

# **IAS Graduate Programs**

## ***Tuition Exemption Policy***

### **Objective**

The Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences (IAS) graduate programs in Cultural Studies and Policy Studies at University of Washington Bothell (UWB) have identified a need to limit tuition-exemption enrollment in order to maintain academic excellence and fiscal viability.

### **Policy**

#### **1. Enrollment exclusion**

Eligible students may use the Tuition Exemption program to enroll in any course on a space available basis with the exception of the Policy Studies and Cultural Studies core courses, directed research, or internships.

The excluded courses are the following:

BPOLST 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 506, 508, 520, 598, and, once approved and installed (2017-2018), BPOLST 509, 510, 511, 513, 515, and 594;

BCULST 500, 501, 502, 510, 511, 512, 520, 598, and 599.

#### **2. Basis**

The University of Washington Administrative Policy Statement 22.1 Section 3, authorized under RCW 28B.15.558, offers tuition-exempt enrollment to eligible State employees of up to six (6) credits per quarter, but academic programs do not receive state funding for this opportunity. The underlying assumption is that tuition-exempt students will fill otherwise empty seats and not add a significant academic or fiscal burden to the units impacted. For this reason, the tuition-exemption program does not apply to distance learning, independent study, and internships. In addition, the program stipulates that "...academic or fiscal considerations may exclude certain state-funded courses or programs from the Tuition Exemption program."

#### **3. Rationale**

The creation of the IAS graduate programs tuition exemption policy has been motivated by concerns about academic excellence and fiscal sustainability.

The Cultural Studies (MACS) and Policy Studies (MAPS) programs are both cohort-based. Since the graduate recruiting and admissions processes in the MACS and MAPS programs cannot take eligibility for the Tuition Exemption program into account, the programs must admit incoming students in Autumn Quarter without knowing the number of tuition-exempt students or the resulting impact on Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) calculation. This information only becomes available once students register for classes, and at that point the graduate office is unable to adjust admissions and fill the cohorts with tuition-paying students. In addition, it is possible for students to gain (or lose) tuition-exempt eligibility as a state employee after admission.

One possible strategy to balance this admission management difficulty is to over-enroll the program to make up for the anticipated tuition-exempt students. The difficulty with this strategy is that the core courses rely on intensive faculty supervision of individual student work and progress in the courses and the curriculum as a whole. When students start the core curriculum, they are assigned faculty members as portfolio advisors and capstone advisors. This type of individualized attention within the core curriculum places the same level of advising burden on faculty members as do directed research and internships. As a result, a strategy of systematic over-enrollment to account for tuition-exempt students would result in a decline in academic quality due to excessive advising loads.

#### **4. Registration Procedures**

In order to register using tuition exemption, students should carefully follow the steps identified in [UWB registration guidelines](#). Questions regarding the procedure are to be directed to the UW Bothell Registrar.

#### **Procedures and Responsible Organization**

The Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs is responsible for the content of this policy. Changes will be authorized through adoption by the Chancellor's Executive Committee and final approval of the Chancellor. Students with questions or comments about this policy should contact the Office of Enrollment Management. A review of the policy will be conducted on a biennial basis.

#### **References**

This policy complies with the guidelines as found in:

- [RCW 28B.15.558](#)
- [UWB registration procedures](#)
- [WAC 478-160-163\(6\)](#)
- [UW Administrative Policy Statement 22.1, Section 3](#)