

**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 receive 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 soon if they aren’t already there. Once your student account has been activated, you can login to your my.evergreen.edu student portal to view and accept your financial aid electronically.

**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 or WASFA by Evergreen’s priority deadline and have maximum need). The Evergreen Need Grant 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 and external scholarships, 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 up to $20,500 and you can ask for more through Graduate PLUS 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 (which many of you may if you’re hoping to complete the program in 2 years), you should let them know because it increases your budget. You can increase your budget for expenses such as childcare and transportation or even a new computer with the Financial Aid office at any time by emailing [finaid@evergreen.edu](mailto:finaid@evergreen.edu).

**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. A large number of our students take advantage of these opportunities that pay anywhere from $17 to $20 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 receive MES Weekly Wednesday Updates and Reminders from Averi with these opportunities. We also list them on our jobs blog: <http://sites.evergreen.edu/mesweekly/>. Please subscribe to the blog for weekly emails with the latest postings every Thursday afternoon. Besides the jobs blog, there is a student job search hosted by Evergreen which is located on the Handshake platformhttps://app.joinhandshake.com/login. Finally, don’t forget to look at Evergreen for employment opportunities: https://evergreen.peopleadmin.com/.

**Work-Study**

Work-study is limited for grad students but you can inquire about availability of this funding resource each academic year.

**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: <https://www.evergreen.edu/academics/graduate-studies/master-environmental-studies/student-resources>. One great funding opportunity is the MES Thesis Fund. This fund is intended to reduce the financial burden of completing the MES thesis requirement by reimbursing students for expenses that are necessary for successful completion of thesis research. Requests of up to $1000 will be considered. However, we expect most awards to be closer to $250-500 and we may grant partial awards to distribute research funds to more students.

**Residency**

If you have questions about Washington residency please see <http://evergreen.edu/registration/residency> or email [residency@evergreen.edu](mailto: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 finaid@evergreen.edu. If you have questions about MES awards, please review our website: https://www.evergreen.edu/admissions-and-aid/graduate-student/cost-aid-mes. There’s a lot of good info there – if you can’t find an answer there, please let me know.

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