2018 PROPOSAL FOR A

PAUL D. COVERDELL FELLOWS PROGRAM

IN

Graduate Program on the Environment

Master of Environmental Studies

at THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE

Submitted by

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Lab 1, 3018

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**General Information**

1. The Evergreen State College
2. Olympia, Washington
3. Accreditation:
   * Institution accreditation body and last year of accreditation.
   * If different from institution, degree program accreditation body and last year of accreditation

**Proposed Program**

1. Graduate Program on the Environment
2. Master of Environmental Studies (MES)
3. 72 credits
4. 6 quarters over 2 years
5. 100 students / Size and demographics of your program’s student body
6. We can provide up to 4 Coverdell Fellowships each year
7. [MES Program Overview](http://www.evergreen.edu/mes/program) / [MES Catalog](http://www.evergreen.edu/catalog/grad/mes)
8. This partnership is a ideal fit for our program. We have many students interested in environmental issues that cut across national boundaries, as well as environmental problems that are especially acute in the Global South. We would like to increase the number of students with significant international experience in order to broaden the expertise and perspectives of our learning community. / We support international and social justice priorities in our curriculum and partnerships. We devote one quarter of the first-year core sequence to interdisciplinary studies of sustainable development and climate mitigation and adaptation in a course called Ecological and Social Sustainability. We also offer electives such as Kathleen’s course, Ted/Linda’s course, GIS/Advanced GIS with some examples of thesis projects. Why is your program seeking this partnership with the Peace Corps? / Our partnerships provide many opportunities for work to support underrepresented populations, as well as strong training in environmental science and management. SPP with link. WashDOT with link. We also partner with JBLM, GRUB, ??, Capitol Land Trust. Something about the emphasis on broad and diverse partnership to build coalitions and leverage resources. / Our curriculum and pedagogy combine theory and practice, specialization and integration, and individual vision and a cohesive learning community. Our six faculty, who are dedicated full-time to MES, make a concerted effort to improve our model and to share it with other educational leaders in environmental studies. See our recent article, XX, published in the official journal of the Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences LINK TO JESS ARTICLE. (Maximum 300 words—Yikes I’m at 250!)

**Student Selection and Orientation**

1. RPCV must submit official documentation of their Peace Corps Service to be considered for this Fellowship. How will prospective Fellows indicate to the admissions team that they are qualified returned Peace Corps volunteers (RPCVs) who desire to be considered for the Coverdell Fellowship?

* *Note:* To verify that applicants are successful RPCVs, Peace Corps encourages partners to request that RPCV applicants submit their official Peace Corps Description of Service along with their application.

1. Prospective Coverdell Fellows will be evaluated by the faculty Admissions Committee and recommended for fellowships based on the overall strength of their application. How will Coverdell Fellows applicants be evaluated and selected?
2. Students will be notified of their admission status in mid-February; fellowship and scholarship announcements will be made in mid-March. As compared to notifications about general acceptance into the degree program, when will selected Fellows be notified that they have been awarded the Coverdell Fellowship?
3. Fellows will be provided a detailed letter outlining the requirements of their fellowship when they are notified of selection in March. Orientation with the Internship sponsor will happen in August or September. Once selected, how will Coverdell Fellows be oriented to the requirements and expectations for their Coverdell Fellowship?

**Financial Support**

1. Outline your program’s cost for a student who is *not* receiving a Coverdell Fellowship or other financial aid (Numbers based on 2017-18 tuition. Subject to change):

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **With*out* a Coverdell Fellowship** | | | | |
|  | Tuition per semester quarter | Mandatory student fees | Total cost per year | Total estimated cost of degree |
| In-state student | $3193 | $729 | $10308 | $20616 |
| Out-of-state student | $7379 | $729 | $22866 | $45732 |

1. Outline the financial support to be provided to Coverdell Fellows

* Type of support to be provided (e.g., tuition discount, scholarship, out-of-state tuition waiver, federal work study, graduate/research/teaching assistantship, health insurance, free student housing, book stipend, etc.)
* In-state Coverdell Fellows would be eligible for a $3000 tuition waiver; Out-of-state Coverdell Fellows would be eligible for a $6000 tuition waivers.
  + Both in-state and out-of-state Fellows are eligible for a paid internship with compensation averaging $13,000 per year.
  + If you offer benefits outside of tuition or mandatory fees, please list the benefits and their financial value. You may include these figures in the final column below, listing the value of the Coverdell Fellowship.
  + Cost of program with a Coverdell Fellowship (discount must equal at least 25% of tuition and mandatory fees for both in- and out-of-state students):

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***With* a Coverdell Fellowship** | | | | | |
|  | Tuition per semester quarter | Mandatory student fees | Total cost per year | Total estimated cost of degree | Total financial value of Coverdell Fellowship (including all forms of financial support) |
| In-state student | $2193 | $729 | $7308 | $14616 | $16000 |
| Out-of-state student | $5379 | $729 | $16866 | $33732 | $22000 |

* + Are there additional scholarships or assistantships for which Coverdell Fellows would be eligible to apply? Yes. See our [Financial Aid page](http://www.evergreen.edu/mes/costs) to see all available awards.

