



W COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON



ISLANDWOOD GRADUATE PROGRAM IN EDUCATION FOR ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY

Preparing environmental educators to ignite change in our schools, communities, and the planet.

Offered in partnership with the University of Washington College of Education, the IslandWood Graduate Program in Education for Environment and Community is a 10-month immersive residency in justice-oriented environmental education; experiential, student-centered learning; and culturally responsive teaching and curriculum development.

Our program fulfills the prerequisites and can provide experiences that enhance your application to the highly competitive Master's in Teaching in Elementary Education (ELTEP) program at the University of Washington.

The program is specifically designed to foster a close, interconnected learning community, and as such, has a maximum number of 32 graduate students per year.

Our alumni commonly work in these fields: classroom teaching and administration, nonprofit management and leadership, informal learning centers such as zoos or aquariums, research and teaching in higher education, and sustainable food cultivation and management.



LOGISTICS & SCHEDULE

Program Dates

The 10-month residency runs from the third week of August to mid-June and closely follows the University of Washington's academic calendar.

Orientation

The first six weeks of the program focus on establishing a sense of place, building community, and learning

skills to effectively deliver [IslandWood’s School Overnight Program](#) (SOP) for 4th - 6th grade students -- the graduate program teaching practicum. Graduate students work closely with faculty and staff to learn local natural and cultural history, practice science inquiry, and build collaborative problem-solving skills. Most orientation days run 9am – 5pm with some evenings (no more than once a week) and occasional optional weekend activities.

Biweekly Schedule

The graduate class is divided into two cohorts that alternate teaching and learning synthesis weeks.

During their **synthesis weeks**, cohorts focus on coursework and reflecting upon their teaching practice. The two cohorts attend class together every Thursday evening and all-day Friday.

During **practicum teaching weeks**, graduate students lead a field group of 10-15 School Overnight Program students. With the guidance of mentors, graduate students plan and prepare lessons, set personal teaching goals and student learning goals, develop assessment tools, practice management techniques, and apply theory from graduate coursework.

During **both synthesis and practicum weeks**, graduate students meet with a [mentor](#) who is paired with them individually for the duration of the program. The mentor’s role is to support graduate students in sustaining their identity, history, beliefs, values, and vision of education while developing a truly reflective teaching practice. We believe that intentional, individualized mentoring plays an integral part in supporting our graduate students in their journey to become exceptional educators for an equitable and sustainable world.

Weekends

There are no mandatory activities, classes, or teaching on weekends. Graduate students and staff will sometimes plan optional social events and camping or adventure trips on weekends and holidays. Campus employment opportunities are also available on weekends.

Typical Practicum Teaching Week Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday		
9:00 – 10:45	Practicum/School Overnight Program (SOP) Logistics Prep	Practicum – Teaching SOP	Practicum – Teaching SOP	Practicum – Teaching SOP	Class 3		
10:45- 11:30	Break						
11:30-12:00	Welcome SOP students, greet buses, unload luggage						
12:00-12:30	Practicum – Teaching SOP					Break	Break
12:30- 1:00							
1:00- 1:30							
1:30- 2:00							
2:00- 2:30							
2:30- 3:00							
3:00- 3:30							
3:30-4:00							
4:00 – 5:30	Break	Break	Break	Class 4			
5:30-6:00	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner				
6:00-6:30							
6:30-7:00							
7:00-7:30	Practicum – Teaching SOP Evening Program	Practicum – Teaching SOP Evening Program	Practicum – Teaching SOP Evening Program		Class 1		
7:30-8:00							
8:00- 8:30							
					Dinner/Break		
					Class 2		

Typical Synthesis Week Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00-9:30					Class 3
9:30-10:00					
10:00-10:30			Applied Learning	Class 1	
10:30-11:00					
11:00- 11:30		Writing Center			
11:30-12:00					
12:00-12:30					Break
12:30- 1:00					Community meeting/ Affinity Group/Meet with CEO/Book Club/etc.
1:00- 1:30		Office Hours	JuST Practices		Break
1:30- 2:00					Class 4
2:00- 2:30					
2:30- 3:00			Researcher in Residence		
3:00- 3:30		Mentoring/Practicum		SOP Forecast	
3:30-4:00					
4:00- 4:30					
4:30- 5:00					
5:00- 5:30					
5:30-6:00				Class 2	
6:00-6:30					
6:30-7:00					
7:00-7:30					
7:30-8:00					
8:00- 8:30					



