

AGU Bridge Program:

Increasing Graduate Geosciences Students' Success

We are in the midst of a worldwide climate crisis, which is why it's pivotal that Earth and space scientists' research and expertise remain trusted voices so that everything on our planet from the solar system to exoplanets can coexist and thrive for generations.

AGU created its Bridge Program in 2019 to increase the number of underrepresented minority students in Earth and space science graduate programs. Whether students choose to work in academia, non-profits, governmental agencies or for-profit companies, we encourage students to pursue a rewarding and exciting career in this field.





How students benefit

Students can apply to graduate school using only one free application form to all of the AGU Bridge Partners. Once a student is accepted, they will receive an AGU membership along with access to AGU programs, scholarships, and grant opportunities. By joining a scientific section, a student will have access to the section's activities and community. If they participate in Mentoring365, they will have access to domestic and international mentors. Student applications open annually in mid-December and close on 31 March.

Applicant requirements:



Attain a bachelor's or master's degree in geoscience or a closely related discipline by the time they would enter the AGU Bridge Program.



Satisfy additional requirements of individual Bridge Program institutions, such as minimum GPA or GRE scores.

Note: Institutions have different requirements. Applicants may be asked to submit additional materials if admitted to programs that require them.



Underrepresented minority students including Hispanic, African American, American Indian, Pacific Islander, Alaskan Native, or Native Hawaiian are encouraged to apply.



Be a U.S. citizen, permanent U.S. resident cardholder or have current enrollment in the DACA program.

Before applying, we recommend reviewing the institution's eligibility since advanced undergraduate core geoscience requirements are required which may include courses in advanced calculus, math or other appropriate courses.

How institutions benefit

We encourage graduate programs that have demonstrated a commitment to working with diverse students and supporting them as graduate scholars to join the Bridge Program as a Partner Department. Applicants must be U.S.-based institutions that grant a master's or doctoral degree in geosciences. The application is free.

Institutions also receive:



Access to the AGU Bridge Program student applicant database.



Secure a five-year partnership with the potential to renew.



Recognition by AGU of the department's commitment to diversity and inclusion in the Earth and space sciences.



Recommendation of the department's supportive post-baccalaureate educational environment to prospective and current Bridge Program students, students from underrepresented groups, and others.

Once institutions are accepted, they join for five years with an option to renew. The annual deadline for partner applications opens each June and closes in mid-October.

This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grants Nos. 1834540, 1834545, 1834528 and 1834516. Any opinions, findings and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.