

Announcement to Students
The Wyss Scholars Program for the Conservation of the American West
Year 2020 – 2021

The University of Montana
Environmental Studies Program, Franke College of Forestry and Conservation,
and Blewett School of Law

The Wyss Foundation is a private, charitable foundation dedicated to land conservation in the Intermountain West. **The Wyss Scholars Program** seeks to identify and nurture a new generation of leaders on western land conservation issues by providing financial support to Master's degree students who are enrolled in participating programs/departments named above, and who are committed to careers as practicing conservationists of western land, primarily with a federal or state land management agency or a non-profit conservation group working in the region.

Up to three Wyss Scholars will be selected from the Environmental Studies Program, the Franke College of Forestry and Conservation (Resource Conservation and Wildlife Biology), and the Blewett School of Law on the basis of their leadership potential, commitment to furthering land conservation in the Intermountain West, commitment to pursuing a career as a practicing nonprofit or public-sector conservationist, and their academic strength. Selected students must be registered as full-time students and consider taking one course from the graduate EVST engagement requirement courses (activism courses); one course in land use planning, natural resource law or environmental law; and one course in negotiation, conflict resolution, collaboration.

Application Procedure:

Open to all matriculated Master's degree candidates with United States citizenship or permanent residency status who have: entered the CHS or FCFC participating programs during Fall 2019 or the School of Law during Fall 2018 and will return Fall 2020. Students may submit applications for consideration by the Selection Committee (consisting of EVST, FCFC, and School of Law Faculty and a representative from the Wyss Foundation).

Application Time Schedule:

By December 20, 2019, Noon, Mountain Standard Time	Submit e-mail indicating intent to apply to julie.tompkins@mso.umt.edu
By January 3, 2020, Noon, Mountain Standard Time	Submit materials via a <u>single</u> PDF document to julie.tompkins@mso.umt.edu
By week of January 13, 2020	Interviewees will be determined
By January 17, 2020 TBD	Interviews (interviews are in person ONLY)

Selection Time Frame:

Every attempt will be made to have selection decisions decided and announced early in the Spring 2020 semester.

Application Items Submission Chart: Combine all checked items into one document, save as a PDF and email to julie.tompkins@mso.umt.edu Follow instructions below, regarding the letter of recommendation. All items must be received by the application deadline. If you are unable to combine all items, need to submit in another format, or otherwise need assistance, please contact Julie at 243-6284 or by email.

Application Item	
Completed cover sheet including the name of the faculty member who can speak most knowledgeably about you as a future Wyss Scholar - see form on page 4.	✓
1 or 2 page resume	✓
No more than a 500 word essay detailing your past, present, and future commitment to the field of conservation in the U.S. Intermountain West and how becoming a Wyss Scholar will enhance your career development in the conservation field.	✓
Unofficial grade reports from all University of Montana programs.	✓
An outline of your remaining general course of study .	✓
The Summer 2020 internship possibilities you are exploring (maximum of one page).	✓
Need Analysis for Scholarships - see form on page 5.	✓
A letter of recommendation concerning you as a future conservation leader emailed from the recommender to julie.tompkins@mso.umt.edu with a hard copy sent in the mail to: Julie Tompkins, UM – EVST, 32 Campus Drive, Missoula, MT 59812	← see submission directions in column to the left

Awards will include the following:

- ❑ Tuition and educational assistance – MS students: Up to \$7,198.38/semester non-resident; \$4,590.75/semester resident (Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021), amount dependent on residency status. If student already has tuition support through another entity for a semester, they will not receive additional support from their Wyss award..Law students: Up to \$8901.59 /semester non-resident; \$4874.91/semester resident (Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021), amount dependent on residency status. If student already has tuition support through another entity for a semester, they will not receive additional support from their Wyss award
- ❑ Stipend (\$5,000) for a summer internship with a nonprofit or public-sector conservation organization dedicated to the Intermountain West;
- ❑ A post-graduation award (\$10,797.57 x 2 payments, plus 20% tax relief), toward repayment of student loans for Wyss Scholars who work in qualifying employment devoted to furthering land conservation in the American West after graduation;
- ❑ Membership in the Wyss Scholars network;
- ❑ Ability to propose professional development or training opportunities for Scholars and other students for funding up to \$3,000.

Here is some additional information to help with preparation of the application and to understand the guidelines the selection committee will use:

The purpose of the Wyss Scholars Program is to identify and nurture a new generation of leaders on western land conservation issues by providing financial support to students who are enrolled in either the CHS or FCFC participating degree programs, or the School of Law, who are committed to careers as practicing conservationists of western land, either with a federal, tribal or state land management agency or a non-profit conservation group working in the region.

For the purposes of the Wyss Scholars Program, West includes only the states of Arizona, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Colorado, Oregon, Washington, and California.

Three Wyss Scholars will be selected from the best candidates available on the basis of dedication, need, and merit. There shall be no expectation or quota that the award be given to equal numbers of a specific department's students in any one year or over the life of the Wyss Scholars Program.

A. *Dedication* includes a demonstrated interest in pursuing a career furthering land conservation in the West, including a stated intention to work after graduation with a non-profit organization or government agency focusing on land conservation policy and management in the West. Prior environmental experience would be a plus, but is not essential. Ideally, candidates will have a specific conservation project or goal that they can cite for which they care passionately and in which they were meaningfully involved.

B. *Need* includes the financial burden assumed by the student to secure the master's degree.

C. *Merit* is measured by undergraduate grades, graduate school scores and grades, and recommendations. In addition, recipients should have demonstrated leadership ability, integrity and outstanding character.

**For further information
please contact either**

Julie Tompkins, (406) 243-6284
julie.tompkins@mso.umt.edu

or

Len Broberg, (406) 243-5209
len.broberg@mso.umt.edu

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The University of Montana
Environmental Studies Program, Franke College of Forestry and Conservation,
and Blewitt School of Law

Application Cover Sheet Year 2020-2021

[Please type or print legibly]

Your name: _____ Date: _____

Are you a U.S. citizen or permanent resident? Yes _____ No _____

Enclosure Checklist: *Be sure to have your name on all materials that are submitted.*

- This completed cover sheet
- 1 or 2 page **resume**
- No more than a 500 word **essay** detailing your past, present, and future commitment to the field of conservation in the U.S. Intermountain West and how becoming a Wyss Scholar will enhance your career development in the conservation field
- Unofficial **grade reports** from all University of Montana programs
- An outline of your **remaining general course of study**
- The **summer 2019 internship possibilities** you are exploring (maximum of one page).
- Financial information
- A **letter of recommendation** concerning you as a future conservation leader.

Name of the author: _____

- The **name of the faculty member** who can speak most knowledgeably about you as a future Wyss Scholar.

Faculty member: _____

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Need Analysis for Scholarships

Student Name _____

Complete the student column.
If 2019 tax information is not yet available you may use 2018 information and estimate.

I. Family Information	Student
Family Size	_____
Number of family members attending post-secondary institutions	_____
Marital status	_____
State of legal residence	_____

II. Financial Information (use 2019 tax information if available)	Student
Adjusted gross income for past calendar year.....	_____
Welfare, AFDC or ADC.....	_____
Child support (for all children).....	_____
Social Security benefits (include Supplemental Security Income).....	_____

III. Assets	Student
Total amount of cash, savings and checking accounts as of today	_____
Other support you will receive at any time during your enrollment as a graduate student at UM Identify the source, the semester you will receive it and the amount below for each such source. If the amount is uncertain or unknown to you at this time indicate below or on the reverse what details you do know.	_____