Earth Science
University of Colorado Boulder

A Lot to Discover This Week!



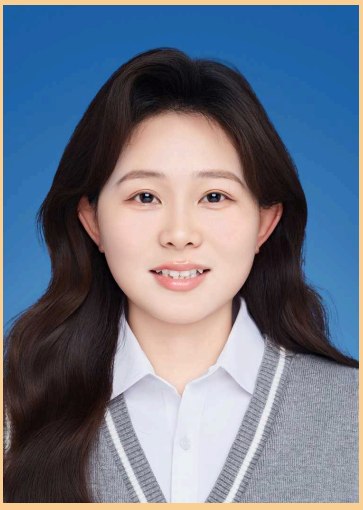
There's plenty of new information in Earth Science this week! From department updates and upcoming events to research opportunities, funding, and important deadlines, this edition is packed with ways to get involved and stay informed. Take a look at what's new and see what's coming up!

Important

Spring 2027 Registration!

Registration for Spring 2027 is about to be underway, make sure you're ready to enroll in your next round of classes! Check your Buff Portal for your assigned enrollment date and any registration holds. We strongly encourage you to reach out to your academic advisor to review your degree progress and course plans ahead of time. Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule a meeting soon to stay on track for a smooth registration process.

Guest Speakers & Events



Earth Sciences Colloquium:
Dr. Qian Tian

Topic: From Diatoms to Diagenesis: The Formation and Transformation of Biogenic Silica

Join us on **11/4/26** in room **380** for our weekly colloquium featuring Dr. Qian Tian, INSTAAR Visiting Scientist and researcher at the Institute of Subtropical Agriculture, Chinese Academy of Sciences!

Dr. Tian will discuss how biological processes influence the formation of biogenic silica and

how its chemical properties evolve through dissolution, sediment burial, and mineral transformation.

As always, snacks and drinks will be available starting at 12:00 PM, and the talk will be held from **12:20–1:20 PM**.

Coffee Social

This next Coffee Social will be held on the **2nd floor landing** area instead of 380. It will still begin at 10:30 and go until 11:30. Feel free to swing by grab some coffee, tea, donuts, and bagels!



Career Opportunities

NGA Virtual Hiring Fair

The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) is hosting a large-scale virtual hiring event on December 7–8, 2026, targeting critical hiring needs in geospatial intelligence (GEOINT), data science, maritime domain awareness, and systems engineering. Opportunities include positions in cartography and maritime GIS analysis, oceanography, maritime analysis, research and development, software development, and systems engineering.

Applications are due **TOMORROW, October 31st!** Qualified applicants may be invited to participate in virtual interviews during the hiring event.

Students and alumni interested in these opportunities should apply through the **NGA Careers Website**. For questions, contact **recruitment@nga.mil**.

CU Science Discovery: Summer 2027 Instructor Applications

Find More Information Here!

CU Science Discovery is recruiting K–8 and high school instructors for Summer 2027. This STEM education outreach program at CU Boulder offers an opportunity to engage students in hands-on science, technology, engineering, and math activities while connecting them with research and inspiring future scientists and innovators. Applicants can review specific high school

subject areas and submit their applications through the link below.

Apply: **Summer 2027 Instructor Application**

Questions? Contact Kaylyn Murphy at **kaylyn.murphy@colorado.edu**.

CU Science Discovery: STEM Pathfinders Guide Opportunity



CU Science Discovery is seeking CU Boulder graduate students, postdocs, and faculty to serve as Department Guides for STEM Pathfinders, a two-week summer program introducing high school students to bioscience and engineering pathways. Guides develop and facilitate a two-day, eight-hour interactive experience highlighting their field through activities such as research presentations, career panels, lab tours, and hands-on demonstrations.

Summer 2027 program dates:

- **Engineering Pathfinders: June 21–July 2**
- **Biosciences Pathfinders: July 12–23**

Guides receive a $800 stipend for planning and facilitating one two-day session, or $1,000 for two sessions, plus a $500 materials budget. Enrollment is capped at 24 students.

