

Admission Process for the Graduate Program in Earth and Planetary Sciences
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

The Masters of Science and Doctoral degree programs in the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST) enable students to gain advanced knowledge, develop professional skills, and learn cutting-edge methodologies for research in the Earth and Planetary Sciences (EPS). Students in the EPS program engage in coursework as well as research with scientists within the Department of Earth Sciences and the Hawai'i Institute of Geophysics and Planetology. Research opportunities are in numerous fields including geophysics and tectonics; marine and environmental geology; volcanology, geochemistry, and petrology; mineral physics and planetary materials; remote sensing; planetary science; and space technology.

Admission into the EPS graduate degree is a very competitive process. Successful applicants have the right combination of academic and professional preparation as well as interests that match the research endeavors—supported by extramural grants—of faculty mentors. Prospective students are encouraged to review faculty web pages and contact those whose research activities align with the students' interests.

Applicants will be evaluated based on the following qualifications and abilities:

1. Research motivation and interests
2. Research alignment, potential, and academic preparation
3. Communication
4. Teamwork
5. Maturity, responsibility, and perseverance
6. Creativity, curiosity, problem-solving skills, and independence

SOEST is actively seeking to increase the diversity of our haumāna (student population). Our goal is to promote a stronger and more diverse STEM workforce within the Islands of Hawai'i and beyond. We strongly encourage applications by individuals from underrepresented groups, including (but not limited to) those representing the intersections of race, ethnicity, cultural background, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, and physical ability.

For more information about our program, the University, living in Hawai'i, the admissions process, or other topics, please contact the graduate student admissions officer (earth-admissions@soest.hawaii.edu) and/or our graduate student representatives (earth-grad-reps@soest.hawaii.edu).



Please complete and upload the following by signing in to your graduate admissions account:

1. Program/Departmental Application (two forms):
 - a. Supplemental Information Form (see form below)
 - b. Graduate Assistantship Application (see form below)
2. Statement of Objectives (see below for details)
3. Transcripts from each post-secondary institution attended
(unofficial transcripts are accepted during application process; official transcripts must be submitted if admitted)
4. Three letters of recommendation (complete [Recommendation Form](#) and email to your reference provider; then request letter through your graduate admissions account. Your provider will receive a link for upload.)
5. Curriculum Vitae (CV)/Resume (see below for details)
6. Optional supplemental material (e.g., theses, publications)

Submit items above by **DECEMBER 1** for Fall admission. Submit by **AUGUST 15** for Spring admission.

POLICY ON THE USE OF AI TOOLS

We believe in a fair and equitable admissions process that values the individuality and authenticity of each applicant. We also recognize the increasing role of technology in education and its potential to aid students in various academic endeavors. Therefore, this policy outlines the acceptable and unacceptable uses of AI technology in the creation of the admissions essay.

Acceptable Use of AI Technology:

- **Assistance and Enhancement:** Applicants are permitted to use AI tools and software to enhance their writing process. This includes grammar and spell-check tools, writing style improvement software, and plagiarism detection tools to ensure originality.
- **Organization and Research:** AI tools may be used to assist in organizing thoughts, conducting research, and generating ideas for admissions essays. These tools can facilitate efficient data collection and organization.
- **Language Translation:** For international applicants, the use of AI-based language translation services is allowed to aid in translating essays into the required language of instruction.

Unacceptable Use of AI Technology:

- **Content Generation:** Applicants must not use AI technology to automatically generate entire essays or significant portions of their admissions essays. The content must be a genuine expression of the applicant's thoughts and experiences.
- **Plagiarism:** Applicants are strictly prohibited from using AI tools to plagiarize or copy content from other sources, including essays from other individuals.
- **Misrepresentation:** The use of AI to create fictional or misleading personal experiences or statements is not allowed. All information in admissions essays must be accurate and truthful.

DECLARATION:

By submitting their essay, an applicant confirms that their work adheres to this policy, and any violations may result in the rejection of their application. Additionally, the admissions committee retains the right to investigate and verify the authenticity of any submitted essays.

This policy is in place to maintain the integrity of the graduate school admissions process.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FORM

For Semester/YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> Fall _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Spring _____	Intended Graduate Program Earth and Planetary Sciences	Degree Objective <input type="checkbox"/> MS <input type="checkbox"/> PhD	Area of Concentration / Specialization (choose one or more) <input type="checkbox"/> GT (Geophysics & Tectonics) <input type="checkbox"/> MEG (Marine & Environmental Geology) <input type="checkbox"/> VGP (Volcanology, Geochemistry & Petrology) <input type="checkbox"/> HIGP (Hawaii Institute of Geophysics & Planetology)		
Full Legal Name: Family / Last		First	Full Middle		
Current Mailing Address:		City / Province	State / Country		Zip / Postal Code
Telephone: ()		Fax: ()	Email Address:		
Provide the name(s) of the UHM faculty member(s) you have personally communicated with regarding your admission to UHM, or any you would be interested in working with:					
ACADEMIC REFERENCES					
Name:		Name:		Name:	
Telephone: ()		Telephone: ()		Telephone: ()	
Bachelor's Degree - University/College		State/Country	Date Awarded	Program of Study	Grade Point Average (ex: 4.0): Maximum GPA Possible (ex: 4.0):
Master's Degree - University/College		State/Country	Date Awarded	Program of Study	Grade Point Average (ex: 4.0): Maximum GPA Possible (ex: 4.0):
LIST OF COURSES IN PROGRESS					
Name of institution		Level of Course (Undergraduate or Graduate)	Course Number and Descriptive Title		Credit Hours
TOEFL	SELF-REPORTED TOEFL TEST SCORES (IF APPLICABLE)				
	Reading	Listening	Speaking	Writing	Date
To encourage a wider diversity of applicants, especially to include those with significant financial constraints, the first 50 applicants who submit their complete application packages may request a \$50 reimbursement to help offset the cost of the application fee. If you wish to request a reimbursement, please do so below with a short justification. PLEASE NOTE: Reimbursement is only available to domestic applicants. We are unable to offer reimbursement to international applicants.					
I certify that the answers and responses provided on this form are complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.					
Signature of Applicant _____			Date _____		

