WORK STUDY FAQs

THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON PARTICIPATES IN BOTH THE FEDERAL AND STATE WORK STUDY PROGRAMS TO HELP ON AND OFF CAMPUS EMPLOYERS MEET THEIR TEMPORARY STAFFING NEEDS. THE WORK STUDY PROGRAMS PROVIDE BRIGHT, TALENTED STUDENTS WITH MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WHILE REIMBURSING EMPLOYERS FOR 60% OF THE STUDENT’S WAGES.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR WORK STUDY?
Work Study is a federal program for students with financial need. Student eligibility is determined through the FAFSA but students must opt into the program as they complete the form. Otherwise, the Office of Student Financial Aid will not award Work Study even if students have financial need. Since Work Study is a federal program, international students are not eligible to participate. Students who are part of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program might be eligible for the Washington State Work Study program but they need to certify their eligibility with the Office of Student Financial Aid.

WHO FUNDS THE WORK STUDY PROGRAM?
The U.S. Department of Education funds the Work Study program. Washington State and the Veteran’s Administration also run their own versions of the program. As a result, it is important to ask students which eligibility they currently carry.

HOW MUCH DO STUDENTS RECEIVE FOR WORK STUDY?
A typical annual Work Study award is $4200 for undergraduates and $5400 for graduate students. Students always have the option of reducing their award in lieu of more loan eligibility so it is very important to check with prospective student employees if they plan to utilize their entire award with your department. Similarly, if a student is about to run out of Work Study funds, they can check with the Work Study Office to inquire about additional eligibility.

HOW IS A POSITION APPROVED FOR WORK STUDY?
To make a position eligible, the hiring department needs to submit a current job description to the Work Study Office via their website. Once the Work Study Office approves the position, it notifies the hiring department and posts the job description on their website. Hiring departments must submit job descriptions every year for the positions to remain Work Study eligible.

WHEN DO STUDENTS LOOK FOR WORK STUDY EMPLOYMENT?
Most Work Study students look for jobs during Autumn quarter but departments can submit job descriptions year round.

For more information, visit uw.edu/financialaid