Get involved: **Complete the Guide Interest Form**. See the **Department Planning Guide** for additional details.

Questions? Contact Steven Denham at **steven.denham@colorado.edu**.

Learn More & Apply Here!

CU Science Discovery: Mentor High School STEM Researchers

CU Science Discovery is recruiting CU Boulder and CU Anschutz faculty, research staff, and graduate students to mentor high school students interested in gaining hands-on STEM research experience. Each mentor works with two students on a project that supports the lab's current research activities, helping students explore research and develop scientific skills.

Apply: CU Research Mentor Application

For questions about mentoring or the STEM Pathfinders Guide opportunity, contact Steven Denham at **steven.denham@colorado.edu**.

Paid Summer Internship Opportunities with the Bureau of Reclamation

The Bureau of Reclamation's Technical Service Center in Lakewood, Colorado, offers an **11-week paid summer internship** program for undergraduate and graduate students, with competitive pay based on education level. Past intern projects have included reservoir sedimentation modeling, geomorphic mapping, river restoration, paleo-seismology, hydraulic modeling, applied hydrology, and GIS and remote sensing.

Meet Reclamation representatives at the CU Earth Science Symposium on **November 7th** to learn more about these opportunities.

Application deadline: January 3rd
Learn more: **Bureau of Reclamation Internship Program**

Questions? Contact Melissa Foster at **mfoster@usbr.gov**.

Postdoctoral Position in Space Sciences at Washington University in St. Louis

Washington University in St. Louis invites applications for a postdoctoral position through the McDonnell Center for the Space Sciences (MCSS), beginning in July 2027. Research areas include astromaterials, cosmochemistry and meteoritics, astrophysics, planetary science, particle and nuclear physics, cosmology and gravitation, and Earth as a planet. The position offers an initial one-year appointment, with the possibility of renewal for a second year, along with funding for research expenses and travel.

Eligibility: Applicants must hold a PhD or expect to graduate by May 2027.

Application deadline: *Saturday, December 5th, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. ET.*

View the full position description and application instructions

Tenure-Track Assistant Professor in Earth and Planetary Remote Sensing

The University of Florida Department of Geological Sciences is seeking applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor in Earth and Planetary Remote Sensing, with an expected start date of August 16th, 2027. The position focuses on remote sensing of Earth and/or planetary systems using ground-, air-, and space-based technologies, including gravity, laser, radar, GNSS, magnetic, and imaging systems.

The successful candidate will teach at the undergraduate and graduate levels, mentor M.S. and Ph.D. students, and develop an externally funded research program. Applications will be reviewed beginning **November 1st, 2026**, and the position will remain open until filled.

View the full position announcement and apply

AEG Landslides Super School

The Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists (AEG) is hosting the Landslides Super School **November 3–5th, 2026**, at the Denver Marriott West in Golden, CO. The three-day workshop includes classroom instruction and a field day focused on landslide identification, characterization, investigation, and mitigation. Student registration is $50. Hotel rooms are available for $169/night. Space is limited to 85 participants.

Learn more and register: **AEG Landslides Super School Registration**

View Here!

Postdoctoral Researcher — Uranium Chemistry & Nuclear Forensics

Oak Ridge National Laboratory is seeking a postdoctoral researcher in uranium chemistry and nuclear forensics. The position is well suited for candidates with mineralogy skills, despite the position

title. The postdoc will be supervised by Tyler Louise Spano, PhD.

Learn More!

Cecil H. and Ida M. Green Foundation Postdoctoral Scholars



The Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics (IGPP) at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego, is accepting applications for up to two Cecil H. and Ida M. Green Foundation Postdoctoral Scholar positions starting in 2027.

Appointments are for one year, with the possibility of renewal for a second year based on satisfactory performance and available funding.

Compensation includes a $75,000 annual salary, benefits, and $3,000 per year in discretionary research funds.

Application Deadline: Sunday, November 8th, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time
View position details and apply

Questions? Contact Matti Morzfeld at greenfound@ucsd.edu.

