

Who can I contact for questions or concerns regarding undergraduate opportunities or diversity and inclusion in ESS?

You can email ESS advising student advocates at essadv@uw.edu, the chair of the department at essasst@uw.edu, or the committee chair Kate Huntington (kate1@uw.edu).

How does the Committee address concerns that they receive?

There are two main ways they are addressed. One is by developing policies and community events aimed at addressing core issues with systemic change. If the committee does not have access to what is needed to solve the problem, they raise the concerns with people around the university who are in positions of power and responsibility. The committee is also working on formalizing the process of submitting and addressing comments to better communicate actions being done to address them.

What are some opportunities available for undergraduates in ESS?

Within the department:

- Labs
- Research
- Fieldwork
- Work-study positions and opportunities to teach in seminars.
- There are also other positions in library science, data management, or even graphic design, so make sure to explore the various opportunities in the department!

Outreach:

- [Rocking Out](#), a K through 12 outreach program.

Leadership:

- Serve in committees in the department and in the university
- Be a student ambassador for the university

Other resources to labs and groups with opportunities:

- [Cooperative Institute for Climate Ocean and Ecosystem Studies \(CICOES\)](#)
- [Space Grant](#)
- [Conservation Scholars Program](#)
- [Rockin' Out](#)
- [GeoClub](#)
- [IsoLab](#)
- [Main Office](#)
- [Burke Museum](#)
- [Pacific Northwest Seismic Network \(PNSN\)](#)
- [Astrobiology](#)
- [Program on Climate Change \(PCC\)](#)
- [Quaternary Research Center \(QRC\)](#)

- [M9](#)
- [EarthLab](#)
- [Specific Research Group](#)

What are some undergraduate opportunities with the [Pacific Northwest Seismic Network](#)?

1. Field Work: electrical engineering, information technology, & construction
2. Computer Science: web development, programming, sysadmin, & networking
3. Research: data science, signal processing, earthquake analysis, volcano monitoring
4. External Engagement: GIS, graphic design, social media, & communications
5. Administration: project management, professional development, & data entry

What kinds of field trip opportunities exist for undergraduates?

1. ESS classes. Most of these are day- or weekend trips, but you can also join in multi-week trips in upper level courses.
2. ESS Clubs. GeoClub hosts weekend and holiday trips, and Rockin' Out is planning to start urban park walks.
3. ESS Research. You can join a research group as a research assistant, or design your own independent research project.
4. Join groups and societies outside of the department, ex: Cascade Mineralogical Society, Washington Rockhounds, AEG, etc.

Why should I consider extracurricular activities in undergraduate?

- To try something new.
- To further explore your interests.
- To gain skills to help you get started on building your career and later find a position in a competitive job market.
- To get college credit (for research).
- To connect with faculty and other members of the ESS community, who can also help lead you to other positions and write letters of recommendation for graduate schools or employment.

What are some tips for improving my chances of getting hired after graduation?

1. Network, network, network!
2. Start the steps to get a license
3. Tailor your résumé and cover letter to job postings
4. Ask for information interviews in companies you're interested in
5. Build good communication skills and work on being an engaging, energetic, and flexible team member
6. Work on desirable skills such as technology, math, GIS, and other skills unique to you

7. Take applied geoscience courses
8. Pursue a graduate degree
9. Get experience by participating in field work, labs, research, presentations, and/or volunteer/outreach opportunities with professional associations

How do students find lab opportunities in the department?

1. Announcements made during class
2. Email announcements to ESS students
3. Reaching out to professors after class or by email
4. Work study positions

****What are good ways to reach out to undergraduate students about opportunities?***

1. Email
2. Undergraduate Research Database
3. Class announcements
4. Twitter/Instagram
5. Listservs
6. Course syllabus
7. Have a centralized website

What do faculty consider when screening candidates for one position?

Faculty look at whether the candidate's experience fits the position. Interviews also strongly direct decisions since rapport is important for group research. They sometimes prefer students who are a bit earlier in their undergraduate career because they can stay with the team longer, as opposed to those in the final year of their studies. Faculty also look for students who can participate during the summer when they can work more hours. Although this is true, this should not deter students from applying to positions because there are ways to work around this (e.g., creating another position).

Should I still apply for an opportunity even if I don't fit all the qualifications for the position?

Yes, apply to any positions that might interest you! Faculty may be able to connect you with someone else who can give you a spot in their research.

Why are some positions paid and others not?

Paid positions tend to be those where the faculty member in charge of the research assigns tasks and has complete control over your duties. On the other hand, unpaid or volunteer positions allow more opportunities to do original research, and learn and enrich their skills.

It can become an equity issue as some students may not have the luxury of doing activities without pay. If a student is interested in a position for enrichment but is hindered by the lack of pay, they can talk to their mentor and ask the Chair of the department because there may be funds available to support them.

****How can faculty fund undergraduates to work in their lab or do research?***

- Offer opportunities through work-study.
- Ask the Chair for available funding opportunities.
- Faculty members or students can apply for scholarships around the university.

Who should be responsible for finding funds for student positions?

The faculty member employing the students.

Where can undergraduates get research support from the department, college, and the university?

- Ask the Chair for available funding opportunities.
- [Mary Gates Research Scholarship](#)

Aside from going to graduate school directly after graduation, what other departmental opportunities are available?

- Ask faculty if they have post-undergraduate positions.
- Find employment [see geoscience related careers [here](#)].