

Funding opportunities in the Harvey Lab (UW School of Environmental and Forest Sciences)

During your graduate studies (PhD, MS) in the Harvey Lab at UW, you can expect to be supported financially (stipend, tuition, benefits, research funds) through a combination of teaching assistantships (TAs), research assistantships (RAs), fellowships, and grants. Assuming you are making sufficient and timely progress toward your degree objectives, it is my duty as your advisor to do everything within my power to support you (financially and otherwise!). Below are details on each of these opportunities.

Teaching assistantships

I expect that most students in my lab will, at some point early in their graduate studies, TA for my Forest Community Ecology course (SEFS 501). This course is taught each Autumn Quarter, and is a great way to master foundational knowledge in Forest Ecology and to prepare for your Qualifying Exam. In addition, there are opportunities to TA other courses in SEFS and in other departments at UW, if you desire.

Research Assistantships

All students in my lab will be supported on an RA for a portion of their graduate studies. Duration of RA support will vary depending on the need of each student (e.g., whether they are on Fellowship or TA support). Research assistantships will be primarily funded through grants (see below).

Fellowships

With my guidance, students are expected to be pursuing fellowships during their graduate studies. Writing research/fellowship proposals in graduate school serves many important purposes in becoming a scientist. Perhaps most obvious is that when they are funded (yeah!), you will have the satisfaction, honor, and security that you have secured *your own* funding for research that *you* designed! However, even when proposals are not funded, they are extremely valuable opportunities to learn and grow. The critical process of developing and asking important questions, creating a well-designed plan to answer those questions, and clearly articulating and justifying your plan to a funder is perhaps one of the most important scientific skills you can learn. Even if your proposal is not funded on the first try (most aren't, but you can't win if you don't play!), effectively responding to critiques and submitting a better proposal next time is the best way to get funded eventually (provided the research worthwhile!). Below is a list of some fellowships that should be on your radar. This is not exhaustive; many more opportunities exist!

[NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program \(GRFP\)](#) & [Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant \(DDIG\)](#)

[EPA Science to Achieve Results \(STAR\) Fellowship](#)

[NASA Earth and Space Science Fellowship \(NESSF\)](#)

[Joint Fire Science Program Graduate Innovation \(GRIN\) Award](#)

Here is a great database of [more than 650 graduate funding opportunities](#), published by UCLA

In addition, top incoming applicants are considered for [UW-SEFS Fellowships](#) (equivalent to RA support)

Grants

Finally, a key role for me as the Principal Investigator (PI) in our lab is to successfully acquire grants to support training of graduate students and postdocs, as well as supporting the expense of actually doing our science. Members of the lab are expected to participate in grant writing as part of their professional training, but the ultimate responsibility for obtaining grants rests on me. Typically, I will be submitting multiple grant proposals per year to a variety of funding sources including (but not limited to): National Science Foundation (NSF), US Department of Agriculture (USDA), US Forest Service (USFS), Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP), and National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA).