

**Announcement to Students  
The Wyss Scholars Program for U.S. Conservation  
Year 2022 – 2023**

**The University of Montana  
Environmental Studies Program and Franke College of Forestry and Conservation**

The Wyss Foundation is a private, charitable foundation dedicated to land conservation in the United States. **The Wyss Scholars Program** seeks to identify and nurture a new generation of leaders on western land conservation issues by providing financial support to Master’s degree students who are enrolled in participating programs/departments named above, and who are committed to careers as practicing conservationists of western land, primarily with a federal or state land management agency or a non-profit conservation group working in the region.

Up to two Wyss Scholars will be selected from the Environmental Studies Program and the Franke College of Forestry and Conservation (Resource Conservation and Wildlife Biology) on the basis of their leadership potential, commitment to furthering land conservation in the United States, commitment to pursuing a career as a practicing nonprofit or public-sector conservationist, and their academic strength. Selected students must be registered as full-time students and consider taking one course from the graduate EVST engagement requirement courses (activism courses); one course in land use planning, natural resource law or environmental law; and one course in negotiation, conflict resolution, collaboration.

**Application Procedure:**

Open to all matriculated Master’s degree candidates with United States citizenship or permanent residency status who have: entered the CHS or FCFC participating programs during Fall 2021. Students may submit applications for consideration by the Selection Committee (consisting of EVST, FCFC, and School of Law Faculty and a representative from the Wyss Foundation).

**Application Time Schedule:**

By December 17, 2021, Noon, MST

Submit e-mail indicating intent to apply to [julie.tompkins@mso.umt.edu](mailto:julie.tompkins@mso.umt.edu)

By January 6, 2022, Noon, MST

Submit materials via a single PDF to [julie.tompkins@mso.umt.edu](mailto:julie.tompkins@mso.umt.edu)

By week of January 17, 2022

Interviews scheduled

**Selection Time Frame:**

Every attempt will be made to have selections decided and announced early in spring semester 2022.

**Application Items Submission Chart: Combine all checked items into one document, save as a PDF and email to [julie.tompkins@mso.umt.edu](mailto:julie.tompkins@mso.umt.edu) Follow instructions below, regarding the letter of recommendation. All items must be received by the application deadline. If you are unable to combine all items, need to submit in another format, or otherwise need assistance, please contact Julie by email.**

Application Item	
Completed <b>cover sheet including the name of the faculty member</b> who can speak most knowledgeably about you as a future Wyss Scholar - see form on page 4.	✓
1 or 2 page <b>resume</b>	✓
No more than a 500 word <b>essay</b> detailing your past, present, and future commitment to the field of conservation in the U.S. and how becoming a Wyss Scholar will enhance your career development in the conservation field.	✓
Unofficial <b>transcript</b> from all University of Montana graduate programs. Final current semester grades should be included.	✓
An outline of your <b>remaining general course of study</b> .	✓
The <b>Summer 2022 internship possibilities</b> you are exploring (maximum of one page).	✓
Need Analysis for Scholarship - see form on page 5.	✓
A <b>letter of recommendation</b> concerning you as a future conservation leader emailed from the recommender to <a href="mailto:julie.tompkins@mso.umt.edu">julie.tompkins@mso.umt.edu</a> by the submission deadline.	← see submission directions in column to the left

**Awards will include the following:**

- ❑ Tuition and educational assistance – Up to \$7,911/semester non-resident; \$5,700/semester resident (Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023), amount dependent on residency status. If student already has tuition support through another entity for a semester, they will not receive additional support from their Wyss award.
- ❑ Stipend (\$5,000) for a summer internship with a nonprofit or public-sector conservation organization working in the United States;
- ❑ A post-graduation award (\$11,867 x 2 payments, plus 20% tax relief), toward repayment of student loans for Wyss Scholars who work in qualifying employment devoted to furthering land conservation in the United States after graduation;
- ❑ Membership in the Wyss Scholars network;
- ❑ Ability to propose professional development or training opportunities for Scholars and other students for funding up to \$3,000.

