**FINANCIAL AID FOR MES STUDENTS**

Below is a list of financial aid opportunities found at Evergreen for MES students. This handout is separated into sections so you can see the various ways that MES students fund their time at Evergreen.

NON-LOAN FUNDING

You should have already received an emailed letter from MES if you received one of our scholarships or waivers (if you did not receive an email from MES, it means you did not get MES funding at this time). The awards should be posted to your financial aid account by the end of April. This includes the Evergreen Need Grant, which is available for resident students only with maximum need. The Financial Aid office administers this award, so check your account at the end of April to see if you received it.

Please note that MES typically has more financial aid for new students than continuing students because we expect you to find funding through other sources, like internships, in your second year. The program will support you in finding these outside resources throughout the year.

JOBS AND PAID INTERNSHIPS

Just like at research institutions that offer research or teaching assistantships, the bulk of our students supplement their awards with on- or off-campus work or internships.

There are several internships and campus jobs that pop up throughout the summer and academic year. You should have received a few emails about these opportunities already. A large number of our students take advantage of these opportunities that pay anywhere from $10 to $14+ per hour (they do not offer a tuition waiver). Paid internships are generally $3,000-$4,000/quarter. Campus jobs and MES-sponsored internships with agencies like WA Department of Transportation are no more than 19 hours a week but off-campus jobs can be any amount of time – depends on what you’re looking for. I will not stress enough that this is an excellent way to not only fund your studies, but add to your professional experience. They often lead to thesis projects and jobs, as well. As an MES student, you will get regular emails from faculty or staff with these opportunities. We also list them on our jobs blog: <http://blogs.evergreen.edu/mesweekly/>. Please register for the blog for weekly emails. All MES admits who pay their tuition deposit will be added to our student listserv– this is another way we send out job and internship announcements, especially ones that are specifically for MES students. Besides the jobs blog, there is a student job search hosted by Evergreen called CODA: <http://www.evergreen.edu/studentemployment/findajob>. Finally, don’t forget to look at Evergreen for non-student jobs: <http://www.evergreen.edu/employment/staffjobs.htm>.

WORK-STUDY

Work-study is not available for grad students except in very small amounts that MES uses to pay for its student employees. If you see a work-study job on CODA, you will not be eligible to apply.

OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIPS

Just like the jobs we send out, we also hear about scholarships and fellowships throughout the year. We list those opportunities on the MES Weekly blog and/or email them out. You can also search for them on your own.

LOANS

Of course, there are always loans. You need to fill out your FAFSA (fafsa.ed.gov) to receive loans – these are administered by the Financial Aid office. All grad students are eligible for $20,500 and can ask for more through Graduate PLUS loans. <http://www.evergreen.edu/mes/financial.htm#loans>. If you already filled out your FAFSA, your loan should already be added to your Financial Aid account.

LIMITS TO FINANCIAL AID

The amount you get in loans and any need-based awards (waivers, Evergreen Need Grant, work-study) is based on your financial aid “budget” which is your tuition plus additional expenses as determined by the college. Financial aid cannot give you money (except scholarships) over your budget. Evergreen bases MES student budgets on 8 credits per quarter, so if you are actually taking 12 credits per quarter (most of you), you should let them know BEFORE the quarter starts because it increases your budget. The budget for 16-17 for residents taking 8 credits per quarter is $22,146 (12 credits is $24,252) and for nonresidents it is $32,193 (12 credits is $36,810).

You can also increase your budget for things like childcare and transportation or even a new computer by filling out a few simple forms: <http://www.evergreen.edu/financialaid/1617forms>.

FUNDING YOUR RESEARCH

Once you get started on your thesis, or even before, there are lots of research grants out there that you can apply for. Review the ones we know about (some are for Evergreen students only) here: <http://www.evergreen.edu/mes/research-funding>.

RESIDENCY

If you have questions about Washington residency please see <http://evergreen.edu/registration/residency> or email residency@evergreen.edu. Typically, students cannot earn residency in their second year as an MES student, but there are exceptions.

IN CLOSING

If you have any questions about loans, increasing your financial aid budget, or the Evergreen Need Grant, please contact Financial Aid at 360-867-6576. If you have questions about MES awards, please review our website: <http://www.evergreen.edu/mes/costs>. There’s a lot of good info there – if you can’t find an answer there, please let me know.

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