

About IGERT

Funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) programs transcend traditional boundaries. IGERT programs seek to catalyze a cultural change in graduate education for students, faculty and universities by establishing innovative new models and facilitating collaborative research and team-based problem solving. Such programs will provide better training for PhD. scientists and engineers to become leaders in the technical and scientific careers of the future. See www.igert.org for more information.

APPLY

We are seeking outstanding doctoral students to participate in LEAP. LEAP Fellows will be selected from qualified Ph.D. students who have been accepted into participating UIC doctoral programs including Biology, Civil and Materials Engineering, Earth and Environmental Science, and Urban Planning and Policy. We seek to broaden participation in environmental sciences, and especially encourage applications from students from underrepresented minority groups. Fellows will be selected based on student qualifications, relevance of research interests, and balance among participating programs and faculty.

A LEAP Fellowship provides a \$30,000 stipend and tuition for 2 years, research and travel funds for 4 years. U.S. citizenship or permanent residency is required for fellowships. We also encourage participation in LEAP by any students interested in this multidisciplinary program even if they are not supported by LEAP Fellowships.

Students interested in LEAP should apply electronically to the home department of interest via www.grad.uic.edu/cms/ In your application, indicate your interest in the LEAP IGERT program. Concurrently, complete the application process for LEAP, www.uic.edu/depts/bios/leap/apply.html.



ABOUT CHICAGO AND UIC

Chicago is a city of world-class status and unsurpassed beauty. While Chicago may be best known for its skyscrapers, culture, and vibrant urban diversity, the Chicago region also has over 250,000 acres of protected natural lands and harbors nearly 200 threatened and endangered species. Within this dynamic integrated landscape, the University of Illinois at Chicago brings together excellent students and faculty.

UIC is the largest university in the Chicago area and its 25,000 students comprise one of the most diverse student bodies in the country. UIC ranks among the top 50 universities in the US for federal research support. Research strengths at UIC include ecology, restoration and remediation, environmental engineering, urban planning, and environmental policy. For more information, go to www.uic.edu.

CONTACT

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Visit our website: www.leap.uic.edu

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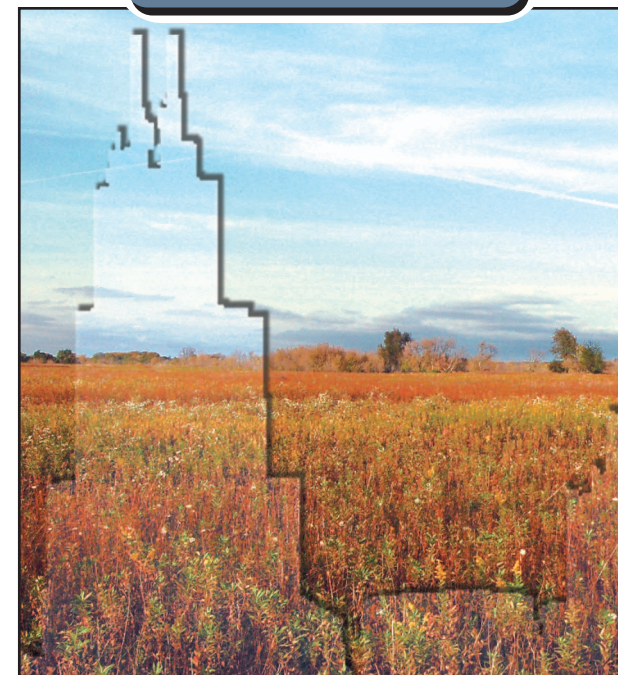
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LEAP

LANDSCAPE, ECOLOGICAL & ANTHROPOGENIC PROCESSES



LEAP is a multidisciplinary doctoral training program at the University of Illinois at Chicago focused on understanding ecological processes in human-altered landscapes.

An **IGERT** program Funded by **NSF**



UIC

leap.uic.edu

About LEAP

LEAP seeks to integrate a variety of scientific fields with relevant economic and social science disciplines to prepare students for careers in environmental science, policy, and conservation practice. With a focus on ecological and evolutionary processes in integrated human-natural landscapes, our students will develop new approaches to maintaining habitats and conserving biodiversity amidst human activities.

Our training program includes:

- A multidisciplinary curriculum designed for LEAP students
- Collaborative research and a team-based capstone project
- Internships with Chicago area partner organizations
- Seminars and workshops

LEAP is funded by the National Science Foundation via an Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) grant. The grant provides two-year IGERT fellowships to 25 Ph.D. candidate students over a five-year period. In addition the grant supports a new curriculum and internship training for students.

Integral to LEAP is the participation of Chicago area partners, including the Chicago Botanic Gardens, The Field Museum, the Chicago District of the Army Corp of Engineers, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, the Morton Arboretum, the USDA Forest Service, and Chicago Wilderness.



PROGRAM

CLASSES: Four new courses have been developed for LEAP students. These courses represent the core curriculum and provide students with an understanding of how scientists, engineers, policy makers and managers approach issues and provide the tools to define problems, gather information and analyze data. The final course allows students to apply these principles and tools in a team research-based capstone project.

For the remainder of their graduate program, students will choose from additional elective courses depending on their individual research interests and goals. Students may select courses within their disciplines or may choose from a broad range of multidisciplinary graduate courses in environmental science.

FACULTY: Faculty are drawn from a number of different departments and colleges, thus providing a multidisciplinary approach to study.

INTERNSHIPS: Internships are a key element of LEAP. Students will participate in an internship with a LEAP partner institution, with the goal of identifying a dissertation project integrating their academic research interests with a 'real-world' problem important to the partner.



FACULTY

Biological Sciences
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Mary Ashley*
Hormoz BassiriRad
Joel Brown
Miquel Gonzalez-Meler
Henry Howe
Roberta Mason-Gamer
Dennis Nyberg
David Wise

Earth and Environmental Sciences
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Steven L. Forman*
Roy E. Plotnick
Neil Sturchio

Institute for Environmental Science and Policy

Daniel McGrath
Thomas Theis

Civil and Materials Engineering
College of Engineering

Jie (Jane) Lin
Kouros Mohammadian
Krishna Reddy
Karl Rockne*

Urban Planning and Public Administration
College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs

Martin Jaffe
Eric Welch
Moira L. Zellner

* PI or co-PI on the NSF IGERT Grant

