

Call for Applications: Graduate Research Assistantship

Location: Simpson Center for the Humanities, University of Washington (Seattle, WA)

Position Opens: Monday March 9, 2026

Position Closes: Monday April 6, 2026

Notifications will be sent by May 1, 2026

The University of Washington (Seattle, Bothell, Tacoma) is offering **two graduate research assistantships** (job code 10847) for AY 2026-2027 in association with a year-long Mellon-funded public humanities and arts project titled **Not Apart: Indigenous Knowledges, Global Reciprocity, and the Art of Democracy**, co-led by UW faculty [Jessica Bissett Perea \(American Indian Studies\)](#), [Ben Gardner \(Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences\)](#), and [Tony Lucero \(Comparative History of Ideas and Jackson School of International Studies\)](#).

Participants in the Seminar will explore this topic through three themes:

- Autumn 2026: University/Aesthetic Sovereignities
- Winter 2027: University/Community Knowledges
- Spring 2027: University/Social Movements

For more information, please refer to the project announcement:

<https://simpsoncenter.org/article/not-apart-indigenous-knowledges-global-reciprocity-and -art-democracy-mellon-sawyer-seminar>

Applicants for the position should have a dissertation project related to at least one of the three thematic components of the seminar.

This project is made possible by a generous Sawyer Seminar grant from the Mellon Foundation, with support from the Simpson Center for the Humanities.

This appointment provides 3 quarters of support as a 50% time graduate research associate, at a [level commensurate with your current status](#), and includes a Tier-I tuition waiver and benefits for those three quarters. This position is represented by a collective bargaining unit and details about it can be found [online](#).

Benefits for the Graduate Research Assistantship will include:

- A nine-month award at the level of Pre-Doctoral Research Associate II (.5FTE) as described by [UW Human Resources](#);
- Tuition and fee waivers for the operating fee, building fee, and technology fee for those who maintain [eligibility](#);
- Insurance coverage for the fellow and dependents with medical, dental and vision eligibility and coverage under the Graduate Appointee Insurance Plan ([GAIP](#));
- Research funds of \$1,000 for conference travel or other research related expenses;
- Dedicated office space in the Simpson Center for the duration of the appointment.

Responsibilities for the Graduate Research Assistantship will include:

- Be in residence at the University of Washington, in Seattle from September 16, 2026 to June 15, 2027;

- Contribute to the intellectual program of the Seminar Series by attending all lectures, workshops, and associated events;
- Assist in organizing events for the Sawyer Seminar, including the lecture series, associated workshops, and community exchange events (max. 5 hrs/wk);
- Present their research in the thematic quarter most relevant to dissertation topic;
- Make significant progress on the writing of the fellow's PhD dissertation.

The ideal candidate will possess the following qualifications:

- Currently a Ph.D. student or candidate in a Social Science, Art, or Humanities discipline at the University of Washington;
- A.B.D. status by time of application deadline (April 6, 2026);
- Pursuing a dissertation related to at least one of the three thematic components of the seminar (University/Aesthetic Sovereignities; University/Community Knowledges; University/Social Movements).

Application materials – Please submit a single PDF that includes the following components:

1. A proposal (5 pages in length, not including bibliography) detailing the research and writing to be undertaken during the award period. The proposal should include (a) a discussion of how the dissertation project relates to at least one of the three thematic components of the seminar and (b) a timeline that details the work to be done on the dissertation during the course of the fellowship;
2. CV/resume;
3. Names and contact information of 2-3 references (may be professional, academic, and/or community partners)

Applications must be received by April 6, 2026. Email your PDF to: indigenousarts@uw.edu
Subject line: **Indigenous Arts Graduate Research Assistantship – [Your Name]**

Application questions can be sent to seminar co-organizers at: indigenousarts@uw.edu

Salary and benefits are competitive. Salary is commensurate with academic standing, qualifications, and experience. This job classification is governed by [a negotiated labor contract](#) and is subject to [union shop provisions](#). Eligibility for other benefits, including vacation, leave, and childcare assistance, is detailed in [the collective bargaining agreement](#) between the University of Washington and UAW Local 4121.

The University of Washington is an affirmative action and equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, age, protected veteran or disabled status, or genetic information.

The University of Washington prohibits sex discrimination and sex-based harassment in any education program or activity that it operates. Individuals may report concerns, make complaints, or direct inquiries to the [Title IX Coordinator](#). The notice of nondiscrimination is located at: uw.edu/titleix/title-ix-notice/.

The University of Washington is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation in the application process, contact the Disability Services Office at least ten days in advance at: 206.543.6450/V, 206.543.6452/TTY, 206.685.7264 (FAX), or dso@uw.edu.