**Here is some additional information to help with preparation of the application and to understand the guidelines the selection committee will use:**

The purpose of the Wyss Scholars Program is to identify and nurture a new generation of leaders for land conservation issues by providing financial support to students who are enrolled in either the CHS or FCFC participating degree programs, who are committed to careers as practicing land conservationists, either with a federal, tribal or state land management agency or a non-profit conservation group working in the United States.

Two Wyss Scholars will be selected from the best candidates available on the basis of dedication, need, and merit. There shall be no expectation or quota that the award be given to equal numbers of a specific department's students in any one year or over the life of the Wyss Scholars Program.

A. *Dedication* includes a demonstrated interest in pursuing a career furthering land conservation in the United States, including a stated intention to work after graduation with a non-profit organization or government agency focusing on land conservation policy and management. Prior environmental experience would be a plus, but is not essential. Ideally, candidates will have a specific conservation project or goal that they can cite for which they care passionately and in which they were meaningfully involved.

B. *Need* includes the financial burden assumed by the student to secure the master's degree.

C. *Merit* is measured by undergraduate grades, graduate school scores and grades, and recommendations. In addition, recipients should have demonstrated leadership ability, integrity and outstanding character.

**For further information  
please contact either**

**Julie Tompkins**  
[julie.tompkins@mso.umt.edu](mailto:julie.tompkins@mso.umt.edu)

**or**

**Len Broberg**  
[len.broberg@mso.umt.edu](mailto:len.broberg@mso.umt.edu)

# The Wyss Scholars Program for U.S. Conservation

The University of Montana  
Environmental Studies Program/Franke College of Forestry and Conservation

## Application Cover Sheet Year 2022-2023

*[Please type or print legibly]*

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a U.S. citizen or permanent resident? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosure Checklist: *Be sure to have your name on all materials that are submitted.*

- This completed cover sheet
- 1 or 2 page **resume**
- No more than a 500 word **essay** detailing your past, present, and future commitment to the field of conservation in the U.S. and how becoming a Wyss Scholar will enhance your career development in the conservation field
- Unofficial **transcript** from all University of Montana graduate programs
- An outline of your **remaining general course of study**
- The **summer 2022 internship possibilities** you are exploring (maximum of one page).
- Financial information
- A **letter of recommendation** concerning you as a future conservation leader.

Name of the author: \_\_\_\_\_

- The **name of the faculty member** who can speak most knowledgably about you as a future Wyss Scholar.

Faculty member: \_\_\_\_\_

The Wyss Foundation is a private, charitable foundation dedicated to land conservation in the Intermountain West. The Wyss Scholars Program seeks to identify and nurture a new generation of leaders for land conservation issues by providing financial support to students who are enrolled in either master's program in the EVST/FCFC participating programs who are committed to careers as practicing land conservationists, either with a federal or state land management agency or a non-profit conservation group, working in the United States. Two Wyss Scholars will be selected from EVST/FCFC on the basis of their leadership potential, commitment to land conservation and management in the United States, commitment to pursuing a career as a practicing nonprofit or public-sector conservationist, and their academic strength.

# Need Analysis for Scholarship

**Student Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Complete the student column.

If 2021 tax information is not yet available you may use 2020 information and estimate.

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## ***I. Family Information***

***Student***

Family Size \_\_\_\_\_

Number of family members attending post-secondary institutions \_\_\_\_\_

State of legal residence \_\_\_\_\_

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## ***II. Financial Information (use 2021 tax information if available)***

Adjusted gross income for past calendar year \_\_\_\_\_

Public Assistance received \_\_\_\_\_

Child support \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security benefits  
(include Supplemental Security Income) \_\_\_\_\_

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## **III. Assets**

Total amount of cash, savings and checking accounts as of today \_\_\_\_\_

Other support you will receive at any time during your enrollment as a graduate student at UM (Identify the source, the semester you will receive it and the amount below for each such source. If the amount is uncertain or unknown to you at this time indicate what details you do know.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_