



Graduate student opportunities

I am accepting graduate student applications for PhD and Masters-by-thesis students this winter, to begin Fall 2019 through the [Interdisciplinary Degree Program in Marine Biology at Texas A&M Galveston \(TAMUG\)](#). Our lab is an experimental ecology lab studying processes underlying marine population, community, and ecosystem resilience.

Positions will be fully funded through a combination of research assistantships, fellowships, and TA-ships. Students should have research interests related to global change in benthic marine/estuarine communities and ecosystems. My lab works largely in oyster reefs and/or fouling communities dominated by invertebrates. Diving and boating experience is encouraged but not required. Feel free to contact me with questions. More about [research in my lab can be found here](#). The deadline to apply is December 1, 2018. (Here's a [helpful blog post on inquiring to potential graduate mentors](#).)

Application procedure

Prospective students should begin by [reviewing the research themes in my lab](#) and the announcement on our [website \(see "Is this the right lab for you?"\)](#). Then, look at the [program website](#) and [application requirements at TAMUG](#), and finally, send me an email (see website) with concise answers to the following questions. Please attach your CV and a writing sample. Title all attachments with your last name (e.g., "Jurgens_CV.pdf"). I will follow up with top candidates to discuss moving forward. It is best if you start this process soon, so we can talk before the application deadline of Dec 1, and also figure out an application fee (\$50) waiver if you need one. Please note that the GRE is currently required, but I am aware that it is a poor predictor of graduate success, so please do not let the requirement deter you (see also [free study resources](#) and [GRE fee reduction information](#)).

1. *What are your research interests and why?* (You do not need to have an exact thesis/dissertation project proposal, but I encourage you to provide examples of potential projects you would be interested in pursuing.)
2. *Are you pursuing a Master's degree or a PhD and why do you want that degree? What do you hope to do with it?* (There is no "right" answer here, but it will help me understand your goals.)

Include all prior jobs on your CV, including non-academic ones, and note if you were in school at the time. Prior work experience, regardless of the job, is looked on favorably, as are the skills built by first-generation, transfer, and re-entry students. I strongly encourage students of color, students with disabilities, international students, women, and LGBTQIA students to apply. My lab deeply values equity, inclusion, and diversity, as does TAMUG. We know human diversity improves science and enhances our intellectual community. We also realize there are extra challenges for people who contribute to diversifying science, and we are prepared to support you.