Applying to the SEFS Graduate Program

Admission as a graduate student in Environmental and Forest Sciences is very competitive. Undergraduate GPA, test scores, field and research experience, and preparedness for the program overall are considered for admission. The School requires that all applicants take the General Graduate Record Examination (GRE). The deadline to apply is December 1st for entrance in the following autumn quarter. Application to the program is only available online through the UW Graduate School website: grad.uw.edu/admissions/apply-now.

Funding for Graduate Study

The School of Environmental and Forest Sciences offers generous fellowships to top tier applicants each year. Many of our students are funded through research assistantships (RA) or teaching assistantships (TA). We also provide tuition waivers to currently enrolled funded students, and some students choose to enroll without funding. If you apply by the application deadline, you will be automatically considered for all of our funding options—there is no additional paperwork to complete.

About the School of Environmental and Forest Sciences

Established in 1907 as one of the oldest units on the University of Washington campus and one of the original natural resource programs in the country, our vision is to provide world class, internationally recognized knowledge and leadership for environmental and natural resource issues. School teaching, research, and outreach programs focus on the integrating theme of sustainability in natural and managed environments that include wilderness and park-like ecosystems, intensively managed planted forests, and urban ecosystems. We became a founding unit within the College of the Environment in 2009.

Diversity at SEFS

We are committed to promoting diversity in our faculty, staff and students, and we strongly believe it makes us a better school. Our diversity efforts are closely aligned and collaborative with those of the College of the Environment and the University of Washington. We annually develop a graduate program diversity plan to increase the diversity of the graduate student population.

Office of Student and Academic Services
Anderson Hall Room 130  Phone: 206.543.7081
Web: www.sefs.uw.edu  Blog: uwsfr.wordpress.com
SEFS Graduate Research Interest Groups

Biosource Science and Engineering (MS, PhD) Research focuses on conversion of cellulosic biomass to fuels, chemicals, and high value products, including process development and simulation, natural product conversion methods, and technoeconomic analysis. Faculty in the interest group work closely with faculty from Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, and Mechanical Engineering to investigate the fundamentals of biomass conversion and to develop new processes for making fuels, chemicals, and bio-based products that are economically viable and environmentally beneficial. The interest group is highly interdisciplinary and students with backgrounds in chemistry, biology, and engineering are encouraged to apply.

Forest Ecology (MS, PhD) Students are involved in basic and applied research in a diversity of fields including aquatic-terrestrial interactions, conservation biology, ecological modeling, ecophysiology, ecosystem studies, entomology, fire ecology, forest community ecology, genetics, global change climate, landscape ecology, paleoecology, pathology, and soils and nutrient cycling. No student covers the entire range of interests within the interest group, but all students benefit from the diversity of interests and perspectives represented by faculty associated with the group.

Forest Soils (MS, PhD) Forest Soils is a flexible program covering many aspects of soil science. Students are involved in research relating soils to ecosystem processes, forest resources, restoration, carbon sequestration, and waste application. Some examples of current research areas include soil carbon sequestration, nitrogen deposition effects on soils, residual applications, and N-fixation of forest soils. Students develop expertise in one or more fields of soil science including management of forest soils, soil development, soil chemistry, soil microbiology, and biogeochemical cycling.

Restoration Ecology and Environmental Horticulture (MEH, MS, PhD) Students investigate plants and soils and their importance in the restoration and sustainable management of ecosystems. Two learned degrees, Master of Science (MS) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), and a professional degree, Master of Environmental Horticulture (MEH), are tailored to the interests and needs of individual students. Restoration Ecology refers to intentional activities that initiate or accelerate the recovery of ecosystems with respect to their health, integrity, and sustainability. Frequently, the ecosystem that requires restoration has been degraded, damaged, transformed, or entirely destroyed as the direct or indirect result of human activities. In some cases, these impacts have been caused or aggravated by natural agencies such as wildfire, floods, storms, or volcanic eruption.

Social Sciences (MS, PhD) Research is centered around the social science aspects of the environment and natural resources. Natural resource planning, policy, business, economics, and applied management issues provide the context for social science research. Students are expected to identify and develop an understanding of relevant social science disciplines such as sociology, planning, political science, law, economics, and anthropology. Study areas may include community forestry and natural resource development, land use planning, natural resource policy and law, public administration and decision making, social, business, and economic impact assessment, environmental externalities, and recreation management.

Sustainable Resource Management (MFR, MS, PhD) Students develop an integrated set of skills concentrating on silvicultural principles and practices, business management, forest economics, forest biometrics, remote sensing, and operations research. Students draw upon the expertise of a diverse faculty and are encouraged to expand the interdisciplinary nature of their program by enrolling in courses related to their area of interest. Students may be enrolled in the Department of Economics, Dan Evans Graduate School of Public Affairs, School of Law and the Jackson School of International Studies. Coopera

Teaching & Research Faculty

Graham Allan Creativity & Innovation
Ernesto Alvarado Wildfires/Ecology; Sustainable Resources
Stanley Asah Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Mgmt
Jonathan Bakker Ecosystem Restoration & Management
Bernard Bormann Forest Ecology & Physiology
Greg Bratman Nature and Health
Dan Brown Spatial Modeling; Ecological/Social Processes
Sally Brown Green Infrastructure; Urban Residuals
Renata Bura Natural Products Chemistry
David Butman Forest Ecology, Terrestrial/Aquatic Systems
Sarah Converse Conservation Biology; Population Modeling
Anthony Dichiaro Synthesis of Nanomaterials from Biomass
Sharon Doty Plant Microbiology; Forest Ecology
Gregory Ettl Sustainable Forestry
James Freidle Forest Engineering; Restoration Ecology
Indronel Ganguly Sustainable Resource Management
Beth Gardner Wildlife Modeling & Sampling Techniques
Heidi Gough Environmental Engineering; Contaminants
Richard Gustafson Bioscience/Science/Fiber & Polymer Science
Charles Halpern Forest Ecology
Brian Harvey Forest, Landscape & Disturbance Ecology
Brittany Johnson Soil Science; Soil Chemistry; Forest Ecology
Peter Kahn Social Sciences
Van Kame Ecosystem Science & Forest Structure
Soo-Hyoung Kim Plant Ecolphysiology; Plant Growth Modeling
Joshua Lawler Conservation Biology/Landscape Ecology
Philip Levin Conservation Science; Marine Ecology
John Marzluff Wildlife Biology
L. Monika Moskal Remote Sensing & Biospatial Analysis
Laura Prugh Quantitative Multi-species Conservation
Sergey Rabotyagov Natural Resource Economics
Fernando Resende Biomass, Renewable Energy
Clare Ryan Natural Resources Policy & Administration
Patrick Tobin Disturbance Ecology; Forest Entomology
Sandor Toth Natural Resource Informatics
Eric Turnblom Forest Biometrics; Sustainable Resource Mgmt
Dan Vogt Soil & Ecosystem Ecology
Kristina Vogt Ecosystem Management; Forest Ecology
Aaron Wirsing Wildlife Science

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