

STATEMENT OF RESEARCH INTEREST

A Statement of Research Interest is a required component of an application for the geography graduate program in the Department of Geography and Planning. It is a short essay that provides our Department with a general understanding of your research background, academic interests, and the research you wish to conduct in your graduate program. This will assist us in determining how well your research goals and interests align with faculty in the Department.

The Statement of Research Interest usually provides you an opportunity to inform the graduate program on the following:

- A brief history of your past education and research background/experience and how these have prepared you for our graduate program.
- Your academic interests and potential research topics/questions/projects you would like to address.
- What you hope to achieve in the graduate program, perhaps expanding on your future goals with respect to research.
- Why our department is the best place for you to pursue your research interests and potential faculty members who are suitable to supervise your research.

The statement is generally one to two single-spaced pages (maximum of 1000 words) in the form of a short essay. It should be written for an audience of non-experts in your field to allow for a general understanding of the larger context of your field of research.

Other tips for a strong Statement of Research Interest:

- Make sure that the content of your statement is organized logically.
- Give a little background at the beginning of the statement on the broader field that you are working within and the questions you are interested in researching.
- You may include a few specific examples of projects/skills/techniques that you have acquired from your past research and studies, or past research successes. You may also make reference to any projects, publications, presentations or conferences in which you have participated in the past.
- Connect your area of interest to current research interests and projects of specified faculty members in our graduate program.

Please contact your potential supervisor or graduate coordinator if you have any questions about the content of your Statement of Research Interest.