

## Frequently Asked Questions

### All Applicants:

Q: Whom do I contact when I have questions?

A: If questions are about the MS or PhD in Geography, contact the graduate advisor. If questions are about the application process, contact the Graduate School. The application is done through the Graduate School, not the Department of Geosciences. Once the application is complete, then the department decides whether to accept the applicant and if departmental funding is to be offered.

Q: How do I apply?

A: Applications are submitted through the Texas Tech Graduate School:  
<https://www.depts.ttu.edu/gradschool/admissions/howtoapply.php>

Q: What if problems arise while I am applying?

A: You will need to contact the Graduate School. The Department of Geosciences is not involved in the process of applying.

Q: Are application fee waivers offered?

A: No, we do not waive the application fee, which is charged by the Graduate School, not the Department of Geosciences

Q: Can I apply after the 1 February deadline?

A: Yes, but if you want to be considered for all available funding and scholarship opportunities you must have a complete application by 1 February. Applications received after the deadline are reviewed approximately once per month. If you apply after the deadline, it's best to inform the Geography Grad Advisor and your potential mentor.

Q: Do I need to take an English proficiency test?

A: This is a requirement of the Graduate School, not the Department of Geosciences. Information on who needs to take a test and minimum scores needed are found in the "Official Proof of English Proficiency" tab at:  
<https://www.depts.ttu.edu/gradschool/admissions/InternationalProspectiveStudents.php>

Q: Do I need to contact a potential faculty advisor before applying?

A: This is not required but is recommended.

Q: Is the GRE required?

A: Texas Tech does not require the GRE.

### MS in Geography & Environment

Q: Will I be considered for a teaching assistant position?

A: After the 1 February deadline for complete applications (including letters of recommendation), all applicants will be evaluated, and the faculty will decide whom to offer TA positions based on the number of positions available.

Q: Are research assistant positions available?

A: RA positions come from individual faculty members, not the department. Applicants should contact potential mentors about the possibility of an RA position. Be advised that these are rare for MS students.

### **PhD in Geosciences, with Emphasis in Geography & Environment**

Q: Do I need to contact a potential faculty mentor before applying?

A: It is highly recommended that you have arranged for a faculty mentor before applying.

Q: What funding opportunities are available?

A: Teaching assistantships in Geography generally are limited to MS students. PhD students who require funding should identify a faculty member with available funding and who is willing to support the student as a research assistant.