

Mary Gates Endowment for Students

Leadership Scholarships

Center for Experiential Learning | Undergraduate Academic Affairs | University of Washington
120 Mary Gates Hall | <http://www.washington.edu/uaa/mge> | mgates@u.washington.edu | 206-616-3925

Are you...

- Involved in an activity or project?
- Passionate about an issue?
- Working toward change?

Apply for a Mary Gates Leadership Scholarship.

What is a Mary Gates Scholarship?

Mary Gates Leadership Scholarships support students who are involved in activities or projects that excite them, challenge them, and empower them to grow as leaders. We seek applicants who are imaginative and passionate, and who can envision learning and leadership growth through their activity or project. You may be already involved in a project or activity or planning something new. **Any full-time UW undergraduate may apply.**

If you receive a Mary Gates Leadership Scholarship, you will receive **\$2,000 a quarter**, for **two or three quarters**, depending on the length of your involvement. The scholarship is intended to allow you to devote yourself to your project without worrying about work, so it can be used to pay for living expenses, tuition, project costs, or any other expenses. Recipients of Mary Gates Leadership Scholarships are part of a community of accomplished and driven students and alumni.

But what is *leadership*? What makes a leader?

The Mary Gates Leadership application asks you to explain what leadership means to YOU. Following your definition, we ask you to explain how your leadership project or activity will help you develop as a leader.

Past Leadership Scholarship recipients have been involved in many capacities with a program or activity - you don't need to be a founder or president of an organization. We appreciate all levels of involvement as long as applicants demonstrate an active interest in their project and leadership development.

What are benefits of receiving a Mary Gates Leadership Scholarship?

The benefits of receiving a Mary Gates Scholarship go beyond financial support. A Mary Gates Leadership Scholarship will support you to:

- Receive \$2,000 a quarter for two or three quarters (\$6,000 or \$8,000)
- Develop leadership skills that will serve you now and in your future
- Devote more time to an activity that interests you
- Build a meaningful mentorship relationship with a community leader that can support you and your project
- Reflect on your own experiences and understanding of leadership
- Join the esteemed community of Mary Gates Scholars. Scholarship recipients are frequently invited to
 - Meet with campus and community leaders
 - Speak and participate in various campus, fundraising and community events
 - Attend workshops and additional special events

Who is eligible to apply?

- **Candidates must be UW undergraduate students registered for at least 12 credits and pursuing a bachelor's degree.** *Candidates do not need to be U.S. citizens. UW Bothell and UW Tacoma students may apply.*
- Applicants must be planning or involved in a project of their own design in the quarter they apply.

How and when do I apply?

1. There is an application deadline every quarter. Before you apply, we encourage you to attend an information session to learn more. We also recommend that you meet with a Mary Gates Endowment staff member to discuss your ideas and the scholarship. Email mgates@u.washington.edu or stop by Mary Gates Hall 120 to schedule an appointment.
2. Once you have decided on a project or activity that you would like to pursue, identify a mentor that can support you throughout your project. Speak with your mentor about submitting a letter of support on your behalf. Please visit our website to learn more about the mentorship aspect of the leadership process and who you might ask to be your mentor.
3. Prepare an essay for your application. This is the main component of the application. The essay prompt for the Leadership Scholarship is as follows:

Please describe the activity or project you propose to undertake and how this experience will challenge you and allow you to grow as a leader. Include a discussion of why this initiative matters to you, what you expect to distinctively contribute, and your goals for developing your leadership potential. What do you need to learn about leadership and about being a leader yourself? Consider how your mentor and the context of your project will provide the support you will need to meet your learning goals.

4. Visit our website at www.washington.edu/uaa/mge and follow the link to apply. After you start your application, you will be able to save your work and come back later to continue working on it before you submit your application.

What is the application review process?

A panel of 3-4 reviewers reads leadership applications. The panel meets and discusses each application and selected applicants are invited to meet with a small group of committee members. All applicants receive notification via email and all applicants, funded or not funded, are invited to receive feedback on their applications and interviews, if applicable. The leadership scholarship review process takes 3 to 6 weeks.

How does the Mary Gates Scholarship affect my financial aid?

If you are currently receiving financial aid and are named a Mary Gates Scholar, it is possible that you may not receive the full amount of your scholarship. Recipients of need-based aid cannot receive funds from any source in excess of their calculated financial need. In most cases, a Mary Gates scholarship will provide for any unmet need or reduce the amount of other aid you have (usually unearned work study and/or undisbursed loans will be affected first). We recommend that you visit a counselor in the Office of Student Financial Aid in 105 Schmitz Hall to determine the potential impact on your current aid package should you receive a Mary Gates scholarship.

We encourage you to visit our website and speak with our staff for useful information about applying for a Mary Gates Leadership Scholarship.

The University of Washington reaffirms its policy of equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or Vietnam era veteran in accordance with University policy and applicable federal and state statutes and regulations. The University of Washington is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation in the application process contact the department at 206-616-3925, mgates@u.washington.edu or the Disabled Student Services office at least ten days in advance at 206-543-8924/V, 206-543-8925/TTY, or e-mail uwdss@u.washington.edu.