**The Letter of Intent** is a very important piece of information in one´s application dossier. It allows the applicant to demonstrate personality, communication skills, and most importantly, the ability to envision a research project. A successful letter of intent is informative (tells the committee the applicant´s area of research interest and why the applicant is choosing this area of research), scholarly (shows that the applicant has the necessary academic preparation and focus to pursue their research interests and succeed in our graduate program, and persuasive (presents a convincing argument that the project is important and may feasibly be completed within the framework of a Master’s degree). This should be achieved in about 600 words.

The applicant is not bound by his or her letter of intent; they can change the research topic during their course of study. Similarly, the project advisor can be changed if another professor is more suitable. The project advisor does not have to be named in the Letter of Intent. However it is helpful if applicants review faculty members´ bios (available on the LACS website) and mention a faculty member whose research is relevant to their project.

Letters of Intent can be written in English or in Spanish and should be addressed to the Admissions Committee.