

Regional and Community Planning GTA/GRA positions for Brownfields and Community Engagement Project

The Regional and Community Planning Program at Kansas State University is recruiting master's students for two partially funded merit-based positions supported by the KSU Technical Assistance for Brownfields Program (TAB). The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that there are nearly a half-million brownfield sites across the United States and are found in virtually every community in America. These sites, defined as *"a property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant"* inhibit redevelopment and present potential health risks to communities (EPA 2023). If accepted, students will work under the supervision of Dr. Susmita Rishi and Dr. Shakil Kashem as a GRA assisting in teaching and working on a research project on Brownfields and with a focus on one of the areas listed below. Accepted students will need to apply and be accepted to the two-year Masters of Regional & Community Planning program for Fall 2026 and must maintain good academic standing throughout the program to receive continued funding.

Eligibility:

- A bachelor's in planning or allied fields such as geography, environmental studies, architecture, landscape architecture, sociology, and political science is required.
- An interest in pursuing research in Brownfields, and one of the following is required:
 - Housing
 - Community Engagement
 - Community Resilience
- Demonstrated excellent writing and communication skills are required.
- Preferred skills include experience in one or more of the following:
 - Community Engagement
 - GIS
 - Adobe Creative Suite
 - Survey research and analysis
 - Qualitative research methods

Application Materials:

- A statement (two pages max) describing your interest in the position, how it aligns with your background, and how it might shape your future practice or research. Please include which of the fields in addition to Brownfields and Community Engagement you are interested in and why.
- Resume or CV (two pages max) including educational background, work experience, extra-curricular activities, honors, and awards.
- Unofficial Transcripts

Apply by **February 27, 2026; 5 pm CDT** (priority deadline, positions open until filled) with all application materials as a single pdf emailed to **both** srishi@ksu.edu and shakilkashem@ksu.edu with **"TAB Position"** in the email subject line.

For inquiries, clarifications, and questions, please contact the above with the same email subject line.