

How to Apply Successfully to GSA Student Opportunities

GSA offers programs and opportunities for students and early career professionals to gain important geoscience research and career experiences. By participating in GSA's student opportunities (listed below), you can acquire the skills, networks, and research opportunities that will prepare you for a successful career in the geosciences.

The following opportunities are competitive and require an online application that includes a cover letter or answers to application questions along with grades and one or two letters of recommendation.

- **GeoCorps™ America** offers paid, short-term geoscience positions in public lands throughout the United States.
- **Geoscientists-in-the-Parks (GIP)** offers paid, short-term geoscience positions in National Parks.
- **Student Research Grants** provide partial support for student research, primarily at the graduate level.
- **Field Camp Scholar Award** provides undergraduate students \$2,000 each to attend the field camp of their choice based on diversity, economic/financial need, and merit.
- **On To the Future** provides partial travel assistance to diverse students who are underrepresented in the geosciences to attend their first GSA Annual Meeting.

Each of these programs offers a unique experience, and GSA encourages you to apply to and participate in as many programs as you'd like. The following are some general tips to help you with the online application processes:

- **Before applying, carefully read through the program's eligibility requirements** to see if you

are a good fit. Applications are screened, and only those that meet the eligibility guidelines are forwarded to the selection committee.

- **Apply early!** Your application will take some time because you will need to request recommendation letter(s). Aim to complete your application at least two weeks before the deadline to avoid last-minute complications. Of course, all applications completed before the deadline are given equal consideration regardless of when they are received.
- **You will be required to obtain one to two letters of recommendation.** This is done through the online application system. Consider who might be a good fit to write a positive recommendation for you. Once you decide who to ask, to tell them a bit about the opportunity and the deadline. Allow the person sufficient time to compose and submit the letter. It may be necessary to send a reminder as the deadline approaches. Even if you complete all other fields in the online application, your submission is not considered complete until your recommendation is received.
- **Be prepared** to answer a question about how you can add to the diversity of the program.
- **If it has been five years or fewer since you last completed a degree**, have a copy of your transcript(s) handy, because you will need to enter your relevant courses and grades into the online application. If you are chosen as an

awardee, you may need to provide original transcripts to verify the information you submitted.

- **Thoroughly review your application** for errors before you submit it and consider it complete. Make sure you have completed every required field, check for correct spelling, and verify e-mail addresses and phone numbers. Read through your cover letter(s) to make sure all your text was saved. Each part of the application, including the cover letter, has a character limit that you should note before composing your responses.
- **After your application is submitted**, review the program's Web page for the timeline of what comes next. You do not need to follow up with GSA; if you are selected for an interview, position,

award, etc., GSA will contact you directly by e-mail to make the offer.

- **Be persistent!** If you are not offered an award the first time you apply, GSA encourages you to apply again. GSA's opportunities are very competitive, and many awardees are selected after applying two or more times, so don't give up!
- **Contact the designated program officer listed on the following page** if you have questions or encounter a problem with your application. Conversely, if you won't be able to participate in the program or you decide not to participate, please contact the program officer immediately. GSA may be able to offer your spot to someone else.

Tahlia Bear (On To the Future; tbear@geosociety.org)

Matthew Dawson (GeoCorps America, GIP, and Student Research Grants: mdawson@geosociety.org)

Lesley Petrie (GeoCorps America and GIP: lpetrie@geosociety.org)

Jennifer Nocerino (Field Camp Scholarship: jnocerino@geosociety.org)