**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 a letter from MES or an email from Financial Aid if you received one of our scholarships, waivers, or grants. They will show up on your financial aid account likely in May if they aren’t already there. Keep in mind that we often have some leftover waiver money that we give out every Spring quarter to our students who demonstrate need and also have merit (based on faculty selection). We had about $5,000 this Spring quarter to spread out among several students. It is likely we will have funding to do this again next Spring.

**Evergreen Need Grant**

Some of you will receive or have received the Evergreen Need grant. There are a limited number of awards that are for resident students only and they are based on need (must fill out the FAFSA by Evergreen’s priority deadline and have maximum need). It is administered by the Financial Aid office. Please check your financial aid award 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, such as internships, in your second year. The program will support you in finding these outside resources throughout the year.

**Loans**

Of course, there are always loans. You need to fill out your FAFSA 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>.

**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 over your budget. Evergreen bases MES student budgets on 8 credits per quarter, so if you are actually taking 12 credits (most of you), you should let them know because it increases your budget. The budget for 17-18 for residents taking 8 credits is approximately $22,146 (12 credits is $24,252) and for nonresidents it is approximately $32,193 (12 credits is $36,810).

You can also increase your budget for things like childcare and transportation or even a new computer.

**Jobs and Paid Internships**

Just like at research institutions that offer 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 number of 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. 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.

Jobs and Internships are 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.

**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>. One popular one is the Evergreen Sustainability Fellowship – this is for a Spring quarter research or internship –like project that you design. We offer three or four of these every spring and they can be worth up to $4,000.

**Residency**

If you have questions about Washington residency please see <http://evergreen.edu/registration/residency> or email residency@evergreen.edu. Typically, students cannot earn residence 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/financial.htm> . There’s a lot of good info there – if you can’t find an answer there, please let me know.

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