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP APPLICATION

To qualify for an appointment as a graduate assistant, you must have a satisfactory scholastic record, an adequate undergraduate background in a related field, and in the case of foreign students, evidence of a high level of English proficiency. All applicants for graduate assistantships must be admitted as potential graduate degree candidates in order to be considered for appointments. Appointees must carry at least 9 units of credit each semester and maintain at least a B (3.0) average. Submit this application to the department no later than December 1 for the fall semester or August 15 for the spring semester.

(Last Name)

(First Name)

(Middle or Maiden Name)

(Preferred Pronouns, Optional)

Research or Teaching Assistantship?

Candidate for: ☐ MS Degree ☐ PhD Degree

Area of Study (select): ☐ GT (Geophysics & Tectonics)
☐ MEG (Marine & Environmental Geology)
☐ VGP (Volcanology, Geochemistry & Petrology)
☐ HIGP (Hawaii Institute of Geophysics & Planetology)

Citizenship:

Current Mailing Address

Until

Permanent Mailing Address

E-mail address

Institutions of Higher Learning Attended and Attending Presently (continue on back if necessary)

Name of institution	Degree	Date	Major	Minor

List any special skills you have or research you have done which would be appropriate for this position.

There are typically many more qualified applicants than the number of graduate assistantships (GA) available. Students who do not receive an assistantship are responsible for funding their own tuition as well as living expenses. If you are not awarded a GA, would you still consider pursuing your graduate degree at the University of Hawai'i?

Yes

No

The members of the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States have joined in approving the following resolution:

"Acceptance of an offer of financial aid (such as graduate scholarship, fellowship, traineeship, or assistantship) for the next academic year by an actual or prospective graduate student completes an agreement which both student and graduate school expect to honor. In those instances in which the student accepts the offer before April 15 and subsequently desires to withdraw, the student may submit in writing a resignation of the appointment at any time through April 15. However, an acceptance given or left in force after April 15 commits the student not to accept another offer without first obtaining a written release from the institution to which a commitment has been made. Similarly, an offer by an institution after April 15 is conditional on presentation by the student of the written release from any previously accepted offer."



Admission Process for the Graduate Program in Earth and Planetary Sciences University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

We would like to learn more about **YOU**! Please write an essay that addresses the following prompts. The six prompts listed below highlight some of the key experiences, interests, and characteristics that will help you succeed in graduate school. Feel free to emphasize some of the prompts more than others, but all of them are considered to be important topics that are worthy of attention. The essay should be no longer than 2 pages, single spaced.

Research motivation and interests. Choosing a graduate program and research direction are important steps in your professional development. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) represents a geographically and culturally unique setting for graduate studies and research in the Earth and Planetary Sciences (EPS). Describe your motivation to apply to the EPS graduate program at UHM, and how our program relates to your specific research interests and professional goals.

Research alignment, potential, and academic preparation. There is an enormous diversity of research opportunities in the EPS graduate program at UHM with faculty in the Department of Earth Sciences (<http://www.soest.hawaii.edu/earthsciences>) and the Hawaii Institute of Geophysics and Planetology (<https://www.higp.hawaii.edu>). We encourage you to directly contact one or more potential advisors with research interests that best align with your own! Please do the following: (1) tell us the name(s) of your preferred advisor(s), (2) share your thoughts about the type of research you would most like to pursue with each one, and (3) briefly describe a past academic or extracurricular experience that will help you succeed in graduate school and your chosen type of research.

Communication. Communication (written and verbal) is an essential skill for success in all aspects of graduate school, including research, coursework, and classroom teaching. As a graduate student, you will have many opportunities to communicate. Examples include presenting your research at scientific conferences, serving as a teaching assistant, participating in community outreach activities, engaging with stakeholders, and writing scientific proposals and reports. Describe your relevant skills, interests, and experiences in communication, written and/or verbal. Your previous experiences may include formal and/or informal communication efforts.

Teamwork. Our program strives to build a collaborative environment that values the diversity of our community. Your research as a graduate student will often involve working as a team with your advisor, collaborators, and other students. Describe your interests, past experiences (academic or extracurricular), and/or abilities with collaboration on a team.

Maturity, responsibility, and perseverance. Completing graduate-level coursework, independent study, and research requires maturity, responsibility, and perseverance in handling deadlines, challenges, and even failures along the way. Describe a challenging experience, how you responded, and what you learned. You may choose an experience in which you did not succeed in achieving a goal or completing a task, or one in which you were eventually successful.

Creativity, curiosity, problem-solving skills, and independence. Conducting research and taking courses as a graduate student is often self-directed. This requires curiosity in answering a question or developing a hypothesis, creative problem-solving skills, and independence. Describe a time when you took initiative on something, either academic or extracurricular, that highlights some aspect of your independence, curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving skills.

CURRICULUM VITAE (CV)

Please provide this overview of items such as your academic record; professional history; recognition, awards, fellowships; notable skills and interests; teaching or mentoring experience; academic or professional service activities; community or volunteer work; reports, manuscripts, or other products and accomplishments; or other noteworthy aspects.

OPTIONAL SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Applicants may include supplemental material such as theses, publications, or other products.