

Michigan State University Geography Graduate Application Information

For full consideration for Fall Admission and funding DEADLINE: *December 31st*

Admission and funding are also considered for Spring or Summer semesters, although funding is unlikely for persons not starting in Fall.

There are **two parts** to your graduate application

Part I: the university part

Part II: the Geography department part

Part I: Application to Michigan State University – university part:

The official University application form: A completed “*Application for Admission to Graduate Study*”. Online application and credit card fee payment is expected. Access the application form at: <http://grad.msu.edu/apply.htm> If you do not have a credit card, you may download the application form, fill it in and then mail it **to the department of Geography** with a check made out to “Michigan State University” for \$50.00 US.

Part II: Application to the Department of Geography – department part:

Statement of Purpose: A neatly typed and concisely written (maximum 1,000 words) statement of purpose. This statement needs to include a discussion of why you want to pursue a degree in geography or GIS, your background to do so, and your career goals. It is a **critical** part of the application packet, as it provides an indication of the applicant's academic focus and writing ability.

Graduate Record Examination (GRE): Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores Only under highly unusual circumstances may a waiver of the GRE score requirement be granted. Requests for a waiver should be made in writing to the Graduate Coordinator, Department of Geography. (For the GRE we are institution 1465 and department 2203.)

Transcripts: Two copies of an official transcript of all academic work.

Background Information Form: A completed “*Background Information Form*”

Letters of Recommendation: A minimum of three (3) letters of recommendation, each of which **must** include the Department of Geography's “*Personal Reference Form*”

Master's Degree Information Form: *For Ph.D. Applicants Only.* A “*Master's Degree Information Form*” completed by the student's Master's Department Chair or chair of your advising committee.

TOEFL Scores: *For International Students only:* A current TOEFL score (Test of English as a Foreign Language) for all international students whose native language is not English. To be acceptable, the TOEFL test must have been taken within the last 2 years. Submission of TOEFL scores is a University requirement. The Geography Department generally does not admit students whose TOEFL scores are less than 600 and funding is unlikely for persons with scores below 630. If you have a degree from an English-speaking country and your work was primarily in English OR If you have a U.S. undergraduate degree, you can request a TOEFL waiver.

(For the TOEFL we are institution 1465 and department 70.)

Graduate Secretary Department of Geography 116 Geography Building Michigan State University East Lansing MI 48824-1117 Questions??: 517-355-4650 www.geo.msu.edu
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