

Dear Prospective Graduate Student,

Please read this note before sending an email. Many frequently asked questions are addressed below. The answers can help guide you through the application process.

Am I looking for new students? Yes, I will have positions for up to two new graduate students starting in Fall 2012.

What project might a new student work on? Descriptions of current research projects can be found on my webpage (<http://geode.colorado.edu/~small/research.html>). I have new projects starting all the time. New graduate students are assigned to a project depending upon their interest, skills, and experience, as well as availability of funding to support salary and research costs.

Should you send me an email? Please send via email a resume or CV describing your educational and work experiences. If you have taken the GRE's, please email the scores in each category (the %'s are most helpful, i.e., 85 percentile).

Should you plan on visiting? All students admitted to the program are invited to come for a visit (in February or March). All travel costs associated with these visits are covered. If you are passing through Boulder at another time, please schedule a visit.

How are new students selected? In general, potential for success as indicated by GREs and GPA is viewed as most important. Skills and past experiences are also considered. Letters of recommendation are important, so choose your letter writers carefully.

Is admission to CU Boulder's geology program competitive? Over the last several years, the number of applications for graduate studies in Geology at CU Boulder has skyrocketed (likely due to the problems with the economy). As a result, the admissions process has become rather competitive.

How competitive? The geology program has minimum standards: undergraduate GPA > 3.0 and sum of the three parts of the GRE (in %) > 150. The students that are admitted with support have records that far exceed these standards. For example, I currently have five students. The average of their undergraduate GPAs was about 3.6. The average of their GRE's was approximately 250 (this is the sum of the percentiles for the three sections). Some students have had test scores below 250, but this was compensated for by a higher GPA or other factors.