Application (Here)

Postdoctoral Research Fellow — University of Bergen

UNIVERSITETET I BERGEN

The University of Bergen is seeking a fully funded Postdoctoral Research Fellow for a 3-year position studying the long-term interactions between tectonic deformation and glacial erosion in mountain belts, with a focus on the Southern Andes. The project will use coupled geodynamic and glacial erosion models as part of the interdisciplinary ICICLE project.

Learn More & Apply

Career Opportunity

Tenure-Track Assistant Professor in Petrology & Geochemistry

Lakehead University is hiring a tenure-track Assistant Professor with research interests in petrology and geochemistry. The position emphasizes field-based research complemented by quantitative analysis, laboratory experiments, and/or computational modeling, with preference for expertise complementing strengths in critical metal systems and Precambrian geology.

Application deadline: Jan. 12th, 2027

View the job posting

CTL Lecturers Mixer and Career Development Workshop



Graduate students interested in pursuing teaching positions in higher education are invited to a Lecturers Mixer and Career Development Workshop hosted by the Center for Teaching & Learning on **November 4th**. The workshop will cover developing a teaching philosophy, preparing an academic CV, navigating the higher education hiring process, and what to expect as a faculty member. Participants are encouraged to bring a current CV. Graduate students interested in learning more about alternative and non-tenure-track academic careers are also welcome to connect with Jennifer Stempien or Lon Abbott to discuss their experiences.

Event details and registration

PhD Fellowship Opportunities in Geoscience Education Research at Auburn University

Auburn University's Geocognition Laboratory is recruiting two PhD fellows in Geoscience Education Research (GER) through the NSF Education Graduate Fellowship Program (EGFP).

Learn More & Apply Here!

Applicants must be U.S. citizens and have previously received an honorable mention in the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) in any field.

Interested students can contact Professor Karen S. McNeal at **kryker@seoe.sc.edu** with questions.

Learn more and apply: **NSF ETAP Fellowship Opportunity**

PhD Position in Geoscience Education Research at the University of Copenhagen

Learn More & Apply Here!

The University of Copenhagen's Department of Science Education is seeking applicants for a PhD position in Geoscience Education Research (GER) at the University Science Education Center.

Applicants must hold a master's degree in geoscience or geoscience education research and a bachelor's degree in geoscience.

Application deadline: Sunday, November 29th, 2026

View the position details and apply

For questions, contact Professor Kristine Cecile Harper at **kch@ind.ku.dk**

Open-Rank Faculty Positions in Geosciences at Virginia Tech

Virginia Tech's Department of Geosciences is seeking faculty applicants at the assistant, associate, or professor level to advance research on critical, strategic, and economically important elements and mineral resources.

Learn More Details & Apply Here!

Areas of interest include: *mineralogy, geochemistry, ore-forming processes, fluid-rock interactions, mineral exploration, and environmentally responsible resource development.*

Application review begins **December 14th, 2026**, and continues until the positions are filled. Required materials include a cover letter, CV, detailed research plan, teaching philosophy statement, and contact information for at least 3 references.

For questions about the search, contact Mark J. Caddick at **caddick@vt.edu**.

Tenure-Track Assistant Professor Position in Structural Geology/Tectonics

Learn More & Apply!

Northern Illinois University's Department of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor in structural geology, tectonics, geophysics/geodynamics, or a related field, beginning in August 2027.

The successful candidate will develop an externally funded research program, teach structural geology and other courses aligned with departmental needs, and mentor undergraduate and graduate students. Applicants should have research interests that complement existing departmental strengths in mineralogy, petrology, geochemistry, or mineral physics.

Application Deadline: Review of applications begins December 1st, 2026, and continues until the position is filled.

Application Materials: Letter of interest, CV, teaching statement, research statement, and contact information for 3 references.

Faculty Position in Stable Isotope Geochemistry | University of New Mexico

Learn More & Apply!

The Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at the University of New Mexico invites applications for a full-time faculty position in Stable Isotope Geochemistry at the Assistant or Associate Professor level, beginning in August 2027.

