Optimize your Opportunities: How to Successfully Apply to Geological Society of America (GSA) Student Programs

Science ■ Stewardship ■ Service

28 November 2017
• Submit questions via the questions panel throughout the webinar

• We will answer your questions at the end of the webinar
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Mission: To advance geoscience research and discovery, service to society, stewardship of Earth, and the geosciences profession.

Professional society of 25,000 global geoscientists providing:

➢ Publishing
➢ Meetings
➢ Education and outreach
➢ Public policy
➢ Awards & recognition

GSA is your society!
GSA’s Structure

GSA Membership

Sections

Council

Divisions

Staff

Committees

Associated Societies & Partners
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<th>Divisions</th>
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<td>Archaeological Geology</td>
<td>Hydrogeology</td>
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<td>Coal Geology</td>
<td>Karst</td>
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<td>Continental Scientific Drilling</td>
<td>Limnogeology</td>
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<td>Engineering Geology</td>
<td>Mineralogy, Geochemistry,</td>
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<td>Geobiology and Geomicrobiology</td>
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<td>Geology and Health</td>
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<td>Geophysics</td>
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<td>Geoscience Education</td>
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Committees

- Committees are working groups that help shape policy and programs at GSA.
- Student representative positions on most committees
- Self-nominations and nominations encouraged through 15 June 2018
GSA’s Student Advisory Council (SAC)

Serve as a resource to GSA leadership on the needs of student members

SAC is made up of student volunteers from divisions, sections, and committees
Student Opportunities

- Easy, affordable access to published leading-edge research
- Opportunities to develop skills in presenting scientific research
- Funding for their own research and fieldwork
- Career-building resources and experiences
Publications

Print & Online Journals

Geology
GSA Bulletin
Geosphere
Lithosphere

Student Members receive FREE online access.
Publications

GSA Today – Monthly News Journal

GSA Connection – Monthly E-Newsletter
Annual Meetings

The Annual Meeting
— October or November

Student Programs include:

- Travel Grants
- Volunteer opportunities (to offset registration cost)
- Formal & informal networking
- Student career and mentor programs and social activities
- Short Courses

*Get your professional feet wet!*
Section Meetings

Six Regional Section Meetings — March through May

1. Northeastern
2. North Central
3. Southeastern
4. South Central
5. Rocky Mountain
6. Cordilleran

- **Section** meetings are especially student-friendly and affordable
- Present your research
- Attend mentoring programs with government and private sector geoscientists
- Career workshops
- Field trips
Career Building Programs

- Field Camp Scholarships
- On To the Future Travel Awards
- Northeast Urban Travel Awards
- GeoCorps™ America
- NPS Geoscientists-In-the-Parks
- Research Grants
Field Camp Scholarships

Casey John, 2015 Field Camp Scholar Awardee
Field Camp Scholarships

Students will be awarded $2,000 each to attend the field camp of their choice, based on diversity, economic need, and merit.

Tamunoisoala Longjohn, 2013 Field Camp Scholar Awardee
Field Camp Scholarships

Your complete application consists of: 1) online resume including courses and grades; 2) two letters of recommendation; and 3) a cover letter

Assonman Degny, 2011 Field Camp Scholar Awardee
Field Camp Scholarships

Applications accepted early February through early mid-March

Abigail Maxwell, 2012 Field Camp Scholar Awardee
Partial funding to attend your first Annual Meeting, full meeting registration, membership, mentorship, and sessions at meeting. Average award: $500

Application Opens
1 March 2018
Northeast Urban Travel Award

Full funding for non-traditional students to attend the NE Section Meeting, Burlington, VT, 18-20 March 2018

Application closes 23 February 2018
Other Travel Award Options

- Check GSA’s website for travel awards to section and annual meetings
- Volunteer at meetings and get free registration
GeoCorps America

Paid short-term geoscience assignments in some of the most beautiful natural areas in the world
- BLM
- U.S. Forest Service
- $10.35/hr
- PLC hiring eligibility*

*Positions posted 1 Dec., 2017; application deadline 2 Feb. 2018

Emily Baer, Hiawatha National Forest, MI
Geoscientists-In-the-Parks

Paid short-term opportunities in geoscience (and related subjects) in National Parks

- $7.50/hr
- AmeriCorps Education Award eligibility ($1,515+)
- PLC (& DHA*) hiring eligibility

Positions posted 1 Dec. 2017; application deadline 2 Feb. 2018
Graduate Student Research Grants

- Master's and Ph.D. students
- North & Central America
- Any aspect of geoscience
- 2017:
  - 785 students applied
  - 395 received grants
  - $692,164 granted
  - Avg. $1,752, max. $2,500

Applications accepted
1 Dec. 2017 - 1 Feb. 2018
Applying Successfully

- Carefully read the requirements for each program
- Begin early / finish early
- Early on, request positive recommendation letter(s)
- Be prepared to write accurate and concise answers to application questions
  - Diversity question, motivation, etc.
- Obtain a record of grades (focus on relevant courses)
- Realistic, detailed, and justified budget
- Review and edit your application
Steps After You Apply

1. Not all programs send automatic confirmation
   a. Application is considered final and submitted at deadline

2. Reviews begin 2-3 weeks after the closing date
   a. GeoCorps & GIP begin rolling acceptances this year

3. After this time you can contact the program officer with questions

4. If you do not receive an award/position you will be notified
   a. After all awards/positions are determined

5. Sometimes there is a waitlist/alternates list

6. If selected: Make the most of it, let others know!

7. If not selected: Reapply!
Questions?

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Education & Careers Home:
http://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Education_Careers/GSA/edu-career/Home.aspx