Baylor University

Dear Prospective Graduate Student,

Thank you for your interest in graduate education in Environmental Science at Baylor University.

The Environmental Science Graduate Program is housed within the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences (SEES), an interdisciplinary academic unit that brings together faculty with expertise spanning environmental science, environmental health, toxicology, chemistry, climate, ecology, geoscience, data science, and related disciplines. Faculty within SEES conduct internationally recognized research that addresses environmental and human health challenges through innovative laboratory, field-based, computational, and community-engaged research.

Additional information about our programs, faculty, and research opportunities can be found at:

- **School of Earth and Environmental Sciences**
- **Environmental Science Program**
- **Baylor Graduate School**
- **SEES Faculty Directory**

Prospective students interested in doctoral study should review faculty research interests and contact potential faculty mentors before submitting an application. Because graduate education in Environmental Science is highly research-focused and faculty-driven, we generally do not admit students who have not identified a faculty mentor willing to support their application and serve as their primary research advisor. **Applicants are therefore strongly encouraged to communicate with prospective mentors before applying to discuss research interests, available opportunities, and program fit.** Initial inquiries should include a brief description of research interests, academic goals, relevant experience, and a current CV.

Successful Ph.D. applicants are typically offered competitive graduate stipends through either research assistantships (RAs) or teaching assistantships (TAs), health insurance benefits, and full tuition waivers. Research assistantships are generally supported through externally funded faculty research programs, while teaching assistantships provide opportunities to support undergraduate instruction within the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences and related programs.

The Environmental Science program accepts applications to the Master of Science (M.S.) and Master of Environmental Science (M.E.S.) degree programs; however, prospective applicants should be aware that graduate stipends, tuition waivers, health insurance benefits, and other forms of graduate assistantship support are generally reserved for doctoral students in the program. As a result, financial support is not typically available for students pursuing M.S. or M.E.S. degrees. Students interested in master's-level study are encouraged to carefully consider the financial requirements associated with their degree program before applying.

At Baylor, Environmental Science graduate students are mentored by committed and internationally recognized scholars who frequently engage in collaborative and interdisciplinary research. Students benefit from opportunities to work across traditional disciplinary boundaries through collaborations among faculty in environmental science, geosciences, biology, chemistry, public health, engineering, and data science.

Research opportunities encompass a wide range of areas, including environmental toxicology, environmental health, aquatic and terrestrial ecology, environmental chemistry, climate and atmospheric science, geospatial analysis, environmental modeling, risk assessment, environmental data science, environmental epidemiology, exposure science, and other areas of emerging environmental importance. Student research projects often integrate multiple disciplines and departments to address complex environmental challenges affecting both environmental and human health.

Graduate students have access to state-of-the-art laboratories and research facilities within the Baylor Sciences Building and across the university's research infrastructure. Our students have strong records of scholarly publication, professional presentations, and post-graduate placement in academia, government agencies, industry, and nonprofit organizations.

Baylor University is located in Waco, Texas, a growing metropolitan area situated along the Brazos River in the heart of Central Texas. Waco is conveniently located between the Dallas-Fort Worth and Austin metropolitan areas, providing access to the professional, cultural, and recreational opportunities of two major urban centers while maintaining a relatively affordable cost of living and a strong sense of community. The region's diverse ecosystems, rivers, reservoirs, wetlands, rangelands, and urban environments provide valuable opportunities for environmental field research and experiential learning. As a major research university enrolling students from across the United States and around the world, Baylor offers graduate students a vibrant academic environment with extensive opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and professional development.

We appreciate your interest in Baylor University and the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences. We encourage you to explore our faculty and research programs and look forward to hearing from prospective students whose interests align with the research strengths of our faculty.

If you have questions regarding the program or doctoral admissions opportunities, please feel free to contact Erica Johnson, Graduate Program Coordinator, erica_c_johnson@baylor.edu, or you can contact me directly.

With kind regards,

Cole W. Matson, Ph.D.
Graduate Program Director
Environmental Science Graduate Program
School of Earth and Environmental Sciences
Baylor University
cole_matson@baylor.edu