

Student Funding

Graduate students have many funding opportunities from both university funds and external funding.

Through the Office of the Dean for Graduate Studies and Research (DEGI), masters and doctoral students can compete to receive a monthly stipend for teaching or research assistantships. Through these assistantships, they also receive a tuition waiver. These university funds are competitive; therefore, students are encouraged to search for external funding as well. Federal grants include student stipends, among other benefits. These grants come from:

Department of Defense Grant, ~~NASA~~ NSF, NIH, Ford Foundation, USDA, EPA, Department of Education, among others.

Students may consult with the Fellowship Office at the Office of the DEGI 787-764-0000 (ext. 86730) to receive orientation on external funding.

Centers, Institutes, and Collaborators

- ✓ Luquillo Long-Term Ecological Research Program (LUQ-LTER)
<https://luq.lter.network>
- ✓ Puerto Rico Center for Environmental Neuroscience
prcen.upr.edu
- ✓ Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research. (NASA-EPSCOR)
prsgc.upr.edu
- ✓ International Institute of Tropical Forestry – USDA Forest Service
www.fs.usda.gov/iitf

Research Facilities

The **Center for Information Technology** houses the library, which has an excellent supply of books and research journals in all areas of Environmental Sciences. It also offers up-to-date computing facilities. In addition, the center is structured to optimize the use of information technology to provide relevant services to students, faculty, and researchers. **El Verde Field Station** and the **Stream House** provide research facilities near El Yunque National Forest.

For more information about graduate programs at the University of Puerto Rico-Río Piedras Campus, visit the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research (DEGI)
<http://graduados.uprrp.edu>

To apply visit: <https://solicitud.upr.edu/>



The University of Puerto Rico at Río Piedras, was established in 1903 and is currently the main campus of the University of Puerto Rico. The campus has an enrollment of an enrollment of 11,000 undergraduate students, and 2,700 graduate students. The academic programs include bachelor, master, and doctorates degrees in Business, Architecture, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Information Sciences, Communication, Law, Education, Humanities, and Planning.

Contacts:

Mailing Address

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Department of Environmental Sciences -Graduate Program



GRADUATE PROGRAM IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES



About Us

Our program has a number of research areas of expertise, including population ecology and biodiversity, pollution control, water resources, renewable energy and sustainability, aquatic ecology, hydrology, environmental spatial analysis, ecosystem modeling, forest dynamics, tropical island marine resources, among others. The program has become popular among students due to the increasing importance of environmental issues, especially in the rapidly urbanizing Caribbean region. Our faculty is diverse and has active collaborations with researchers worldwide, especially in Central and South America and the Caribbean. Course work is complemented by field work that helps students identify environmental problems and develop viable solutions to those problems.

The Environmental Sciences program aims to provide an integrated, quantitative and interdisciplinary focus to the study of natural and human systems and provide the student with the necessary skills to advance knowledge in the discipline in academic, industrial, or government sectors.

Program Requirements

<https://natsci.uprrp.edu/envsci/>

Master's Degree:

38 credits:

- 18 crs. ENVSCI core courses
- 6 crs. ENVSCI courses
- 6 crs. elective courses
- 2 crs. graduate seminar
- 6 crs. of graduate research leading to a Master's thesis.

Other requirements:

- Prepare and defend a research proposal and thesis
- 1 Semester of teaching experience



Doctoral Degree:

60 credits:

- 18 crs. ENVSCI core courses
- 9 crs. ENVSCI courses
- 2 crs. graduate seminar
- 4 crs. emphasis seminar
- 9 crs. elective courses
- 18 crs. Graduate research leading to a Doctoral dissertation.

Other requirements:

Qualifying Exam

- Prepare and defend Proposal and Dissertation
- Peer-reviewed publication before graduation
- 2 Semesters of teaching experience

Application Process

Documentation must be submitted using the Graduate Admissions process of the Office of the Dean for Graduate Studies and Research of the University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras.

Link to the application:

<https://solicitud.upr.edu/>

on or before the deadline.



Admission Requirements

You need

- √ Bachelor of Science degree (Environmental Science, Biology, Computer Science, Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry) or Engineering
 - √ Introduction to Environmental Sciences course (for non Environmental Science majors)
 - √ If you do not have a B.S degree in natural sciences, you need 1 yr. General Biology, 1 yr. General Chemistry, Calculus I, 1 yr. Physics with Calculus, Statistics course for science majors, and the Introduction to Environmental Sciences course
 - √ GPA of 3.00
 - √ One official academic transcripts and diploma*
 - √ Three letters of recommendation (Two recommendations must come from referees in the sciences, and one from a possible mentor or advisor)
 - √ A statement of research interests
 - √ Working knowledge of English and Spanish (written and oral)
 - √ Results from the TOEFL exam (non-native English speakers)
 - √ Attend an interview, if required by the Graduate Affairs Committee.
- * Mail to the Graduate Program

Faculty Research Areas

As an interdisciplinary program, researchers from other departments and institutions collaborate as committee members of our graduate students.

Clifford Louime: clifford.louime@upr.edu

Sustainable Production of Biofuels

Qiong Gao: qiong.gao@upr.edu

Ecosystem Modeling

Jorge R. Ortiz-Zayas: jorge.ortiz23@upr.edu

Limnology, Hydrology

Elvia Meléndez-Ackerman: elvia.melendez1@upr.edu

Endangered Species, Conservation, Social-ecological research

Xiaoming Zou: xzou2011@gmail.com

Soil Ecology and Biogeochemistry

Rafael Ríos: rafaelrios00936@yahoo.com

Water Treatment and Pollution Control

Mei Yu: meiyu@ites.upr.edu

Environmental Spatial Analysis, GIS and Remote Sensing

Jess K. Zimmerman: jess.zimmerman@upr.edu

Plant Communities and Response to Disturbances

Christopher Nytch: christopher.nytch1@upr.edu

Forest Ecology, Ecosystem services, Sustainable Resource Management

Omar Pérez-Reyes: omar.perez15@upr.edu

Freshwater Ecology and Anthropogenic Disturbances, Environmental Toxicology

Bighnaraj Sarangi: bighnaraj.sarangi@upr.edu

Aerosol-cloud interactions aerosol Instrumentations and air quality research.

Edwin Hernandez: edwin.hernandez13@upr.edu

Coral reef Ecology