

2021-2023 Biennium Internal Budget Proposal Narrative

Division: Salish Sea Institute

Evaluation Criteria: Proposals will be evaluated on every aspect of this template. It is highly recommended that the narrative portion touch on each area. Proposals forwarded to UPRC by unit leaders will be discussed at UPRC and authors are encouraged to attend so that they may answer questions and provide clarification.

Strengthening Salish Sea Studies Teachings

- This is a revised version of a previously submitted budget proposal.
If box is checked please briefly outline any significant changes and/or indicate why it is being resubmitted.

[Click here to enter text](#)

Statement of Purpose: *(What is the challenge or opportunity being addressed? How does the proposal address this challenge or opportunity? Limit response to 1 page – please link to any existing reports, data, supplemental materials, etc.)*

In 2019, WWU approved the multi-disciplinary Salish Sea Studies (SALI) minor. The SALI Minor gives students an opportunity to develop a sense of place and to cultivate a sense of responsibility for learning and caring for where they live through our place-based, experiential, and multi-disciplinary curriculum.

The Salish Sea Studies curriculum committee identified a network of existing classes to design the SALI Minor to be inclusive and accessible to students from all colleges on campus. Faculty affiliated with the Salish Sea Institute developed and offered new core courses for the Minor.

The SALI 201 course has BCGM GUR designation and has proven to be popular with a wide range of students. The course is offered 2-3 times per year, taught by new Comparative Indigenous Studies hires Mary Tuti Baker (FAIR) and James Miller (ENVS) as well as inaugural instructors for the course, Marco Hatch (ESCI) and Natalie Baloy (SALI). The course is also being taught in parallel at Whatcom Community College by a multidisciplinary faculty team, with a direct transfer equivalency agreement for Whatcom students who transfer to Western.

After one full year in the catalog, more than 15 students have enrolled in the minor and many more are learning about their connections to the Salish Sea through the GUR. This academic program is at the forefront of university efforts to fulfill Goal #2 of the Strategic Plan: to advance a deeper understanding of and engagement with place.

No internal funding was provided for the creation of the minor. The Salish Sea Institute has raised private funds to pay for the development and teaching of the first two offerings of the SALI core course. This request is for the University to invest in the teaching of Salish Sea Studies. In the short term, the Salish Sea Institute needs funding to support faculty to teach SALI 201, 202, and 490, including support for experiential learning activities (when it is safe again to

do so), as well as to develop new courses in the Minor that address specific and critical topics in the Salish Sea region. There are significant gaps across WWU's curriculum for teaching meaningfully about place and the Salish Sea. With additional instructional funding and support, faculty affiliated with the Salish Sea Institute and interested in teaching in Salish Sea Studies could greatly expand and deepen Western's curricular offerings to fully live up to the spirit and objectives of Goal #2 in the Strategic Plan. For example, a course on Coast Salish legal systems, sovereignty, and Indigenous rights and treaty frameworks in the US and Canada in the transboundary Salish Sea would ensure that our campus has curriculum that truly "recognizes debts and obligations to Indigenous and Native Nations, to the environment and sustainability, and to diverse and rich cultures within and across borders."

Increased internal funding for instructional support in Salish Sea Studies will be managed by the Salish Sea Institute in tandem with our program's faculty advisors (we are in the process of forming a Faculty Advisory Committee to extend and deepen the work of the Curriculum Committee). Institutional support for Salish Sea Studies curricular development will significantly enhance the university's abilities, opportunities, and obligations to address all objectives listed under Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan.