The successful candidate will establish an externally funded research program using stable isotope methods to investigate Earth or planetary systems, contribute to the University's Center for Stable Isotopes, and teach and mentor undergraduate and graduate students.

Candidates should have hands-on experience with stable isotope instrumentation, laboratory techniques, and analytical workflows. A Ph.D. in geochemistry, geology, Earth and planetary sciences, chemistry, or a related field is required by the start date.

Priority Deadline: December 13th, 2026
Position Requisition Number: 37944

Assistant Professor in Critical Minerals / Economic Geology at UT San Antonio

Learn More & Apply Here!

The Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at the University of Texas at San Antonio invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in Critical Minerals/Economic Geology, beginning in Fall 2027.
Applicants should have a Ph.D. in Geological Sciences or a related field by the time of appointment, with expertise in economic geology, mineralogy, or a related area. The successful candidate will develop a research program focused on mineral resource formation, exploration, extraction, and sustainability, and teach undergraduate and graduate courses, including Mineralogy.

Application review begins November 15th, 2026, and continues until the position is filled.

Scientific Writing Course Offering - Spring 2027!

ATOC 6800: Scientific Writing -- Spring 2027

Tuesdays 8:45am-11:15am in SEEC S126

Instructor: Dr. Aneesh Subramanian (**aneeshcs@colorado.edu**)
Communicating scientific results is a critical part of our work, yet it often feels overwhelming, inefficient, and stressful. Without a systematic approach, it is easy to fall into a cycle of procrastination and frustration.
This course is designed to change that. By exploring practical strategies and the underlying psychology of communication, we will demystify the writing process, help you overcome cognitive biases, and ultimately make sharing your science an enjoyable experience.

In this course, you will:

- **Develop a systematic writing habit that minimizes procrastination and maximizes efficiency.**
- **Identify and overcome cognitive biases (like the "curse of knowledge") that prevent you from seeing your work from an audience's perspective.**
- **Tailor your message to highlight the importance and validity of your results for specific audiences.**
- **Refine your visual and oral communication, developing high-quality posters and PowerPoint presentations.**

Course Requirement: This is a hands-on, active workshop. Enrolling students **must** have an active research project ready to be written up and be willing to share drafts and participate in peer review with classmates. You will leave the course with a polished piece of scientific communication ready for impact.

Funding & Fellowship

Nov. 6 — Graduate Student Research Grants Deadline

The Graduate School is accepting applications for research grants of up to **$1,200** to support graduate student research, scholarship and creative work across disciplines; applications are due Nov. 6 at 11:59 p.m. MT. **Why it matters:** These grants can help NSCI graduate students cover targeted research expenses associated with thesis and dissertation projects, and faculty mentors may want to encourage students to begin preparing applications now!

Graduate Student Research Grants Information

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)

The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) provides 3 years of support at $37,000 per year, including tuition and fees, for eligible undergraduates, gap-year students, and first-year graduate students.

The NSF is hosting webinars and office hours this month covering eligibility, the application process, tips for preparing a strong application, and information about becoming a GRFP reviewer. Reference letters are due October 16th, 2026 at 8:00 p.m. ET, and the full application is due **October 23rd, 2026.**

View the GRFP Information Sessions & Register | **Learn More & Find Applicant Resources**

DoD SMART Scholarship

The SMART Scholarship provides funding opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students pursuing STEM degrees. Applicants must be citizens of the U.S., Australia, Canada, New Zealand, or the United Kingdom.

Deadline: 5 p.m. ET on the first Friday in December

Learn more

DoD NDSEG Fellowship



The National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship supports graduate students pursuing advanced degrees in science and engineering fields.

Deadline: October 30th

Learn more

Hertz Fellowship

The Hertz Fellowship supports graduate students pursuing research in applied physical, biological, and engineering sciences.



Deadline: October 30th

Learn more

DOE Office of Science Graduate Research Program (SCGSR)

The SCGSR program supports PhD candidates who have completed qualifying exams in conducting part of their thesis research at a DOE national laboratory.



Deadline: November 4th, 2026

Learn more.

