Number	Course Title	Units

**Letters of Recommendation:** List the individuals from whom you have requested letters of recommendation.

Name	Institution	Phone number	Email address

**Awards & Distinctions:** List academic awards, honors, scholarships, or other distinctions you have received.

**Related Work Experience:** List employment related to your graduate education goals.

**Research/Scholarly Activities:** List any publications or research experience you may have relevant to your graduate study, as well as activities or membership in any scholarly or professional organizations.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First MI

**Advisor:** Please see the application checklist on instructions for completing this section. You need to have identified a single faculty advisor for admittance as a research-track student. Interviews with three faculty will also qualify you for the research-track as well as the professional track (visit <http://cea-crest.calstatela.edu/> for a list of affiliated faculty). If any have already agreed to sponsor you, please indicate so.

Name	Dept/Institution	How Contacted?	Willing to sponsor research?	Faculty Initials

**Statement of Purpose:** Please enclose a one-page statement of your purpose in applying for graduate study in the Environmental Science MS Degree Program. Please include your area of research interest, plans for obtaining a subsequent advanced degree if any, your career goals, and any other information related to your preparation and ability to pursue graduate work at the Master's level.