

DOCTORAL PROGRAM

The **Ph.D. in Geography and Environmental Science and Policy** is an interdisciplinary degree program which requires incoming students to designate either *Geography* or *Environmental Science and Policy* as their area of emphasis (track), in their application for admission. The program requires a total of 90 credit hours beyond the bachelor's degree, or 60 hours past the masters.

The **Geography track** of the Ph.D. is designed to draw on the interdisciplinary strengths of the Geography faculty and to educate our students to respond to rapid changes in knowledge production and application. Our course offerings emphasize three themes: *human geography*, *environmental geography*, and *GIScience & spatial analysis*. Through our commitment to quality interdisciplinary teaching, combined with cutting-edge research and hands-on learning opportunities, the Geography track of the Ph.D. is dedicated to ensuring that students are well prepared for careers in academia, and the private and public sectors.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

There are two main sources for graduate support in the Department of Geography, Environment, and Planning: graduate assistants and project assistants.

Graduate assistantships are awarded annually. Students are usually given a contract for up to three years as a graduate assistant. If a student would like to be considered for a graduate assistantship, she/he should send a letter of application to the Geography Graduate Program Coordinator early in the semester prior to the semester for consideration.

Project assistants are students who are hired to assist faculty with grant-funded projects. Usually one or two students per semester are hired by individual faculty to complete computer analysis, map drafting, field work, or laboratory analysis.

There are also sources of financial support students can receive from the University in the forms of fellowships, scholarships, grants, work study, and loans. For more information, students are advised to contact the Graduate School at (813) 974-8800, or the Office of Financial Aid at (813) 974-4700.

GEOGRAPHY FACULTY

Kevin Archer, PhD - Associate Professor
urban, political, geography and social theory, globalization

Pratyusha Basu, PhD - Associate Professor
rural development, agriculture, environment, gender, India

Martin Bosman, PhD - Associate Professor
urban, economic, social theory, globalization

Jayajit Chakraborty, PhD - Associate Professor
environmental justice, hazards, health geography, urban, GIS, spatial statistics

Ruiliang Pu, PhD - Assistant Professor
remote sensing, GIS, ecosystem analysis

Steven Reader, PhD - Associate Professor
GIScience, spatial statistics, spatial epidemiology, health geography

Heath Robinson, PhD - Visiting Instructor
GIS, political geography, ontology, geospatial intelligence

Charlie Travis, PhD - Visiting Instructor
GIS, historical-cultural-social geography, digital humanities

Department Chair - Kevin Archer
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Director of Geography Division - Jayajit Chakraborty
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Graduate Program Coordinator - Martin Bosman
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GIS Certificate Program Coordinator - Steven Reader
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USF is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access/Affirmative Action Institution

The University of South Florida is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award degrees at the baccalaureate, master's, specialist and doctoral levels, including the Doctor of Medicine.



HUMAN GEOGRAPHY
ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY
GISCIENCE AND SPATIAL ANALYSIS



USF UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH FLORIDA

GEOGRAPHY DIVISION

**Department of Geography,
Environment, and Planning**

<http://gеп.usf.edu>

The Department of Geography, Environment, and Planning at the University of South Florida, Tampa, serves the needs of a growing urban population in one of the largest metropolitan areas in the United States.



Geography is a diverse and intellectually vibrant academic division of the Department committed to excellence in geographic research and scholarship, as well as student success at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

It includes the following programs:

The **B.A. in Geography** offers a broad education in both human and environmental geography, which, combined with undergraduate research and practical knowledge, provides the necessary experience for a wide range of academic pursuits and employment opportunities. For information, contact Pratyusha Basu [pbasu@usf.edu].

The **M.A. in Geography** provides the theoretical foundation and methodological expertise necessary to conduct publishable-quality geographic research, as well as hands-on experience for real-world professional opportunities. For information, contact Martin Bosman [bosman@usf.edu].

The **Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GIS)** serves managers and administrators in the public and private sectors, technical professionals, decision-makers, or others involved in the planning, implementation, and use of GIS. For information, contact Steven Reader [sreader@usf.edu].

The **Ph.D. program in Geography and Environmental Science and Policy (Geography Track)** is designed for advanced graduate students specializing in geographic research at the cutting edge of the discipline. For information, contact Martin Bosman [bosman@usf.edu].

RESEARCH AND TEACHING THEMES

Geography faculty and students conduct research on a wide range of topics in local and international contexts, including urban and environmental geographies of Tampa Bay, remote sensing of natural and social environments, spatial and environmental justice in the U.S., and rural development in India. While we investigate all aspects of geography, our course offerings and research opportunities emphasize three major themes:

Human Geography studies the construction of space, place, and power. It includes *economic geographies* (e.g., globalization and development), *political geographies* (e.g., geopolitical struggles and new social movements), and *social and cultural geographies* (e.g., territories and identities). Human geography is central to explaining contemporary spatial processes, including the role of cities within the global economy, locating urban-rural intersections in the production of uneven development, and how class, gender, and race shape struggles for social justice.

Environmental Geography links the study of nature and society by considering the ways conventional divisions between human (social) and non-human (natural) worlds are bridged through the production of socio-natures. This understanding is crucial to explaining contemporary environmental problems, including the privatization of natural resources, inequalities in access to food and water, injustices associated with environmental hazards and undesirable land uses, and the role of human activities in spurring large-scale environmental change.

GIScience and Spatial Analysis concentrates on the use of advanced geospatial technologies, and the development and use of geospatial data and methods, to applied research problems in human and environmental geography. A rigorous understanding of such geospatial technologies as Remote Sensing, GIS, and GPS, as well as modern methods of spatial statistical analysis, and spatial analytical techniques such as agent-based modeling, is critical to developing appropriate analytical approaches to geographic problems.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Undergraduate Program

Admission to the program follows University guidelines. Students begin fulfilling the Geography B.A. program requirements in their junior year and must seek advice from the Geography undergraduate advisor before commencing. For more information on admission requirements for the University of South Florida, please contact the Office of Admissions at (813) 974-3350.

Graduate Programs

• **Background Requirement.** Students wishing to gain admittance into the graduate programs must have a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an approved college or university. Typically, the department's students have baccalaureate degrees in Geography. However, students with degrees in other disciplines are encouraged to apply. Those students admitted without a degree in Geography will be required to audit selected undergraduate geography courses as determined by the Graduate Coordinator. If a student has taken a course similar to one of these courses, the requirement may be waived.

• **Grade Point and Graduate Record Exam (GRE) Requirements.** Students must have a minimum grade point of 3.0 (on the 4 point scale) for the last 60 credits taken as a student and take the GRE exam.

• **Letter of Intent.** A letter of intent to pursue graduate studies must be submitted to the department prior to admittance. The letter should outline the applicant's specific academic interests and goals.

• **Letters of recommendation.** At least two letters of recommendation must be submitted to the department prior to admittance. Prospective students should solicit the letters of recommendation from sources who are familiar with the applicant's academic/work history and performance.

