**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

In 2013-14, more than 70% of MES students received non-loan funding (scholarships, tuition waivers, need grants). The average amount ranged from 24% of tuition for nonresidents and 35% of tuition for residents. You would have already received a letter from MES or an email from Financial Aid if you received one of these awards. 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 gave out about $9,000 this Spring quarter to several students. It is likely we will have funding to do this again next Spring.

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.

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. 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, 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/>. All MES admits who pay their tuition deposit will be added to our student listserv in the near future – this is how we send out job and internship announcements. 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>.

OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Just like the jobs we send out, we also hear about scholarships and fellowships throughout the year. I suggest that you get proactive and look at our different lists of scholarships that are out there before waiting for us to tell you about them– you never know if you don’t try! To see what’s out there, go to <http://www.evergreen.edu/mes/financial.htm#nonloan> and then scroll down to “Non-MES Funding.”

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/financial.htm#research>. 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: <http://www.evergreen.edu/mes/sustainabilityfellowship.htm>.

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>.

WORK-STUDY

Work-study is not available for grad students except in very small amounts that MES uses to pay for its student employees.

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.

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 14-15 for residents taking 8 credits is approximately $21,747 (12 credits is $23,682) and for nonresidents it is approximately $31,476 (12 credits is $35,844).

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/1415forms.htm#appeal>

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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