What can first-year students expect in the Earth & Planetary Sciences Graduate Program?

Our research program is one of the premier in the nation. Students can expect to fully participate in research from their first class at UCSC, in addition to taking courses that emphasize breadth and depth in the discipline.

What type of support do first-year graduate students in your program receive?
Sources of support include: fellowships (based on both merit and need), research assistantships (generally associated with competitive grants secured by faculty, researchers, and students), and teaching assistantships (during which graduate students collaborate with faculty and lecturers to run courses, discussion sections, and/or labs). The department can also nominate students for university fellowships, such as the Cota-Robles and the Chancellor’s Fellowships, upon admission to the program.

What salary (on top of tuition and fees) do first-year Graduate Student Researchers in your program earn?
Our pre-candidacy GSRs are paid at step 5, a $6039 stipend per quarter. Our post-candidacy stipends are at step 6, which pays a $6320 stipend per quarter. Summer funding is often available.

When are graduate applications due for your program?
January 5th.

Who can I contact for more information?
Jennifer Fish, Graduate Program Representative
831.459.1235, jmsfish@ucsc.edu.
Susan Schwartz, Graduate Program Representative
831.459.3133, syschwar@ucsc.edu

SUSAN SCHWARTZ, professor of Earth & Planetary Sciences and Graduate Program Representative, and technician Dan Sampson checking out and loading seismic sensors and related equipment for a trip to Costa Rica’s Nicoya Peninsula, site of Schwartz’s research on “silent earthquakes.”
Terrence Blackburn Geochronology, crustal evolution, cosmochemistry

Emily E. Brodsky Earthquakes, volcanoes, fluid flow in fractured media

Matthew E. Clapham Paleobiology, geobiology

Patrick Y. Chuang Clouds, aerosols, and climate

Jeff Cuzzi (Lecturer) Ring dynamics and planetsimal formation

Noah J. Finnegan Geomorphology, active tectonics

Andrew T. Fisher Hydrogeology, crustal studies, coupled flows, modeling

Ian Garrick-Bethell Planetary interiors, paleomagnetism

Gary B. Griggs Coastal processes, hazards and engineering

Jeremy K. Hourigan Thermochronology, structural geology and tectonics

Jared Kluesner (Lecturer) Marine geophysics, seismic reflection, fluid flow

Elise Knittle Mineral physics, experimental geophysics

Paul L. Koch Isotope geochemistry, paleontology, and ecology

Thorne Lay Seismology, geophysics

Francis Nimmo Icy satellites, accretion, Mars, planetary geophysics

Adina Paytan (Lecturer) Biogeochemistry, paleoceanography, environmental and aquatic chemistry

David Rubin (Lecturer) Fluvial and planetary geomorphology, sedimentary geology

Hilde Schwartz (Senior Lecturer) Vertebrate paleontology, environmental geology, paleoecology, chemosynthetic ecosystems

Susan Y. Schwartz Seismology, geophysics, active tectonics

Eli A. Silver Marine geology and geophysics; active tectonics; remote sensing

Lisa C. Sloan Past and future climate change, climate modeling, Earth system science

Slawek Tulaczyk Glaciology and glacial geology, soil mechanics

Quentin Williams Mineral physics, tectonophysics, experimental geochemistry

Ru-Shan Wu (Lecturer) Seismology, geophysics, wave propagation and subsurface imaging

James C. Zachos Paleoceanography, marine stratigraphy

Xi Zhang Planetary Atmospheres, Atmospheric Chemistry, Planetary Atmospheric Circulation