

Students First Overview

The UW has always prided itself on being affordable and accessible to the citizens of Washington – and enabling the largest numbers of students to take advantage of its excellence in higher education. The University has an unwavering commitment to access, and believes that expense should not prevent any deserving student from gaining an education.

The UW has a remarkably economically diverse student body and strong financial aid programs, ranking third in the nation among public institutions for its proportion of undergraduates who receive Pell Grants. The UW remains Washington’s university, open to students regardless of economic background or geography. To that end private support is key in providing financially disadvantaged students with access to a UW education, and opening doors to exceptional opportunities.

Students First is a student scholarship matching initiative, which will provide additional monies to needs-based scholarships for undergraduate, graduate and professional students. Endowed funds help the UW to recruit more talented, top-flight students. This increased financial aid will enable more students to take part in the UW experiences that build lifelong skills and to pursue their interests, wherever they may lead.

The endowments created under *Students First* will be awarded to students on the basis of demonstrated financial need and will be renewable for up to three additional years at the University’s three campuses.

HOW IT WORKS

Endowments at the University of Washington are permanent funds established for a specific purpose, whether for faculty, student, or general program support. A minimum investment is made in the University’s Consolidated Endowment Fund, where it remains in perpetuity, and the endowment distributes a portion of its total return to be spent toward the fulfillment of the specified purpose (i.e. annual scholarship award to student).

Endowments meeting the criteria for *Students First* will be eligible for matching funds on 50% of the principal. For example, an endowment gift of \$100,000 will receive a \$50,000 match once the endowment is fully funded and invested.

To be eligible for matching funds via *Students First*, endowments must:

- Be new. Existing endowed funds are not eligible.
- Be funded with a minimum contribution of \$100,000. The endowment can be created in the name of the donor(s) or someone the donor wishes to honor, e.g. “the John and Jane Doe Endowed Scholarship” or can be created as a consortium endowment (with multiple gifts that aggregate to at least \$100,000.)

Endowment Level	Donor Gift	Match Amount
Regental scholarship	\$5,000,000 or more	50% of principal
Laureate scholarship	\$1,000,000-\$4,999,999	50% of principal
Benefactor scholarship and Consortium Endowments	\$100,000 - \$999,999	50% of principal