



A Message from the Chair



What the department's name change means for you.

You have likely seen the recent announcement that beginning in August 2026, the Department of Geological Sciences will become the Department of Earth Science. I want to take a moment to share what this change means for you and to reassure you that while our name is changing, our commitment to your education and success remains the same.

This update reflects the exciting evolution of our department. Over the years, our research and teaching have grown far beyond traditional geology to include climate systems, water and energy resources, natural hazards, paleobiology and planetary science. The name Earth Science better represents this breadth and aligns with how the field is defined at leading universities around the world.

Importantly, your degree requirements and academic path will not change. You will continue to receive the same high-quality instruction, academic advising and opportunities for field and lab research that make our program exceptional.

To help answer any questions you may have, the department will host an information session on November 17 (details coming soon). In the meantime, we encourage you to visit our [name change FAQ page](#) and to send any questions to earthscience@colorado.edu.

I'm excited for this next chapter in our department's long and distinguished history and for the important role you play in shaping it. Thank you for being part of this vibrant community of Earth scientists.

Warm regards,

Anne Sheehan

Spring 2026 Registration!

Registration for Spring 2026 is now 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.



Spring Upper Division Courses

GEOL 3320 (3) Introduction to Geochemistry



Explore how chemistry shapes geological and environmental systems! Learn about mineral dissolution and precipitation, the chemistry of natural waters, redox biogeochemistry, acid-mine drainage, melting rocks, mineral resources, and more. Build on your general chemistry background and see how geochemical principles apply across Earth and planetary sciences.

Instructor: **Prof. Alexis Templeton**

Please note Prof. Templeton has applied for sabbatical in AY 2026-2027. Please contact alexis.templeton@colorado.edu with any questions, including questions about managing pre-reqs.

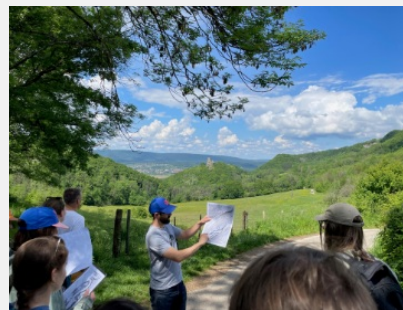
Summer Field Classes

Enrollment and deadlines for summer classes will occur in Spring 2026!



GEOL 4150 (2) Planetary Field Geology (Maymester) 2 cr

Provides an overview of the geology, age and origins of the solid (rocky)



Education Abroad: Geological Cross Section and Continental Collision: The Western Alps (France)

Travel to France in May 2026 (May

planets, dwarf planets and moons of our solar system and the processes that form them from comparative studies from comparative geology. Includes modules on volcanism, rifting, aeolian processes, fluvial erosion, impacts, climate change and paleontology.

Requisites: **GEOL 2700**

Instructor: Dr. Carolyn Crow

18–29) for an international CU–UMLP field course exploring mountain-building and tectonic processes across the Western Alps. Conducted in English; fulfills the field course requirement for Geology majors.

Credits: 2 upper-division |
Requisites: GEOL 2700 & GEOL 3120

Instructors: Dr. Kevin Mahan (CU) and collaborators from UMLP & KSU
Deadline to apply: March 1, 2026
Contact kevin.mahan@colorado.edu or CU Education Abroad for details.

**Visit the
Website**

Department Social Events

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!



Register Here

CU Earth Science Symposium 2025

The annual Earth Science Symposium returns **Saturday, November 15** (9:00–1:30 pm, Benson Earth Sciences Building)! This poster and networking event welcomes students and early career researchers to share their work, connect with local geoscience professionals, and enjoy coffee, speed networking, and lunch goodies. Whether presenting or attending, register by **November 10**.

Distinguished Research Lecture

126th Distinguished Research Lecture: Hydrogen and the Search for Energy and Life
Join **Professor Alexis Templeton** from CU's Department of Geological Sciences and the Center for Astrobiology for the 126th Distinguished Research Lecture, "*Hydrogen:*

Integrating the Searches for New Energy Sources and Novel Life Activity Within the Earth.”

- **Thursday, Nov. 20 | 4–5 p.m.**
 - Chancellor’s Hall and Auditorium, CASE
- A Q&A and reception will follow the lecture.



[Register Here](#)

Colloquium & Happenings



Geological Sciences Colloquium: Dr. Yuval Tal

“Revealing the Dynamic Effects of Fault Structure on Earthquake Ruptures and Resulting Ground Motion through Laboratory Earthquakes”

Join us for a talk by Dr. Yuval Tal of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, who will discuss how laboratory earthquake experiments shed light on the complex dynamics of fault structure and ground motion.

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

- 12:20–1:20 p.m. MST
- Benson Earth Sciences, Room 380

Academic Host: Dr. Kathryn Materna

[View Colloquium Schedule](#)

University Events

Astrophysics Seminar: Dr. Timothy Hallatt (MIT)



“Exoplanet Demographics: A Journey Through Space and Time”

Join Dr. Timothy Hallatt from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for a seminar exploring how exoplanet demographic surveys illuminate the processes of planet formation and evolution. The talk will highlight “desert dweller” planets, the migration histories of Neptunes, and how studying exoplanets across the galaxy reveals changes in planet formation over cosmic time.

