

Request to Extend Thesis Research

Graduate Program on the Environment
The Evergreen State College

Graduate students who require additional time to complete their thesis work may request an extension for the Summer or Fall quarter immediately following the Spring Thesis Workshop. The extension must be requested by the student and approved by the reader and the MES Director. Starting in 2017, students who are approved to continue work on their thesis will be signed up for a one-quarter extension and pay an extension fee of \$500.

If the student does not complete the thesis by the end of the requested quarter, it may result in the student receiving No Credit for their thesis and the student being withdrawn from the program. Reader: Please attach any further stipulations for thesis completion.

I, Lauren Taylor, request an extension to complete my thesis in (choose only one quarter):

☐ Summer Quarter 2018 ☐ Fall Quarter 2018 ☒ Spring 2018

I also understand that I must pay the \$500 fee to extend my thesis work for one quarter.

I have read the information outlined in the MES Student Handbook about the services I can use at Evergreen while I am a thesis extension student.

I have attached my answers to the questions below to this form.

1. Describe your progress on your thesis thus far.
2. Describe the reason(s) for not completing your thesis by this quarter's deadline.
3. Provide a detailed plan for completing your thesis during the next quarter.

Approved: _____
Thesis Reader Date

Approved: _____
Director Date

1. Describe your progress on your thesis thus far.

Since the beginning of the school year, I have been asking questions about what equity barriers are present in the RainWise program. This past quarter I identified several barriers by speaking with members of the RainWise team, outside consultants and employees of City of Seattle and King County. I continued my work on case studies to better understand how the rebate process works and beyond.

One of the most obvious barriers is that RainWise rebates have to be counted as taxable income. This could put low income individuals into a higher tax bracket and/or they might not be able to pay the taxes associated with this increase, which is usually an average of \$4000. I found out that many homeowners are not aware of this requirement until they have already completed their RainWise paperwork. Also, sometime the 1099 for the installation does not always make it to the customer the following tax year.

There is several moving parts and stakeholders involved in the process and I hope to figure out how this barrier can be removed, or at least better understood. I have interviews scheduled in April with a Somali group that decided against RainWise after they found out about the tax issues, an accountant, a City of Seattle employee, and Stewardship Partners to talk about equity and why it is important to examine every barrier. From these interviews, I will pull trends and analysis.

1. Describe the reason(s) for not completing your thesis by this quarter's deadline.

As I dug deeper into my case study work last quarter, this barrier kept coming up. I chose to not ignore it, despite being complex. I finally feel that I have a good thesis and do not regret taking my time to complete it. I have to manage my thesis and work and that has always been very challenging for me. I was tasked with writing a grant early this year for my consulting firm and this doubled my workload. In the end, it is my fault that it is not finished – so I thank everyone for their patience.

2. Provide a detailed plan for completing your thesis during the next quarter.

I have the interviews in April, then will analyze them qualitatively, write a discussion, present and be done!