COURSEWORK

Courses are taught by University of Washington faculty, many of whom are IslandWood staff, and reflect a range of topics, including:

- Teaching & Learning
- Child and Human Development
- Social, Cultural & Philosophical Foundations of Education
- Natural History & Ecology
- Informal Science Pedagogies
- Math Education
- Integrating Technology in Teaching & Learning
- Qualitative Methods in Educational Research
- Effective School Partnerships
- Climate Change, Climate Justice, and Emotionality

Up to 31 credits accredited by the University of Washington can be applied toward the completion of the M.Ed. at the University of Washington.



TUITION, HOUSING & FEES

Tuition for the 2023-2024 year is \$27,010 and includes:

- A 10-month, 600-hour teaching practicum with extensive, [1:1 weekly mentoring](#)
- 10 graduate courses taught by IslandWood and University of Washington faculty
- Up to 31 credits toward a Master's degree at the University of Washington (These credits also transfer to most other universities and colleges.)
- Professional development and applied learning workshops in a range of subjects
- Low faculty to student ratio, with a cohort maximum of 32 students
- Meals on weeks grad students are teaching practicum (Monday dinner through Thursday lunch)

Housing

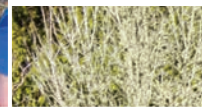
Housing on [our graduate campus](#) for the 2023-2024 year is \$7,500 and includes:

- Furnished private room
- Bathroom connecting two private rooms
- Common space with full kitchen, living area, study room, and laundry facilities
- All utilities, including WiFi

Our campus is located on 250 acres of forest on Bainbridge Island, Washington, just a 35-minute ferry from Seattle!

Fees

Students are responsible for service and activity fees charged by the University of Washington. For the 2023-2024 year, these fees amounted to approximately \$2,195 and are subject to change by the University of Washington. [See the 2023-24 tuition and fee schedule.](#)





“The IslandWood program combines so many of the things that I am passionate about - nature, working with kids, social justice. Through my teaching I now try my hardest to recognize and uplift the multiple ways of knowing and understanding the natural world.”

- Criqui, IslandWood Graduate Program Alum

STIPEND, SCHOLARSHIPS, AID & WORK OPPORTUNITIES

We are committed to making the IslandWood Graduate Program accessible and [offer scholarships, service awards, and tuition discounts](#) to applicants.

Stipend

Due to the time-intensive nature of the program, all enrolled students are given a monthly stipend to offset basic living expenses while attending the program. For the 2023-2024 academic year, the stipend is \$500 for each of the 10 months of the program, totaling \$5,000 for the year. This stipend amount of \$5,000 has been set for the 2023-2024 year as well but is subject to change in future years.

Scholarships

IslandWood offers the following scholarship opportunities to help put graduate studies within reach of all students and to increase the diversity of the education field.

- **The Robert P. Karr Scholarship** - Applications open January 1. This scholarship awards \$20,000 to five students in the IslandWood Graduate Program each year. The award is open to BIPOC students, first-generation college graduates, and those who demonstrate financial need, prioritized in that order. The application deadline is May 1 to align with our final priority deadline and UW’s May deadline. Learn more [here](#).
- **Scholarships for candidates from underrepresented communities in the education field.** We encourage qualified candidates to complete and submit the relevant sections of the IslandWood Aid application.
- **Scholarships for candidates demonstrating financial need.** We encourage qualified candidates to complete and submit the relevant sections of the IslandWood Aid application.

Scholarship applications are reviewed separately from admission applications to ensure that admissions decisions are need-blind. Please submit your scholarship application within three weeks of application deadlines so that if you are accepted into the program and awarded a scholarship, we can include scholarship award information in your admission offer.