1. Will you waive the application fee for RPCVs applying to the proposed program? Yes. We waive the application fee for all RPCV who request a waiver and provide appropriate documentation of their service.

**The Internship**

1. How will Fellows find and secure appropriate internships? Who will be involved? What role will individual Fellows play in this process?
2. At minimum, how many total hours will Fellows spend in their internships?
3. How will you monitor Fellows’ completion of their internships?
4. In rare instances, Coverdell Fellows are unable to complete the internship portion of their Fellowship due to circumstances beyond their control. How will you assure that such Fellows still accomplish the internship’s goals of supporting an impoverished or socially disadvantaged community and deepening the Fellows’ educational experience?

**Administrative Support**

1. Coverdell Fellows coordinator (faculty/staff who will act as liaison to Peace Corps and work directly with students):
   * Andrea Martin, Assistant Director, Master of Environmental Studies Program
   * Lab 1020, The Evergreen State College, 2700 Evergreen Parkway, Olympia, WA 98505; 360-867-6225; [martina@evergreen.edu](mailto:martina@evergreen.edu)
2. Please list every major responsibility related to the Fellows program that the coordinator will assume. Be sure to include:
   * Communicate with prospective Fellows during the application process for the MES program, and for the Coverdell Fellowship
   * Notify prospective Fellows of their admission status and receipt of any program support and financial aid (including Coverdell Fellowship)
   * Manage orientation process, including supporting students in finding housing, registering for classes, and navigating Evergreen’s resource areas. Lead and facilitate Orientation event for new students in September.
   * Liaise with internship sponsors to help Fellow find best project fit
   * Meet regularly with Fellow
3. How (and how frequently) will the coordinator communicate with Coverdell Fellows while on campus? The coordinator will communicate with the Fellow regularly via email, and in person on a quarterly basis, and more frequently if requested.
4. In the event that the named coordinator goes on leave or transitions from this position, what is the name and title of the individual who will cover the coordinator’s responsibilities in the short term, and how will you select and train a permanent replacement? Kevin Francis, MES Program Director. The incoming Assistant Director will take on coordinator responsibilities, and will be trained by Andrea Martin and Kevin Francis.
5. The Memorandum of Agreement is co-signed by Peace Corps’ Director and a senior administrator at the university who has authority to sign for the whole institution. Who do you anticipate being your signatory, and what is your strategy for securing that signature should your proposal be accepted? Jen Drake, Provost….strategy??

**Recruitment and Promotion**

1. How will your program promote the Coverdell Fellows program to prospective students? The Coverdell Fellowship will be advertised on our [Costs and Financial Aid](http://www.evergreen.edu/mes/costs) webpage. We will also promote this new opportunity through our [program blog](http://www.evergreen.edu/mes/blog) and social media channels. Last, we will reach out to MES alumni who are also RPCVs or their support in sharing this opportunity.
2. How will you engage with your [local Peace Corps recruiter](http://www.peacecorps.gov/recruiters/) or Regional Recruitment Office to support your outreach activities? We will reach out to our closest recruiter, Tamorie Mayweather, to help us spread the word about our opportunity, and provide her with program information (brochures, stickers, examples of student work) to share with prospective Fellows.
3. When called upon, Coverdell Fellows are expected to lightly assist the Peace Corps in relevant recruitment or placement activities. How will you support Coverdell Fellows in meeting this expectation? Fellows will have program schedules and syllabi far in advance, so should be able to plan accordingly if Peace Corps requires support. Accommodation can be given for late assignments or missed internship days with some notice.

**Appendices**

* Please include one letter of support from the school’s provost, dean or department chair confirming the ability to offer the proposed scholarships. WRITE LETTER FROM JEN DRAKE
* Please include two letters of support from community-based organizations working with impoverished and/or socially disadvantaged Americans that are interested in hosting Coverdell Fellows as interns. SPP. DOC. GRUB?

**PROPOSAL CHECKLIST**

As you prepare your proposal for submission, use this checklist to assure that your proposal is as strong as possible:

* Did you answer all 30 proposal questions fully, concisely and accurately?
* Does the proposal adhere to the required format?
* Considering [other current Fellows programs](https://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/university-programs/graduate-school-partners/) in similar disciplines, does the proposal present a financial package that will be clear and compelling to prospective Fellows?
* Does the proposal depict a robust infrastructure for program management, with the coordinator’s responsibilities identified and the position embedded within a supportive department?
* Have you confirmed that your anticipated signatory will be willing to sign the MOA without unauthorized edits?
* Have you included a letter of support from the school’s department chair or dean confirming the capacity to offer the discussed scholarships?
* Have you included two letters of support from community-based organizations working with underserved communities in the U.S. that are interested in hosting Coverdell Fellows as interns?

Be sure not to miss the submission deadline! **5:00 p.m. (PST) on Tuesday, May 1, 2018**. One electronic copy of the proposal in PDF format must be submitted to the Peace Corps online at [this link](http://pcrmweb.peacecorps.gov/cn/aflq5/coverdellfellows) (http://pcrmweb.peacecorps.gov/cn/aflq5/coverdellfellows).