

University of Washington School of Forest Resources

Graduate Applicant FAQ

1. I would like to have an application packet mailed to me.

In an effort to save paper (and trees!) all of our materials are now online, including the application. The funds saved from printing materials allow us to channel more funds directly to support students.

2. I don't have an educational background in forestry. May I still apply to the program?

Yes! Students who are interested in forestry study have backgrounds in a wide variety of areas; they should review the graduate interest area information at

<http://www.sfr.washington.edu/academicPrograms/graduate/applicant.shtml> and check with individual faculty members to determine if there is any preparatory coursework that may help their application.

3. When is the deadline to apply?

December 31st is the deadline to be considered for the following Autumn Quarter admission.

4. I plan to apply by the deadline but what if my application is delayed?

Late applications are reviewed after all on-time applications, on a space available basis. Students should make every effort to complete the application by the deadline.

5. Must I also apply to the UW Graduate School?

Yes, the UW Graduate School manages all incoming applications and our office is notified of all applications. We have access to online applications, test scores, and recommendation letters. See the Graduate School website, <https://www.grad.washington.edu/applForAdmiss/>, for details.

6. What do I send to the School for my application?

Applicants send a statement of purpose, CV or resumé, transcripts, and any other materials desired for the application file. After submitting an application electronically to the UW Graduate School, applicants receive a confirmation email and directions for sending supplemental materials.

7. How many transcripts do I need for my application?

Two: one set should be sent to our office and the second set to the UW Graduate School.

8. Is there a template or an example to follow for my statement of purpose?

No, but applicants should consider including information about academic background, volunteer or field experience, and desired course of study. The statement should be limited to 300-500 words (a maximum of two pages is preferable for clarity and focus; however a longer statement will not cause the application to be rejected).

9. I just have a resumé, will I be penalized for not submitting a CV?

Not at all. A CV is best for those who have already been published.

10. Is there a form that I should give to my recommenders to submit with my letter?

No. Applicants should follow the instructions for submitting the application to the Graduate School, which allow recommenders to submit letters electronically. Recommenders letters can also be sent directly to our office via post, fax, or email.

11. How many applications do you receive and how many spaces are available?

We receive approximately 200 applications per year and accept approximately 40%.

12. May I submit various papers or publications?

These are not required; however, one writing sample in the form of a publication or paper may be submitted. (Video/audio tapes, slides, or photographs are not acceptable.)

13. May I have the GRE test waived?

No. The GRE test is required; there are no exceptions.

14. Must I take a subject GRE or the general GRE?

Only the general GRE is required.

15. What is the GRE Code for the School?

The University of Washington has one GRE code: 4854.

16. What if my GRE scores are low? Are there preferred scores?

All aspects of a student's application are considered. For example, high GPA or superior letters of recommendation, excellent statement of purpose, etc., could possibly outweigh low GRE scores. Generally reviewers are looking for scores in the 80th percentile and above. Applicants might consider retaking the GRE if scores are exceptionally low or explaining reasons why the scores are low.

17. GRE no longer has my scores because I took the exam over 5 years ago. Do I have to retake the GRE exam?

An official test report of an exam taken within the past 10 years is acceptable. A copy of the official report should be sent to our office. The exam must be retaken if the official test report is not available.

18. If my GRE test results will not be available until after the deadline, should I go ahead and send the rest of my application materials to you?

Yes. Incomplete application materials can be sent, so that an applicant file can be started. However, faculty will not review the file until it is complete. (If unofficial scores are available, the review process can begin with those scores, and continue when the official scores are received.) Applicants should notify our Graduate Coordinator of the scheduled exam date.

19. I wish to submit all of my materials at one time to the School, but I have not received my letters of recommendation and/or transcripts. I'm concerned that I will miss the deadline. What do I do?

For tardy letters of recommendation, applicants should immediately contact the parties involved to ask for the letters as soon as possible; in some cases it is better to ask someone else for a letter of recommendation and not to wait for a tardy letter. For transcripts, unofficial copies can be sent to our office and then followed up with the original transcript sent via regular mail. Applicants concerned about missing the application deadline should contact our Graduate Coordinator.

