Graduate Studies at Stanford in Earth Sciences

An Overview of Stanford’s Program Structure in Earth Sciences
Components of the Application
Summer Research Opportunities
Overview of Stanford

A Brief History
• Founded in 1891 by Jane & Leland Stanford
• Co-ed & non-denominational
• Known as “The Farm” for its 8000 acres for breeding & training trotting horses

Academics
• Recognized as one of the world's leading research and teaching institutions.
• 6,800 undergrads & 8,200 graduate level
• 7 schools (Graduate School of Business, Earth Science, Education, Engineering, Humanities & Sciences, Law, and Medicine)
• Degrees in more than 65 departments and programs
Overview of Stanford (continued)

Student Life
• Various diversity & interest-based support centers and groups
• Graduate Community Center
• Housing options
• Work Life Office helps students reach a comfortable balance in their work, study, personal and family lives
• State-of-the-art sports and recreational facilities
• Rich tradition of fostering creativity and the arts

The Bay Area
• Great public transportation for students
• Moderate weather
• Close to San Francisco, Lake Tahoe, Napa Valley, Santa Cruz, San Jose, Monterrey, etc.
• Silicon Valley – Innovation and entrepreneurial mentality
• Casual
Overview of Ph.D. Earth Sciences at Stanford

• 50+ faculty & 300+ graduate students
• Annual consolidated budget of approximately $45M
• 4 departments and 2 interdisciplinary programs, offering a range of graduate degrees:
  • Energy Resource Engineering
  • Environmental Earth System Science
  • Geological & Environmental Sciences
  • Geophysics
  • Petroleum Engineering
  • Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources

• Some programs offer:
  • 1st rotation with a faculty member in your program
  • Can move freely between departments
• 2 years of classes & remaining is research
Overview of MS & Engineer degrees in Earth Sciences

- Earth Sciences also offers Masters and Engineer degrees

- Masters Degree
  - All programs
  - 6 quarters or less to completion
  - Some programs have a research component
  - Students are required to attend department seminars

- Engineer Degree
  - Energy Resource Engineering program
  - Geological & Environmental Studies program
  - 90 units of coursework
  - Thesis submission on research for completion
Components of the Application for Graduate Studies in Earth Sciences

- Fully Online Application Process
  - http://gradadmissions.stanford.edu
  - Application (biographic/academic profile)
  - Statement of Purpose
  - 3 Letters of Recommendation
  - GRE (general)

- Application fee of $125
  - Fee waiver applications available online in diversity section

- December application deadline!
Determining Compatibility with Stanford

• Find faculty that do research that interest you
  • http://pangea.stanford.edu/people/faculty
  • Read at least 2 recent articles by that faculty member
  • View faculty lab websites for more info
  • Then, contact faculty with a brief message but don’t take slow or no response personally

• Contact graduate students
  • Find graduate students in the faculty labs that interest you
  • Find graduate students via student groups/ clubs/organizations
    • http://pangea.stanford.edu/people/grad-students
  • Ask about research, quality of life, style of faculty, campus life, etc.
  • Ask about their career aspirations

• Contact graduate recruitment staff
  • Can ask all basic and “dumb” questions
  • Can help guide you through the application process
  • Can serve as a great ally and resource!
Optimizing Your Application

• **Statement of Purpose**- Focus on your RESEARCH!

• **GRE Scores**- Give yourself enough time to re-take if needed

• **Grades**- We want to see upward trends. Briefly explain any “blips”

• **Recommendations**- One of the most important parts of your file. Find recommenders who can positively attest to your RESEARCH experience.
Sounds Great!  How Much Does it Cost?

• Tuition is FULLY paid until completion for PhD Earth Sciences students

• MS & Engineer student funding varies by department (limited funding to full funding)

• Student healthcare provided

• With full funding:
  • Stipend covers housing & food

• Students can earn more money by T.A.’ing classes

• Stanford assists students with finding and applying for outside funding sources
Summer Research Opportunities at Stanford

• Research is a MAJOR experience we look for in applicants

• Summer Research in Geosciences & Engineering (SURGE)
  http://oma.stanford.edu/surge.html
  • 3.0 GPA
  • Rising Juniors & Seniors
  • Committed to Diversity in EarthSci
  • Fully paid (stipend, travel, food, housing, local trips, etc.)
  • 8 weeks during the summer
  • Apps available online Nov. 1st
  • Deadline to apply is Feb. 1st
Questions?