What’s included in the cost of the GIS Summer Academy?
Tuition includes all course fees, books, parking permits, course materials, welcome and farewell receptions, and transportation to field visits.

Is there a prerequisite?
Yes, you must be familiar with the ArcGIS Desktop platform. You can take our “Introduction to ArcGIS” or “Learning ArcGIS Desktop: A Self-Paced Online course,” a similar course from another institution, or use your work experience with ArcGIS software to satisfy this requirement.

Do I need a computer programming background?
No programming experience is required.

Does the tuition have to be paid upfront?
No, you can reserve your place by paying a $500 deposit, with the balance due on or before the first day of class. Call Student Services at (951) 827-4105 for details.

Can I work full-time and participate in the GIS Summer Academy?
The CSI Summer Academy meets in intensive all-day sessions, and includes evening and weekend activities. It is designed for students who can devote the required time during the five weeks it takes to complete the program.

Do I need to bring a computer with me?
All courses take place in the computer lab so you do not need your own computer. We recommend you bring an external hard drive or flash drive to download data and other assignment information in case you want to work at home.

What is the job market for GIS specialists?
GIS is a tool that can be used in almost any field. According to the job outlook published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, opportunities in GIS are on the rise. The largest employer of GIS professionals is local government, though consulting firms and private business also have a need.

Do you offer job placement?
We do not offer a formal job placement service but you have ample opportunity to network with your instructors and classmates, many of whom are working professionals in the field. We also recommend you connect with local GIS professionals by joining GIS associations such as URISA, GITA, GIS career workshop, or your local GIS User Group.
Where can I find more information?
On our website, the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Summer Academy webpage offers a list of Completion Requirements, Time, Cost, Prerequisites, Academy Schedule and Additional Information.

How can I reach a program expert?
Contact Jennifer Campbell, Program Manager at (951) 827-5804 or sciences@ucx.ucr.edu.