

Mel Morgan

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Educational History

University of Pennsylvania • Philadelphia, PA

Expected May 2027

Master of Environmental Studies • Concentration in Data and Resource Management

George Washington University • Washington, DC

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Geography, cum laude; Minors in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and American Studies

School for Field Studies • Center for Wildlife Management Studies • Rhotia, Tanzania

Directed Research Project: Spatial Dynamics of Climate Change on the Culture and Lifestyle of the Hadzabe

Professional History

Penn Sustainability Office

Philadelphia, PA

Sustainability Data Intern

May 2026 - Present

Supported Sustainability Analyst with multiple extensive projects

Edited reapplication for Bike Friendly University, bolstering several sections and responses

Updated office's GIS and spatial resources

Led re-analysis of 2023 commuter survey after data errors discovered

Completed the 2025 SIMAP university update

Orange County Registrar of Voters

Santa Ana, CA

Training Facilitator Staff Assistant

January 2024 - December 2024

Conducted in-person and virtual training for over 1,400 staff members in each of two 2024 elections

Designed and created map to increase support of local businesses in neglected downtown area

Developed training materials and presentations

Supported 180+ vote center locations on procedural issues

Processed over 40,000 conditional voter registrations and signature verifications with Voter Data Services team

Mentored team of 18 new facilitators regarding best practices and effective communication

Whole Foods Market

Huntington Beach, CA

E-Commerce Supervisor & Cash Office Specialist

September 2022 - January 2024

Created program that resulted in significant staff improvements in multiple key performance indicators

Implemented action plans to improve individual performance of team members

Recognized nationally as an Elite Shopper

Reconciled and audited cash accounts daily

Store Support Supervisor

June 2021 - September 2022

Supervised and delegated tasks to Team Members

Responded to emergencies and resolved difficult customer situations

Monitored store needs and dynamically allocated resources in response

Administered seasonal program that netted an additional \$1,000+ in sales

Reintroduced multiple programs which positively impacted team and customer experience

In-Store Shopper

November 2020 - May 2021

Trained new shoppers about the position and best practices

Maintained top metrics to help optimize store performance and availability

Monitored self-checkout and cashiered among other duties to respond to department needs

Close Up Foundation

Washington, DC

Program Leader

June 2018 - June 2019

- Recruited, interviewed, and hired candidates for team of 50+ instructors and support personnel
- Monitored health, safety, academics, and logistics for over 3,000 participants
- Managed staff of 12 Program Instructors and 1 support personnel
- Developed online resource portal for instructors
- Communicated with multiple departments to address problems and identify ongoing trends
- Collaborated with schools and partnering organizations to customize program curriculum

Senior Program Instructor

July 2017 - June 2018

- Traveled nationally to provide instruction on specialized programs
- Supported program leader with various urgent needs to ensure smooth program operations
- Researched and wrote instructor resource document utilized weekly
- Received a peer-voted award for positivity, dedication, and achievement
- Prepared and oversaw delivery of weekly materials
- Served as Program Leader for six weeks

Program Instructor

January - June 2017

- Instructed 400+ students on topics including civics and political engagement
- Facilitated discussions of policy issues and political beliefs among groups of 20+ students
- Worked with English Language Learners (ELL) and recently immigrated students
- Developed and maintained good relationships with rotating students and staff from week to week

Rescue Social Change Group

Washington, DC

Administrative Helper - Y Street Campaign

September - December 2016

- Compiled various educational and training materials as needed
- Managed campaign supplies and inventory

GWU Athletics Educational Support Services

Washington, DC

Geography Tutor

September - December 2015

- Updated advisors regularly regarding student progress
- Tutored and provided academic support to multiple athletes in various Geography courses
- Planned learning sessions in response to student needs

National Archives

Washington, DC

Research Room Assistant

September 2014 - April 2015

- Maintained database and systems to ensure accurate receipt of records for various parties
- Assisted researchers with equipment and procedures
- Enforced institutional rules and ensured proper treatment of records

Research Experience

Aquarium of the Pacific

Long Beach, CA

Southern California Sea Turtle Monitoring Project

2021 - 2025

- Monthly community science project monitoring resident sea turtle populations in local river*
- Currently serving as project lead to help coordinate, educate, and train volunteers
- Assisted with data management and collection
- Created navigation tool utilized by volunteers to find assigned location

Upriver Sea Turtle Monitoring Project

2024 - 2025

Weekly community science sea turtle population survey along San Gabriel River and Coyote Creek
Recorded spatiotemporal sea turtle activity
Discovered and reported urgent entanglement to rescue agencies
Conducted public outreach and community engagement