- Tuesday, November 11, 2025, 11:00 a.m.

Learn About Summer 2026 Global Seminar Opportunities!



Interested in earning CU Boulder credit while studying abroad with a CU professor and a small group of Buffs? Attend an upcoming Global Seminar Info Session to explore Summer 2026 programs running in Maymester and Augmester.

Global Seminars let you:

- Travel abroad with 10–25 CU students and a faculty leader
- Experience coursework first-hand using local sites as your classroom
- Focus on a specific topic and earn letter grades
- Build connections within a small CU community abroad

**Learn
More**

Student Opportunities

Funding Alert for Undergraduate Researchers!

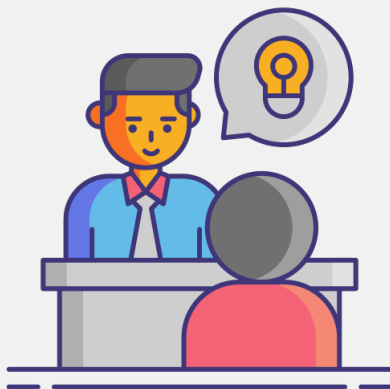
Do you have samples to run in **CUBES - SIL** (Stable Isotope Lab) or other CU Boulder Core Facilities? Need support for your **thesis** or **independent research**? The **Core Facility Voucher Program—Undergraduate Investigators (CFVP-UI)** is now accepting applications! This program provides funding for undergraduates to access CU Boulder's cutting-edge Core Labs to generate new or additional data for:

- Undergraduate research theses or research experiences
- Grant applications
- Manuscripts (new or enhanced resubmissions)
- Exploratory research that could lead to future grants or peer-reviewed publications

Important Notes:

- **Funds are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, so early applications are strongly encouraged—ideally by early to mid next semester.**
- **Internal deadline is April 30, as all samples must be submitted and run before the end of the fiscal year.**
- This is a great way to **supplement a UROP or thesis project** with additional data and lab access.

The application just opened last week—don't



The American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) Colorado Section scholarship

The Colorado AIPG chapter is awarding two \$2000 scholarships for undergraduates. The link to our section webpage where students will be able to find the online scholarship application is <https://aipg-cosection.org/>. The application deadline is **11/15/25**.



2026 Rich Herbert Memorial Scholarship

The Colorado Section of the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) is offering scholarships (typically \$500–\$4,000) to students researching Colorado water resources—including hydrology, hydrogeology, geomorphology, aquatic biology, water law, or environmental science.

- **Deadline: January 9, 2026**
- Who can apply: Undergrad, Master's, and PhD students at any Colorado college or university
- Apply online: www.awracolorado.org
- Questions? Contact Rob Zuber at rob.zuber@state.co.us

Opportunities with the Center for Land Surface Hazards (CLaSH)

The Center for Land Surface Hazards (CLaSH) is opening multiple student and post-doc positions for AY 2026–27! Participants join an interdisciplinary cohort connected across institutions through annual meetings, workshops, and collaborative research on landslides, debris flows, flooding, and related surface hazards.

CLaSH scholars gain professional networking opportunities, field experience in diverse landscapes, and chances to design outreach that advances community awareness and preparedness.

Current projects are recruiting students for research in Puerto Rico, Alaska, Appalachia, and California, among other locations. Prospective students should contact potential advisors directly.



**Learn
More**

Apply Now: Graduate Fellowship for STEM Diversity (GFSD)



Applications are now open for the Graduate Fellowship for STEM Diversity (GFSD) — a partnership among industry, government, and higher education supporting U.S. doctoral students in the physical sciences and related engineering fields.

The fellowship provides up to six years of funding, professional mentoring, and connections with top employers nationwide. GFSD especially encourages applications from women and historically underrepresented minorities.

- Apply by visiting gfsd.onlineapplications.net

NSF SOARS 2026 Applications Now Open!

The National Science Foundation's *Significant Opportunities in Atmospheric Research and Science* (SOARS) program is accepting First-Year Protégé Applications through **January 20, 2026**. SOARS is an undergraduate-to-graduate bridge program that supports students from diverse STEM fields through research, mentoring, and professional development in the atmospheric and Earth system sciences. Participants receive a paid 11-week research experience, housing and travel support, and potential tuition assistance. Learn more and apply at soars.ucar.edu/apply, and join the informational webinar on **November 13, 2025 at 2:00 pm MT**.



**American Museum
of Natural History**

Teach Earth & Space Science with AMNH in NYC

The American Museum of Natural History is accepting applications for its Master of Arts in Teaching Earth Science Residency Program, beginning June 2026. This 15-month, fully funded master's program offers free tuition, books, and a \$40K living stipend in exchange for a two-year teaching commitment in a NYC high-needs school.

**Learn
More**

Outside the Classroom



Be sure to follow our Instagram page @cu_boulder_geology for updates including upcoming events, department news, and photos from our students!

**View our
Page**

Just so you know...

The undergrad newsletter will be sent out each Friday afternoon, so check back weekly for news, job and funding opportunities, and messages from the department. If you have something you would like to share in a future edition of the newsletter, please email geoloffice@colorado.edu.

Annual Geology News 2025



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