IGERT: Indoor Environmental Science and Engineering – An Emerging Frontier
APPLICATION FOR GRADUATE TRAINEESHIP

Name (First, Last): _____

Mailing Addresses:

Current	**Home/Permanent**	
		Applicants may be interviewed by the IGERT Executive Committee as part of the application process.

Email Address: _____ **Phone #** (Home/Work): _____

Department/School to which you are applying at UT (if applicable): _____
Department/School within which you are currently enrolled at UT (if applicable): _____

If you are a current graduate student at UT Austin, when did or will you start your Ph.D. studies?
(Month/Year): _____

Semester/Year for which you would like to become an IGERT Trainee: _____

Previous Degrees: List previous degrees in chronological order (first to most recent). Include degree programs within which you are currently enrolled and anticipated graduation date.

University	**Department**	**Degree** **(B.A., B.S., M.S., etc.)**	**Month/Year Awarded**	**GPA (Overall/Within Major)**

Application criteria: Applicants must be (1) U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the U.S., its territories or its possessions, (2) currently enrolled or applying to a participating department at the University of Texas at Austin (UT) and (3) be pursuing (or planning to pursue) a doctoral degree.

Check if you are a U.S. citizen or permanent resident of the U.S., its territories or possessions: _____
Check if you have applied to, or are currently enrolled in, a participating department or school at UT: _____
Check if you are currently in a Ph.D. program or will enter a Ph.D. program within one semester: _____

GRE* Scores:

Verbal		* GRE scores will be confirmed via the academic department to which you have applied at UT. GPA and GRE scores listed here are for initial screening purposes.
Quantitative		
Analytical/Writing		
Date Exam Taken		

The applicant hereby certifies that the information provided in this application is factually correct and that he/she is committed to the goals of the IGERT Traineeship in Indoor Environmental Science and Engineering:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Application Instructions and Checklist

In addition to the Application Cover form, the applicant must submit the following documents:

☑ **Statement of Purpose**: Provide a statement of purpose (two-page maximum, single-spaced, 12-point font, 1" margins on all edges). Your statement should describe your motivation(s) for participating in the IGERT program. You should address the goals of the IGERT program, your commitment to the emerging field of indoor environmental science and engineering, your personal career goals following completion of the Ph.D. degree, and your past educational, work, or personal experiences related to the theme of this IGERT program.

☑ **C.V.** Provide a CV (two page maximum) that summarizes your professional background and accomplishments. Feel free to include any information on the CV that may be relevant to your qualifications as an IGERT applicant (e.g., leadership experiences, interdisciplinary research, etc).

☑ **Letters of Recommendation**: Provide two letters of recommendation from faculty members who can judge your past academic performance, potential for doctoral research and leadership qualities. If possible, this letter should also address your ability to work as a productive member of interdisciplinary teams, and your commitment to the field of indoor environmental science and engineering. Each letter of recommendation must contain an original signature by the recommender, and should be provided to the applicant in a sealed envelope with a signature over the seal. The applicant should submit the sealed letters with the rest of the application package.

Reference 1	**Reference 2**
Name:	Name:
Title:	Title:
Institution:	Institution:
Address:	Address:
Email:	Email:

☑ **Transcripts**: Provide official and sealed copies of transcripts from your undergraduate institution and for all graduate studies completed to date. Submit transcripts with the application materials.

Deadline: Applicants must be accepted or in a participating department at the University of Texas at Austin to be eligible to apply for an IGERT traineeship. It is the responsibility of the applicant to meet deadlines for admission to academic departments. Applications for the IGERT program are received year-round but reviewed only periodically by the IGERT Executive Committee. Applications for the Fall semester will be reviewed beginning March 1st and until all positions are filled. Applications for the Spring semester will be reviewed beginning October 1st and until available positions are filled.

Mail completed application materials as a single package to R.L. Corsi, IGERT Program Coordinator, Department of Civil, Architectural & Environmental Engineering, The University of Texas, 1 University Station (C1786), Austin, TX 78712.