Bolsa Chica Conservancy

Huntington Beach, CA

Sea Turtle Monitoring

October 2024 - 2025

Recently launched monthly citizen science survey of sea turtles in the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve
Trained new volunteers on survey parameters and data collection standards
Provided needed support to observation stations and volunteers

School for Field Studies, Center for Wildlife Management Studies

Rhotia, Tanzania

Researcher/Student

Spring 2016

Interviewed Indigenous people from multiple tribes about local environmental changes
Observed and recorded animal behavior patterns over various studies
Presented research to community symposium

Activities

Penn Forward Experience Committee

Philadelphia, PA

Graduate Student Representative

May 2026 - Present

Personally recommended by Vice Provost of Graduate Education
Served on 15+ person committee as 1 of 2 graduate students & 1 of 4 students university-wide
Collaborated on ideas on how to improve the Penn experience for all students
Provided feedback and insight to many high-level university administrators

Climate Leaders at Penn

Philadelphia, PA

Executive Co-Chair

May 2026 - Present

Recruited supporting board members
Developed strategic goals for upcoming year
Partnered with multiple organizations to create capstone projects
Created outreach materials
Coordinated meetings between organization and stakeholders at Penn

Graduate Fellow

October 2025 - Present

Selected as a member of the 2025 - 2026 cohort
Developed Penn Vet's first Climate and Sustainability Action Plan
Collaborated closely with Dean and staff of Penn Vet
Researched similar initiatives at peer institutions
Presented final report to community and stakeholders

Lambda Grads

Philadelphia, PA

President

May 2026 - Present

Developed strategic plan and goals for upcoming year focused on community and advocacy
Recruited new board members
Designed materials intended for outreach and publicity for new members
Collaborated with Graduate Student Center to increase impact and reach of organization
Planned events to develop community

IDEAL Council Representative & Treasurer

October 2025 - May 2026

Organization representing LGBTQ+ Graduate students at the University of Pennsylvania
Selected as Treasurer by the Associate Director of LGBT Center

Secured additional \$7,500 in funding
Managed budget of \$15,000+ and disbursed funds for organization needs
Planned events with other campus partners
Represented organization at Graduate Student government (GAPSA) meetings
Advocated on behalf of queer graduate students to multiple high ranking administrators

Trash Talks Philly

Philadelphia, PA

Co-Founder

August 2025 - Present

Community Organization aiming to form opportunities for people to make friends while picking up trash
Developed goals of organization
Organized community event that had 15+ people show up
Created resources for members to use at event
Recruited new participants across variety of methods

Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter

Southern California

Wilderness Travel Course

January 2022 - October 2022

Intensive 3 month course on wilderness backpacking, navigation and orienteering, and snow travel/safety
Completed 25+ hours of classroom instruction and assignments
Successfully completed 4 outdoor experience trips, including two backpacking trips and two extended hikes
Planned and completed 2 multi-day backpacking trips with significant off-trail travel and navigation
Fulfilled all course requirements and graduated with WTC class of 2022

GW Geography Bowl Team

Washington, DC

Member

Fall 2016

Won first place at the 2016 AAG Mid-Atlantic Conference Team Geography Bowl
Selected to Mid-Atlantic Team at World AAG conference in 2017 (declined due to work commitment)

GW Quiz Team

Washington, DC

President

August 2015 - December 2016

Member

August 2013 - December 2016

Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity

Washington, DC

Recruitment Coordinator

August - December 2015

Member

February 2015 - December 2016

Humanitarian Mapping Society

Washington, DC

Member

August 2015 - December 2016

Awards and Achievements

Clark University Director's Scholarship (declined)	April 2025
Silver Elite Shopper, Whole Foods Market	Spring 2023
Team Member of the Month, Whole Foods Market	January 2021
Shirley Willis Award, Close Up Foundation	June 2018
<i>Peer voted award for positive attitude, skill and work ethic, and dedication to mission</i>	
Dean's List	Spring 2015
GW Board of Trustees Scholarship	2013 - 2017

Skills

ArcGIS Pro • ArcGIS Online • ArcGIS StoryMaps • Python • Jupyter Notebook • OpenStreetMap • QGIS • Adobe Illustrator • Adobe Photoshop • Adobe InDesign • Microsoft Word • Microsoft Excel • Microsoft Powerpoint • Microsoft Teams • Zoom • Google Suite • MacOS and Applications