20. I'm an international student. Do I have to take an English Proficiency test? Yes. The test is required of all international applicants from non-English speaking countries. As this is a UW requirement, there are no exceptions or waivers of the test.

21. Which English test should I take?

The UW Graduate School will accept the IELTS or the TOEFL. For more information about the tests and scores, see <http://www.grad.washington.edu/admissions/englishtest.html>

22. How does the School evaluate applications to its graduate program?

In addition to a strong GPA, GRE scores, letters of recommendation, etc., the School pays close attention to the statement of purpose: is the statement clear and focused? Does the applicant know what he/she wants to do within his/her area of interest? Does the applicant write maturely and well? Match with faculty and interest group is also considered since admitted applicants will need a faculty adviser/committee chair who understands their work.

23. How will I know when my file is complete or if I am missing any materials?

Applicants should log into their UW Graduate School application, <http://www.grad.washington.edu>, for the status of their application. Our Graduate Coordinator will notify applicants via email shortly after the application deadline and list all of the items missing from the application. Applicants are processed and notifications sent as quickly as possible.

24. I am an international applicant and I heard that I must apply for admission to the Graduate School by November 1st. Is this correct?

International applicants applying for Autumn Quarter are strongly encouraged to submit application materials to the UW Office of Graduate Admissions prior to November 1st due to the time required for processing visa and transcript information. Applications received after this date will be processed as soon as possible, but significant delays may result. International applicants who apply to the Office of Graduate Admissions prior to November 1st still have until December 31st to complete application materials to the School. For more information about applying as an international student, see the UW Graduate School information: <http://www.grad.washington.edu/admissions/adminfo.html#International>

25. I won't be getting my bachelor's degree until June. Must this degree be indicated on the transcripts I send you?

No. However, applicants accepted into the program will need to submit up-to-date transcripts to the School and to the UW Graduate School showing the degree granted.

26. I applied last year and was not accepted (or was accepted and could not come). Can I reapply for this coming year?

Yes, the School holds applications for one year. UW Graduate Admissions does not hold applications from U.S. applicants who do not come to the UW, but does hold transcripts of international applicants for 2 years. Applications may be resubmitted or paperwork completed to submit an updated application. Students who feel they can improve their chances of acceptance by updating their application are encouraged to do so. All applicants must also reapply to the Graduate School and again pay the application fee; see <https://www.grad.washington.edu/applForAdmiss/> for the Graduate School's on-line application.

27. What funding opportunities are available through the School?

Funding varies greatly by interest area. There are merit-based fellowships, research assistantships, and teaching assistantships. All of these funding sources waive tuition and provide a stipend as well as medical/dental/vision insurance. Applications should check with individual faculty members in their area of interest about funding availability.

28. What about funding for international applicants?

International applicants are considered for awards. Again, funding varies by interest area. Teaching assistantships require a higher level of English proficiency and testing than other awards.

29. How do I apply for financial aid at the University of Washington?

All applicants applying by the December 31st deadline are considered for the School's merit-based fellowships. For Federal Student Aid, contact the UW Financial Aid Office, 105 Schmitz, Box 355870;

phone: 206-543-6101; e-mail: osfa@u.washington.edu, for applications to determine eligibility for work-study employment and loans.

30. When will I know if I have been accepted or not?

Applicants are generally notified within six weeks of application.

31. If I am accepted, how soon do I have to let you know that I am coming?

The School would appreciate hearing from applicants as soon as possible; however, the Council of Graduate Schools, <http://www.cgsnet.org/portals/0/pdf/CGSResolutionDec2008.pdf>, indicates that applicants may have until April 15th to accept or decline offers of admission to all U.S. institutions.

32. If I am admitted, may I defer entry into the program the following year?

Yes, deferred entry can be granted on a case by case basis and only after consultation with the assigned faculty adviser and notification to our Graduate Coordinator.