Fellowship Resources



Looking for more funding opportunities?

Pathways to Science provides fellowship listings, while the **CU Boulder Graduate School National Fellowship Opportunities page** and **Awards & Grants page** feature external and internal funding opportunities.

Learn More

WHOI Postdoctoral Scholarships

(WHOI) is accepting applications for 18-month Postdoctoral Scholarships for recent PhD graduates in fields including oceanography, geology, geophysics, chemistry, engineering, biology, physics, and related disciplines. Special 2027 scholarships will also support research in Marine Policy and Ocean Carbon Cycling.

Learn More & Apply!



Amelia Earhart Fellowship

The Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowship supports women pursuing Ph.D./doctoral degrees in aerospace engineering and space sciences. The **$12,000 fellowship** may be relevant to students in fields such as geological sciences, astrobiology, remote sensing, planetary science, and geodesy whose research is applied to space sciences. Applicants must be enrolled full-time in a doctoral program and have completed at least one year of study or hold a master's degree in an aerospace-applied field. **Applications are due November 15th, 2026!**

Learn More & Apply!

CASFM Graduate Scholarships

The Colorado Association of Storm and Floodplain Managers (CASFM) is offering **$5,000 scholarships** to undergraduate and graduate students in Colorado. **Eligible fields include geology, geomorphology, hydrology, geospatial data science, climatology, environmental engineering, and related disciplines.**

Graduate applicants must be enrolled in a Colorado graduate program and taking at least 3 credit hours per semester. Scholarship recipients may also receive opportunities to attend or present at the 2026 CASFM Conference, including conference registration and 3 nights of lodging.

Application Deadline: November 2th, 2026

Learn More & Start Application Here!

SPIKE Center Sustainability Education Grants



CU Boulder's SPIKE Center is offering grants to support the development of experiential learning and sustainability education activities. Graduate teaching assistants and postdoctoral researchers can apply for Tier 1 grants of **$2,000** to develop and incorporate sustainability-focused teaching activities, including potential summer student support. Applicants must identify a faculty member who can continue the activity in future years to ensure its long-term sustainability. Learn more and explore eligibility requirements at the **SPIKE Center Grants page**.

Kahn Family Community Teaming Fund: Proposals -- Due December 11th

View More Information

The College of Arts and Sciences invites faculty, staff, and undergraduate and graduate students to apply for the Kahn Family Community Teaming Fund, which provides up to $1,500 for community outreach activities involving College of Arts and Sciences faculty, staff, and students.

Eligible activities may include community service initiatives, K–12 school programs, public-facing university events, conferences, and workshops. Funded activities must use the funds by June 30, 2028.

Proposal deadline: ***Friday, December 11th, 2026, at 5 p.m. MT.*** Applications must include a description of the proposed activity (up to 1,000 words) and a brief budget (up to one page). Submit proposals and questions to Dana Takeuchi at **Dana.Takeuchi@colorado.edu**.

Graduate School Student Travel Grant

Learn More & Apply!

CU Boulder's Graduate School offers travel grants to eligible graduate students presenting their own research at conferences, meetings, or similar events outside Colorado.

Awards provide up to $650 for travel within the U.S., $800 for travel to Canada or Mexico, or $1,000 for

other international destinations.

Application deadline: December 4th, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. MT. This application cycle supports travel occurring January 15–May 30, 2027.

GPSG Graduate Student Travel Grant

The Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG) offers travel grants of up to $500 to CU Boulder graduate and professional students attending academic conferences, meetings, or other events related to their studies.

Learn More & Apply!

Funding supports eligible travel expenses, including accommodations and conference registration.

Applicants must **not** have previously received a GPSG Travel Grant.

Application deadline: Friday, October 30th, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. MT.

Graduate School Dissertation Completion Fellowship

Learn More & Apply!

CU Boulder's Graduate School offers a dissertation completion fellowship to outstanding PhD candidates to support the final stages of their doctoral dissertations.

The fellowship provides one academic semester of support, including a monthly stipend equivalent to a 50% GPTI salary, tuition coverage for up to five dissertation hours, mandatory fees, and student Gold health insurance.