Students may also contact the [University of Washington](#) for more information on grants and scholarship opportunities for graduate students.

Service Awards

We offer service awards to students affiliated with partner organizations, military service members and their families, and teachers/paraprofessionals. Eligibility for multiple awards may be combined – up to 15% of the cost of tuition – and are added to scholarship awards. [Read more here](#) about partner organizations and eligibility requirements.

Federal Aid and Loans

As matriculated students of the University of Washington, admitted IslandWood Graduate Program students are eligible for federal student loans. Applicants must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) preferably by January 14, 2024 or as soon as possible. Please contact the [University of Washington's Office of Student Financial Aid \(OSFA\) for more information on how to apply.](#)

Work Opportunities

Paid campus jobs are available through various IslandWood departments and programs. Hours are available for all students who want to work, regardless of financial need. Jobs are applied for and assigned each September during orientation. [Read more about these opportunities here.](#)



ADVANCING JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION (JEDI)

We strive to contribute to a more diverse educator workforce that mirrors the demographics of our society. Our students have a wide variety of lived experiences but a shared commitment to justice-oriented education.

We are actively working to both increase the number of students in the graduate program from non-dominant communities as well as support students in centering JEDI in their own lives, learning, and teaching.

Learn more about IslandWood's commitment to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion as an organization [here](#).

Explore how we incorporate justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion specifically into the graduate program [here](#).



APPLYING TO ISLANDWOOD

The Application Process

Students who want to participate in the IslandWood Graduate Program must also apply and be accepted to the University of Washington College of Education (UW-COE). As separate organizations, we have different admissions processes, staff, and systems. Every effort has been made to align application materials and deadlines. The admissions committees from both organizations are in communication throughout the admissions cycle.

We offer multiple deadlines throughout the admission cycle and will continue to accept applications if space is available. Decisions cannot be made until all application materials have been received. Applicants will be notified of their admission status within eight weeks of the deadline following their submission date. Applications that come in past deadlines will be held for the next review. See more details about application information, requirements, deadlines, and tuition discount deadlines [here](#).

IslandWood is unable to grant student visas to international students and we encourage you to consider other University of Washington education programs that are visa-granting.

Application Materials

Applications to each organization may be completed concurrently. Applicants often finish their IslandWood application first to take advantage of the priority deadline incentives.

Letters of reference are processed through each organization's separate systems so requesting them at the same time may be more convenient. From UW's system, you may request letters from your recommendors prior to submitting your completed application. For IslandWood's system, submitting the application will trigger an automated request to your recommendors.

When reaching out to recommendors, we suggest you let them know they will receive request from two separate systems. The letters themselves can be the same or similar.

“Perhaps the most important lesson I learned at IslandWood was that I didn't need to have a background of sleeping in tents, participating in outdoor recreational sports, or hiking in national parks to be an environmental educator. I just needed to know that I could play a role in connecting people to the environments and communities around them.”

– Ilya S, IslandWood Graduate Program Alum



APPLICATION MATERIALS

TO SUBMIT	DETAILS	ISLANDWOOD APPLICATION	UW-COE APPLICATION
Resume		Required	Required
Statement of Purpose	2 pages, double spaced preferred	The same statement can be used for both applications.	
Dispositions & Growth Submission Choose one of the four dispositions listed on the Island-Wood application	Formats other than writing (visuals, recordings, videos, etc.) are welcomed.	Required	Not required
Personal History Statement Provide insight/explain life circumstances that you would like taken into account during application review.	2 pages maximum	Not required	Not required, but recommended
Unofficial Transcripts Please provide transcripts from each college/university where you received a degree or have completed course-work in the past 5 years)	Minimum 3.0 GPA is preferred.	Required	Required
Letters of Recommendation Please provide 2.	Academic or professional references	The same letters can be used for both applications. Recommenders will upload via two separate prompts. Details are included in each application.	
Graduate Record Exam (GRE) Score	No minimum score cut-off	Not required	Not required
Phone Interview	Interview questions will be provided ahead of time.	Required	N/A
Application Fee		N/A	\$85

