Graduate Assistantship at University of Louisville in the Department of Geographic and Environmental Sciences

Position Overview:

The University of Louisville Department of Geographic and Environmental Sciences is **seeking a graduate assistant who wishes to pursue a MS in the field of Applied Geography**, with a focus in meteorology, field work, and instrumentation.

The **graduate assistantship is fully funded** and covers tuition, a stipend ($24,000/year), and health insurance for two years. The position will ideally start in the Spring 2025, but the start date could be extended to Summer 2025.

Job Duties:

The student will be housed in the Department Geographic and Environmental Sciences (DGES) and will be funded by the NSF EPSCoR Track 1 CLIMBS project (see more information here). This multi-institutional, 5-year award is separated into 7 different projects aimed at deepening our understanding of Kentucky's weather and climate as well as improving the prediction, mitigation, and resilience to extreme weather and climate-related disasters. Drs. Scott Gunter and Jason Naylor are leading the UofL participation in Project 1: Enhancing Understand of Kentucky's Weather and Climate. The student will be expected to participate in this effort, including assisting in the development of mobile meteorological instrumentation, participating in a 2-phase field project aimed at collecting data in extreme precipitation, and helping to mentor and guide undergraduate research assistants. Additionally, the student will be expected to communicate research findings to broader meteorological and geographical communities and collaborate with researchers both within the University of Louisville and at other research institutions.

Responsibilities and Qualifications:

Relevant tasks include: 1) assembling, testing, and maintaining mobile meteorological field equipment 2) participating in a Summer 2025 and Summer 2026 field project 3) organizing and quality controlling large amounts of data 4) taking graduate classes related to geography, meteorology, GIS, and remote sensing, and 5) presenting research at local and national conferences. The student is expected to meet regularly with Dr. Gunter to discuss research progress.

Successful applications will have the following qualifications:

1) Preference will be given to students who have previously earned an BS degree a field of physical geography, Earth and/or atmospheric science, or engineering with a focus on / experience in instrumentation and data analysis.
2) Students should have the ability to obtain a valid driver's license in the United States and the ability to conduct field work as required.

3) Students should have the ability to lift heavy (50+ lbs.) equipment, spend long hours in a vehicle, and hike over uneven terrain.
4) Students should anticipate starting the position in Spring or Summer of 2025. International applicants should consider logistical requirements of obtaining a visa when applying.
5) International applicants should have an English proficiency score to apply (*TOEFL* > 80, or *Duolingo* > 105, or *IELTS* > 6.5).
6) GRE Q+V>295 is required.

Successful candidates will also demonstrate the following skills in their application:

1) excellent written and verbal communication skills,
2) a basic understanding of instrumentation, data analysis, and atmospheric science or related earth science disciplines,
3) a basic ability to code (e.g., MATLAB, Python, R) and utilize software such as GIS,
4) basic understanding of calculus, physics, numerical methods, and statistics, and
5) the ability to effectively collaborate as well as work independently.

Application:

Applicants are asked to submit the following material to Dr Gunter in a single email: 1) **a one-page personal statement** demonstrating your interest in the graduate assistantship, career goals, and qualifications; 2) **a resume or CV** detailing previous experience and relevant skills including any publications, if applicable; and 3) **an unofficial transcript** that highlights relevant classes taken. Please submit applications to william.gunter@louisville.edu.

Review for applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled. Interviews will be conducted on a rolling basis. Please direct questions to Dr. Gunter at the above email address.

If chosen for the assistantship by Dr. Gunter, you will then need to submit an official application through the University of Louisville Graduate School (information can be found here). A formal offer for the position cannot be extended until you have received acceptance through the UofL Graduate School.