

COMMUTER INFORMATION

Tips and information for commuting to the IslandWood Graduate Program from Seattle



Methods of Transportation:

Learn more about different ways to commute to campus.

Ferry - Whatever mode of transportation you use, you will need to take the ferry to commute from Seattle to Bainbridge. The ferry ride is approximately 35 minutes long, plus an additional 5 - 10 minute loading and unloading time. [Wave2Go](#) and [Orca](#) both sell ferry passes, with options including single day, 10-use, 20-use, and monthly passes. A monthly ferry pass can be the most effective if you plan to commute to IslandWood more than 15 times each month. Otherwise, a 10-use pass is more cost-effective. [Ferry prices](#) change seasonally, with higher prices in the summer and lower prices in the winter. Pedestrians and bicyclists only pay on the Seattle side, while vehicles must pay both directions.

Motorcycle/Scooter - A 20-ride ferry pass (10 round trips) costs approximately \$105; check current pricing [here](#). If you choose to commute by motorcycle or scooter, weather-appropriate gear will be necessary.

Car - The ferry price for a car depends on the length of the vehicle. The cost is approximately \$185 - \$250 for 20 rides (10 round trips); check current pricing [here](#). The ferry can become overloaded, and spots on the ferry are not guaranteed during peak commuting times.

Bike - Biking is the cheapest commuting option, but also the most time-consuming. Bainbridge is very hilly, so expect initial rides to be difficult depending on your biking experience. Bike lockers are available on both sides of the water for \$70 for 6 months, and your UW pass includes a 10% discount at [Recycled Cycles](#). If you choose to commute by bike, the following gear will be necessary: a front light (300+ lumens, because there are no street lights on the island), rear light, bike tool kit, rain gear, reflective gear, helmet, backpack, and tubes. We also recommend that you use fenders, gloves, face buff, ear covering, glasses, bike bags, and a rack.

Bus - Buses only run on the island during key commuter times in the morning and evening. [BI Ride](#), however, is a bus option that functions like a taxi - you will pay a bus fare to ride, but will need to call and schedule your pickup beforehand. Buses 97 and 98 run between IslandWood and the ferry terminal. Your UW card will act as a bus pass from September through June.

Considerations To Take Into Account:

- Free lockers are available on campus to store clothing, toiletries, etc. There is also a shower available in the building.
- Always give yourself a minimum of 30 minutes travel time to get to and from the ferry from the IslandWood campus.
- Bike rides after a long day of teaching may be difficult. Think about working in extra time to ride or ask a peer if you can stay the night with them on campus if you're fatigued.
- Always keep a spare pair of clothes in your locker - especially socks.
- It can be challenging to find time to do homework during the campus teaching week, so commuters often complete two weeks of classwork during their non-teaching week.
- Ferries regularly run late on Friday evenings.
- Seasonal changes can make riding a bike or scooter difficult. Winters are cold and rainy, so be prepared with adequate gear.
- Commuting will not leave you out of the community, and you will still have plenty of time to bond with your peers if you live in Seattle.
- Group projects can be challenging, however. Be prepared to make extra trips, video chat, or communicate more online.
- Make sure your peers know that you commute so that you can better negotiate meal duties and other community responsibilities.

ADVANTAGES & DISADVANTAGES OF COMMUTING

ADVANTAGES:

- Physical space away from campus
- Daily scenic ferry ride
- Close liaison proximity to the schools we serve
- Easier access to Seattle attractions, destinations, dining, and more
- Improved time management ability

DISADVANTAGES:

- Higher transportation costs
- Minimum 2 - 3 hour commute each day
- The potential for missed ferries and difficulty scheduling group project and gathering time
- Less free time at home

