Program Priorities

- Develop environmental leaders
- Enhance educational opportunities for students
- Provide mentorship and internship opportunities for the Woods community
- Convene experts at Stanford, their colleagues at leading academic institutions and authorities from government, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), foundations and business

EDUCATING EMERGING LEADERS

Environmental leaders need specialized skills, knowledge and networks to move ideas into action and support informed decision-making.

The Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment is preparing the next generation of environmental leaders through unique educational, leadership and professional development programs. Undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral scholars from all seven of Stanford’s schools build skills, partnerships and experiential learning through a variety of programs, forums, workshops, hands-on experiences and mentorships. Participants gain active support and resources to become global leaders in their fields through interdisciplinary programs, grants and stipends.
Rising Environmental Leaders Program (RELP)

RELP helps postdoctoral scholars and graduate students develop their leadership and communication skills to maximize the impact of their research. Program fellows are provided professional development and networking opportunities, and engage with decision-makers from government, NGOs, think tanks and business. An intensive, weeklong D.C. Boot Camp, hosted in partnership with Bing Stanford in the nation’s capital, offers firsthand experience and knowledge about national policymaking, partnership building and public service. Recent speakers include Secretary of Energy Steven Chu and Undersecretary of Education Martha Kanter, along with leaders from NGOs, business and multilateral organizations.

Goldman Honors Program

This program prepares and supports a select group of Stanford undergraduate students to pursue environmental solutions via a capstone project. Over the course of their senior year, students select, design and implement a culminating project that increases understanding and/or addresses an environmental challenge. Students meet as a group with Stanford faculty to discuss a broad range of environmental challenges and potential solutions, and receive feedback as they design and execute their respective projects.

Mentoring Undergraduates in Interdisciplinary Research Program (MUIR)

MUIR stipends of up to $6,000 are available to Stanford undergraduates to conduct faculty-directed, interdisciplinary environmental research. Stanford faculty apply on students’ behalf and commit to mentor students in summer research projects. Students receiving awards must enroll in Surviving Interdisciplinary Research, a spring course, attend a summer seminar series and present their work at one of two campus-wide events.

Stanford Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellowship Program (SIGF)

Overseen and administered by the Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Education, SIGF is a university-wide program that awards three-year fellowships to outstanding doctoral students engaged in interdisciplinary research spanning themes including environment, energy and sustainability. This program provides tuition support and a stipend.

Mel Lane Student Grants Program

Woods invites Stanford students at all levels to submit grant proposals for student-developed, driven and managed environmental projects that can achieve a measurable impact on an issue through action and/or applied research. Woods awards grants, typically $500 to $3,000 each, to students selected.

Environmental Forums

In this speaker series, high-profile scientists and key government, business and nonprofit environmental leaders share innovative research, insights and perspectives on environmental challenges. The forums encourage discussion and debate on local, regional and global environmental issues. These forums and post-event receptions are open to Stanford faculty, postdoctoral scholars, graduate students and staff.

YES! Seminar Series

Organized by and for postdoctoral scholars and graduate students, this series brings together young environmental scholars and researchers to advance interdisciplinary environmental research, identify connections across the Stanford community and build strategic collaborations.

For more information:

woods.stanford.edu/educating-leaders
woods.stanford.edu/news-events/environmental-forum
Sherrie Taguchi, Director of Programs
(650) 721-1469
sherrie.taguchi@stanford.edu