

# Mary Gates Endowment for Students

# Leadership and Research Scholarships

Center for Experiential Learning | Undergraduate Academic Affairs | University of Washington  
120 Mary Gates Hall | <http://exp.washington.edu/mge> | [mgates@u.washington.edu](mailto:mgates@u.washington.edu) | 206-616-3925

Funded by the Mary Gates Endowment for Students, Mary Gates Leadership and Research Scholarships are available to qualified UW undergraduates through competitive application processes. These scholarships are intended to free your time from an unrelated job and enable you to fully devote yourself to your research or leadership project. You may apply for either a two- or three quarter scholarship, depending on the length of your involvement, paid in \$1,500 increments per quarter. You can use your scholarship at your discretion to cover any living and educational expenses.

Students receiving Mary Gates Scholarships are named Mary Gates Scholars and join a community of accomplished and driven students and alumni. Mary Gates Scholars enjoy opportunities to meet with campus and community leaders and participate in special events and are required to present their projects at the Undergraduate Research Symposium or the Spring Celebration of Service and Leadership.

## Leadership Scholarships

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 imaginative and passionate applicants who can articulate their learning goals and hope to gain leadership skills through an activity or project. You may already be involved in a project or activity or planning something new.

### *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 of leadership, we ask you to explain how a particular 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 the 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. If you could use some help vetting your ideas or framing your application, we encourage you to talk with us at an information session, workshop, or at an individual appointment.

## Research Scholarships

Mary Gates Research Scholarships can support you to engage in a research project of your choice—helping you to discover, articulate, and contribute your talents and ideas with the guidance of a faculty mentor. These scholarships enable you to deepen your involvement and understanding of a topic and to engage in the intellectual endeavors of the University. UW undergraduates from any discipline may apply (including those in the arts, humanities, social sciences).

If you would like to become involved in research but haven't yet found or pursued a research project that's right for you, our colleagues at the Undergraduate Research Program (URP) are happy to help you make those initial steps. Email [urp@u.washington.edu](mailto:urp@u.washington.edu) or drop by the Center for Experiential Learning in Mary Gates Hall 120.

## Spring 2009

There will be no spring Mary Gates Leadership Scholarship application process. The next application deadlines for Leadership and Research Scholarships are to be determined.

You are invited to schedule an individual advising appointment. Please email [mgates@u.washington.edu](mailto:mgates@u.washington.edu)

Or drop-in during the following office hours:  
Wednesday, April 22, 12:30-2:30, MGH 120  
Friday, May 1, 2:30-4:30, MGH 120  
Monday, May 4, 3:30-5:30, MGH 120

# Mary Gates Leadership and Research Scholarships

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## Eligibility

- **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. Students from UW Bothell, UW Seattle, and UW Tacoma may apply.*
- Research scholarship applicants must be engaged in research with faculty by the beginning of the quarter in which they apply.
- Leadership scholarship applicants must be planning or involved in a project or activity in the quarter they apply.
- Applicants must engage a mentor who agrees to guide them through at least the application process and award period.
- There are some eligibility restrictions for students who have previously received a Research or Leadership Scholarship. Please see our website for details.

## How do I apply?

1. Consider which scholarship you will apply for, and what your research or leadership project will be.
2. Identify a mentor and speak with them about submitting a letter of support on your behalf. When you apply, you will be asked to list your mentor's name and email address, and once you submit your application, your mentor will be sent an email requesting a letter of support to be submitted within one week. Please visit our website to learn more about the mentor relationship and who you might ask to be your mentor.
3. Visit our website at <http://exp.washington.edu/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 are finished and ready to submit.
4. Prepare an essay for your application. This is the main component of the application. The essay prompts for the Research and Leadership Scholarships are as follows:
  - **Leadership:** *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.*
  - **Research:** *In your own words, describe your research and what you and your faculty mentor hope to learn from your work. Discuss your motivations for getting involved in this research project and how this work contributes to your education and to the development of your future plans.*

## Application review process

A committee of three faculty and staff reads each student application. (Applications for Leadership and Research Scholarships are reviewed by separate committees.) Selected candidates for Leadership Scholarships are invited to meet with a small group of committee members. Applicants of Research Scholarships are evaluated based on a set of criteria posted on the website. All applicants receive email notification of the final decision and are invited to receive feedback on their applications. Crucial to the process of applying for Mary Gates Scholarships is the practice of reflection and articulation of goals. Seeking feedback from peers, mentors and the committee can be useful in your development as a leader and scholar, regardless of which scholarship you apply for. Our staff and committee members encourage you to seek this feedback. The review process for Leadership Scholarships can take between 3 and 6 weeks while the applicants for Research Scholarships can expect to receive notice closer 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. 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.

*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](mailto: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 [uwds@u.washington.edu](mailto:uwds@u.washington.edu).*