Application deadline: Friday, October 30th, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. MT. Applicants are applying for funding for Fall 2027 or Spring 2028. Eligibility requirements apply, including advancement to doctoral candidacy.

Graduate Fellowships for STEM Development (GFSD)

The Graduate Fellowships for STEM Development (GFSD) supports graduate students pursuing advanced degrees in STEM through financial assistance, professional experiences, mentorship, and connections with sponsoring organizations. The fellowship program offers up to six years of support, including tuition, fees, and an annual stipend, for

GFSD
Advancing Research, Building Discovery

eligible U.S. citizens pursuing doctoral degrees in the physical sciences and related engineering fields.

Application Deadline: January 31, 2027

Application:

Laura Bassi Scholarship: Winter 2026

Laura Bassi Scholarship

The Laura Bassi Scholarship provides editorial assistance to graduate students and junior academics researching neglected topics of study across all disciplines. Currently enrolled master's and doctoral students, as well as academics within their first five years of full-time employment, are eligible to apply.

Application deadline: November 15th, 2026
Results announced: December 4th, 2026

Applicants must submit a completed application form and CV through the online application portal. Visit the **Laura Bassi Scholarship website** for eligibility details and application instructions. The **scholarship poster** is also available.

Additionally, the Bassi Foundation Press, an open-access publisher, is now accepting book proposals. Learn more at **bassi.foundation**.

Apply Here!

Opportunities Outside the Department

Learn More & Apply!

Head Tenure-Track Assistant Professor in Hydro-geophysics at Louisiana State University

Louisiana State University's Department of Geology and Geophysics is seeking a tenure-track Assistant Professor specializing in hydro-geophysics. The department welcomes applicants who study water-related geophysical processes or apply geophysical methods to hydrogeology, across a broad range of Earth and planetary settings. Candidates should have a Ph.D. in hydrology, hydrogeology, geophysics, Earth science, or a related field by the time of appointment. Postdoctoral experience and a record of independent research are preferred.

Application review begins January 1st, 2027, with an anticipated start date of August 2027.

Application materials include a cover letter, CV, research and teaching statements, and contact information for three references.

Applicants must also complete a screening questionnaire after submitting their materials.

Map Library Events & Exhibitions



Grounded Relations & Repair - New Exhibition

Friday, October 30th | 3:30–5:00 p.m. | Benson Auditorium 180 and the Earth Sciences & Map Library

Join the Geography Department for a special colloquium and exhibition opening featuring **Grounded Relations & Repair,** an exhibit of historical and contemporary cartography and art exploring the founding of Colorado and CU Boulder on lands where Native presence continues. Dr. Isaac Rivera and Native artists and cultural leaders will host a panel discussion, with ceremonial prayers and songs performed at the beginning and end of the event by two descendants of Cheyenne/Arapaho families impacted by the 1864 Sand Creek Massacre. The project, supported by a RIO campus humanities grant, centers Indigenous perspectives on the history and future of the CU Boulder campus in recognition of the university's 150th anniversary.

Halloween Monster Map Scavenger Hunt

Oct. 30th, 9 AM–5 PM

Celebrate Halloween with the annual Monster Map Scavenger Hunt! Search the library for maps featuring UFOs, mythical creatures, zombies, and more while collecting candy along the way. Lower level of the Earth Sciences & Map Library.



Register & Learn More!

Something Missing From the Newsletter?



Have an announcement, event, opportunity, publication, or other news you'd like to share with the graduate community? Submit it for consideration in an upcoming newsletter! Please use the Newsletter Submission Google Form to send us your information.

Be sure to submit your announcement by **5 p.m**. **Tuesday** to be considered for that week's newsletter.

Add to Newsletter!

Miss a Newsletter?
Check out past newsletters at **this link**!

Just So You Know...

The graduate newsletter will be sent out each Thursday, so check back weekly for news, job and funding opportunities, and messages from your faculty. If you have something you would like to share in a future edition of the newsletter, please email **earthscience@colorado.edu**.

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