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Request for Reference Letter

Student Name: _____

Department & Institution: _____

The graduate student identified above is applying for an Integrated Graduate and Educational Research Traineeship (IGERT) in the field of Indoor Environmental Science and Engineering. This NSF funded program at the University of Texas at Austin supports highly qualified graduate students in this emerging field for a period of two years. Additional details regarding the IGERT program can be found on the enclosed form. The goals of the IGERT program include:

- Facilitating interdisciplinary interactions amongst students and faculty in disciplines related to indoor environmental science and engineering;
- Promoting in-depth knowledge related to the field;
- Providing students with skills necessary to create innovative solutions to indoor environmental problems;
- Developing personal, professional, and mentoring skills for future leaders in the field,
- Producing leaders in research and education who have a global focus and are creative agents for change; and
- Recruiting, mentoring, and retaining students from historically underrepresented groups.

Please provide a reference letter for this student that addresses their academic performance, potential for doctoral research and leadership qualities. This letter should also address your assessment of their ability to work as a productive member of interdisciplinary teams and their commitment to the field of indoor environmental science and engineering. Please consider the goals of the IGERT program as you develop your letter of recommendation. If possible, provide your letter of recommendation in a sealed envelope with a signature over the seal. The applicant will submit the letter with the rest of the application forms to the IGERT program office. If you have any questions about the IGERT program or would like additional information prior to writing a letter of recommendation, please see our website at www.caee.utexas.edu/igert/ or feel free to contact Dr. Kerry Kinney (kakinney@mail.utexas; 512-232-1740) or Richard L. Corsi (corsi@mail.utexas.edu; 512-471-3611).

Reference Provided by:

Name: _____
Title: _____
Department & Institution: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

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Applicant – Review this page and provide one copy to each person who will write a letter of recommendation.

Summary

Americans are indoor creatures, spending on average 18 hours indoors for every hour spent outdoors. Several recent studies have indicated that a wide range of pollutants which are heavily regulated in outdoor air exist at even higher levels indoors. Furthermore, indoor surfaces are often more contaminated than soil at hazardous waste sites, and health risks associated with indoor pollution far exceed those of other environmental media. However, the lack of a regulatory framework and research funding to address indoor environmental quality has led this issue to fall decades behind other environmental fields, particularly with respect to developing a fundamental knowledge base and a pool of highly qualified, trained professionals.

Indoor environmental quality is clearly important. Indoor pollution adversely affects the health of the American public, worker productivity, electrical and mechanical equipment, historical artifacts, and artwork. However, academic institutional leaders in indoor environmental science and engineering have not emerged in the same way that they have for other environmental science and engineering disciplines. There is a pressing need for such leadership if the complex problems associated with this field are to be effectively addressed. As society attempts to improve indoor environmental quality, there will be a need for fundamental knowledge related to the sources, impacts, and control of indoor pollutants, and for leaders who can solve indoor environmental problems within an interdisciplinary framework and communicate those solutions to the regulatory and public communities. This IGERT program addresses these needs, and is focused on a multi-component educational experience for IGERT trainees.

This IGERT program involves a unique interdisciplinary curriculum focused on fundamental principles from physics, chemistry, and biology, as well as engineering, architecture, exposure and health science, economics, and psychology. The curriculum is designed for IGERT trainees from all participating departments and will promote classroom interactions amongst students in various disciplines. Students within the program will deliver presentations of their work at a weekly Technical Exchange and Professional Development course, at an annual symposium that will showcase research and educational activities of the IGERT program, and through public outreach workshops. An important component of the educational experience will be a research internship at one of four nationally recognized institutions.

Specific Goals

The specific goals of the IGERT program are to:

(1) Facilitate interdisciplinary interactions amongst students and faculty in disciplines related to indoor environmental science and engineering,
(2) Promote in-depth knowledge related to the field,
(3) Provide students with skills necessary to create innovative solutions to indoor environmental problems,
(4) Develop personal, professional, and mentoring skills for future leaders in the field,
(5) Produce leaders in research and education who have a global focus and are creative agents for change, and
(6) Recruit, mentor, and retain students from historically underrepresented groups.

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Demographic Information

The information provided on this form will be kept confidential but may be pooled with other applicant information to provide statistical reporting to the National Science Foundation.

If so desired, the applicant may also opt to submit this form after the application process (separate from application materials).

The applicant should NOT provide his/her name on this form.

Age: _____

Does the applicant fall into one or more of the following groups considered as underrepresented in science and engineering in the United States (check all that apply):

Black ……... _____

Hispanic ……..... _____

American Indian/Alaskan native …… _____

Pacific Islander (native of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa) … _____

Disabled …….. _____

Female …… _____