

Tribal Climate Leaders Program

Are you interested in a graduate degree exploring how climate may impact natural and cultural resources and resilience?

Please contact us if you're interested, and we'll help you with the application process!

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We're excited to announce a new opportunity at the **North Central Climate Adaptation Science Center** (NC CASC, <https://nccasc.colorado.edu/>) in Boulder, Colorado.

The NC CASC is one of eight regional centers created by the US Department of Interior to help meet the changing needs of land and resource managers. Hosted by the **University of Colorado in Boulder, Colorado.**

- The NC CASC is seeking applications from students affiliated with the **31 federally-recognized tribes in the North Central region (North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Montana, Wyoming, or Colorado) who are interested in completing a Master's degree at the University of Colorado Boulder on a topic related to climate adaptation science.**
- **Full funding is available for a two-year Master's program for up to 5 eligible students between Fall 2020 and 2022.**

How does the program work?

Over the 2 years, each student will take graduate courses in their department and complete a Master's thesis on their chosen research topic. In addition, the NC CASC staff and collaborators from the Great Plains Tribal Water Alliance (GPTWA, <https://www.tribalwateralliance.org/>), CU Boulder's Center for Native American and Indigenous Studies (CNAIS, <https://www.colorado.edu/cnais/>), and the Student Academic Success Center (SASC, <https://www.colorado.edu/sasc/>) will offer: supplemental activities, support and mentoring for the cohort; designated space to gather and spend time outside of the academic department setting; professional development opportunities; connection with Native American and Indigenous groups and organizations on- and off-campus; and assistance finding resources for needs or issues outside the university such as housing, family, health, and community.



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Who Can Apply?

Students are eligible for this program if they have a formal affiliation* with one of the 31 federally recognized tribes in SD, ND, NE, KS, MT, WY, or CO; have completed a Bachelor's degree; are able to provide the additional materials required by the Graduate Admissions process at the University of Colorado Boulder (e.g. GRE scores, transcripts, application essays and letters of recommendation; see <https://www.colorado.edu/graduateschool/admission>) and are interested in graduate studies on a topic related to climate adaptation science. We can assist with these steps and any questions!

How Do I Apply?

Please call or email us to describe your interest and eligibility. We will then help you identify and connect with potential advisors in departments at the University of Colorado that are offering funding for this program (see below) and are doing work that matches your own research interests and the mission of the NC CASC. By December 2019, you will submit an application to the department in which your potential advisor is located. We can help arrange campus visits, calls, Skype sessions, etc., with potential advisors during this process. Students accepted to the program will begin in Fall 2020.

What types of research can I do?

Departments offering funding for this program include, but are not limited to:

Department or Program	Website	Application Deadline
Geography	https://www.colorado.edu/geography/	December 1, 2019
Environmental Studies	https://www.colorado.edu/envs/	December 1, 2019
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	https://www.colorado.edu/ebio/	December 1, 2019
Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences	https://www.colorado.edu/atoc	December 1, 2019
Geological Sciences	https://www.colorado.edu/geologicalsciences/	December 30, 2019
Ethnic Studies	https://www.colorado.edu/ethnicstudies/	December 15, 2019
Environmental Engineering	https://www.colorado.edu/even/	December 15, 2019
Civil, Environmental, and Architectural Engineering	https://www.colorado.edu/ceae/	December 15, 2019

- Topics that fit the NC CASC mission in these departments include, but are not limited to: climate science, resilience and adaptation, hydrology, air quality, water quality, ecology, botany, wildlife, Traditional Ecological Knowledge and climate, fire, earth science, soils, environmental engineering, civil engineering related to climate issues, and many more.
- We can help you communicate with potential advisors to find a good fit between their research topics and your own interests. In your application, you'll be asked to describe the work you would like to do, how it aligns with the mission of the NC CASC, and how your participation in this Tribal Climate Leaders program would represent an opportunity to contribute to important issues of sustainability and climate adaptation in your tribal community.

What will funding in this program cover?

For this two-year program, the funding for each student will cover fees for graduate tuition, salary equivalent to 20 hours/week as a graduate research assistant on the topic you determine with your advisor, and health insurance. We are happy to discuss additional details and questions.

We welcome your interest, ideas, and applications! Please contact us with any questions.

*Applicants must be enrolled members, or decedents of enrolled members, of a federally recognized American Indian Tribe in the NC CASC Region (SD, ND, KS, NE, MT, WY, CO). Applicants will provide enrollment documents and/or a copy of birth certificate(s) showing descendency from an enrolled citizen. Applicants may also, instead, provide a copy of their Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) card. Please contact us if you have questions about your tribal affiliation and eligibility.