



## *Additional Information for International Student Applicants to Rice Earth Science*

### Field trips

Earth Science students have any opportunities to study the Earth and the environment in the field. Undergraduates have traveled around the world, exploring the most spectacular geological features. Recent Destinations include:

- Hawaii
- Belize
- California
- Texas
- Cuba
- The Alps
- Canadian Rockies
- Spain
- Chile
- Antarctica
- Morocco

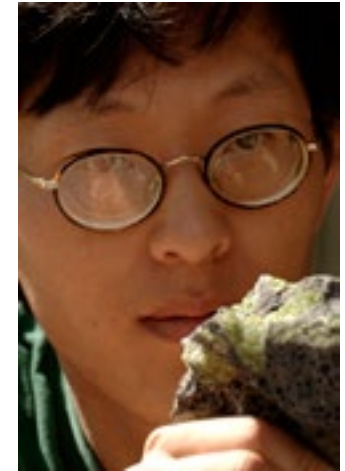
### Research opportunities

Graduates can choose among many research projects and work closely with world-renowned faculty.

- Global Seismology
- Exploration Seismology
- Tectonics, Paleomagnetism, or Structural Geology
- Geodynamics or Tectonophysics
- Planetary Science
- Volcanic Processes
- Igneous or Metamorphic Petrology
- High-Temperature Geochemistry
- Low-Temperature Geochemistry
- Environmental Science
- Sedimentary Geology, Stratigraphy, or Surface Processes
- Marine Geology and Geophysics
- Global Change
- Geomechanics, Porous Media, and Hydrology
- Energy Resources

For more information visit the faculty research pages at:

<http://earthscience.rice.edu/faculty/index.html>



EARTH SCIENCE DEPARTMENT



### Career opportunities

We are fortunate to offer students interviewing opportunities with companies that come directly to our building to recruit for summer internships and for exciting job openings...an unusual benefit for any student. Our students go on to careers in the energy, environment, government, education, and academic sectors. We have close relationships with international energy companies, many of which are headquartered in Houston, and close affiliations with NASA's Johnson Space Center, the Lunar and Planetary Institute, and other organizations in the area. The department also has a very active worldwide alumni organization so that students can benefit from interactions and communications with this group. Our international students usually find it easy to feel welcome since the department and Rice University both have wide international student populations. According to recent reports, Houston is also the most internationally diverse city in the entire country.

## What you should know as an international applicant

Rice Earth Science welcomes applications from international students. All applicants to Rice graduate programs are required to have at least a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 grading scale. If your institution uses a different grading scale, you can convert your GPA by going to this web site:

<http://www.foreigncredits.com/Resources/Grade-Conversion>

Additionally, if your native language is not English you are required to take the TOEFL or IELTS test. Applicants must receive a minimum score of at least 90 on the iBT TOEFL or at least 250 on the computer-based TOEFL. The minimum IELTS score is 7.

Almost all of the application process is now completed on the Rice online application system. We require a minimum of 3 letters of recommendation which also are sent online. All you need to do is insert the email address of your recommender in the system and the system will send out a notification to that person that you are requesting their recommendation. The only item that needs to be physically sent to the department is an official copy from your institution of your transcript.



Although we offer a thesis master's program, the department usually prefers to consider doctoral applicants.

**Almost all of our students receive a full tuition waiver and a generous stipend unless there is special funding from an external institution.** The funding is continued as long as the student makes acceptable academic progress. This enables our students to live comfortably in Houston..an exciting and culturally-rich city, the most diverse city in the United States.

## Degree Requirements for the PhD

The department accepts applications for the doctoral program from students with an undergraduate degree. These students must complete 90 credit hours plus meet the thesis and publication requirements. Doctoral students entering with a relevant master's degree must complete 60 credit hours. All students are required to pass a preliminary qualifying exam in the second semester. Starting in the second year, all students are also required to present an annual oral research report and a short written progress report of their research and coursework. All students are expected to complete at least one semester as a teaching assistant.

Doctoral students must pass a Qualifying Exam and are expected to submit an annual paper for publication starting in the second year. The doctoral thesis must include at least three manuscripts that have been submitted to peer-review journals with the student as the lead author. At least one manuscript must be in press or published at the time of the thesis defense.

For more information about degree requirements go to Guidelines for Advanced Degrees at:

<http://earthscience.rice.edu/academics/gradapply.html>



## Our Faculty

We have a creative and dynamic faculty pursuing fundamental questions about the Earth and our environment. The faculty to student ration is low so that there is extensive interaction among faculty and students. The Earth Science Department is ranked 25th nationally by US News and World Report, with the Rice Geophysics and Seismology Program ranked 12th nationally. Moreover, in recent years Rice geochemists have been awarded a Donath Medal, the Kuno Award, two Clarke Medals, and two Packard Grants.

Rice is now home to the NSF GeoPRISMS office. The Center for Computational Geophysics is one of the principal partners in the new Rice DAVinCI Visualization Center.

### Rice University

Department of Earth Science - MS 126  
6100 Main Street  
Houston, TX 77005

Richard Gordon, Chair [rgg@rice.edu](mailto:rgg@rice.edu)

Tel 713-348-4880 Fax 713-348-5214

Web [earthscience.rice.edu](http://earthscience.rice.edu)

FaceBook <http://www.facebook.com/RiceEarthScience>