Anticipated Outcome(s):

- Robust rotation of faculty from across campus to teach SALI 490: Salish Sea Studies Community Seminar through course buyout funds
- Regular opportunities for community-engaged and experiential learning for students enrolled in SALI 201 (GUR core course offered 2-3 times per year)
- Development of new courses in the Salish Sea Studies program, including a course on Coast Salish legal systems, sovereignty, and Indigenous rights and treaty frameworks in the transboundary Salish Sea
- Increased partnership opportunities with Northwest Indian College, Whatcom Community College, and other bioregional universities through curricular development and sharing
- Significant increase in number of students learning about and engaging with place through additional Salish Sea Studies course offerings

Metrics: *(How will outcomes be measured? Please include current data points and goals. If this proposal will have any impact on the [Overall Metrics](#) included in the university's strategic plan, please indicate which specific ones here.)*

Increased number of students declared in the Salish Sea Studies minor (currently at 15, goal is additional 10-15 students per year)

Increased number of students taking the SALI 201 GUR (approx. 30 students/yr, goal is at least 60/yr)

Increased support for 4-5 existing faculty members

Opportunities for students to participate in experiential outdoor learning and to take field trips (metrics to be developed post-pandemic)

How does this proposal align with your departmental/divisional strategic priorities? *(Please reference specific items from the recently completed departmental/divisional strategic plan and attach a copy.)*

This proposal allows the Salish Sea Institute to fulfill part of its' mission which is to advance more meaningfully in the teaching of place and expand the number of students who are able to be reached through Salish Sea Studies.

How does this proposal support the University Mission and Strategic Objectives? *(Please refer to the [2018-2025 Strategic Plan](#) and indicate which core theme(s) this proposal will help achieve.)*

It supports goal #2 which is aimed at advancing a deeper understanding of and engagement with place. Place calls us to recognize debts and obligations to indigenous and Native nations, to the environment and sustainability, and to diverse and rich cultures within and across borders. Place inspires us to study with rigor and precision in the complexity, vibrancy, and beauty of land and sea. Place moves us to think and act thoughtfully and creatively about where we are and how we connect with the wider world. Place beckons us to look at the past with care and to envision the future with curiosity, innovation, and creativity.

What are the consequences of not funding this proposal?

The Salish Sea Studies program will not be able to grow and serve the broader campus community without more sustained and robust institutional support. This will limit the number of students experiencing courses that fulfill commitments identified in Goal #2 of the Strategic Plan, as well as limit our opportunities as a university to engage meaningfully with local communities through our curriculum. We will be limited in our ability to develop relevant and critical new courses such as a class on Indigenous legal systems. Without sufficient funding for curricular enhancement in relation to the lands and waters of the Salish Sea, the university illustrates a lack of priority for the tenets of Goal #2 of the strategic plan, including recognizing Indigenous sovereignty.

What alternatives were explored?

In our first few years, the Salish Sea Institute raised private funds for course creation and teaching that have run out. Without a dedicated university budget for enhanced Salish Sea Studies instruction, it is increasingly challenging to find funds for ongoing teaching. By leveraging sufficient university support, we will have greater success seeking additional funding from external funders.

Which units (departments, colleges, etc.) will be involved?

Salish Sea Studies is an interdisciplinary academic program that draws from at least 10 departments. Faculty availability will dictate which departments will be involved in teaching and development tasks in this proposal. Environmental studies, Environmental science, Fairhaven College and History Department are most likely to be involved.

Equipment needed:

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For major (>\$25k) purchases, please provide the following information.

Item:

Click here to enter text

Purpose:

Click here to enter text

Cost:

Click here to enter text

Anticipated Useful Life:

Click here to enter text

Replacement Cost if any:

Click here to enter text

Human Resources *(Complete the table below adding additional rows if necessary):*

<i>Position Title</i>	<i>Total Headcount</i>	<i>Total FTE</i>	<i>Salary and Benefits per FTE</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
<i>NTT faculty</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>.44</i>	<i>\$25,736</i>	<i>\$25,736</i>

Table above should match data on budget spreadsheets submitted with this proposal. Complete the spreadsheet to get salary, benefit, and total cost amounts. Contact your division budget officer with questions.

Operating & Maintenance Costs (include service contracts, installation costs, etc.):

\$5000 to support the creation of a class specifically on Coast Salish legal systems (one time cost)

Space Requirements:

What type of space is needed for this proposal? (e.g., private office, lab space, group work/study space, etc.)

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What features must this space have? (e.g., fume hoods, plumbing, 3-phase power, etc.)

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What needs can be accommodated within your existing space?

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How much new space will be required?

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