

Mason Science ABCE Graduate Program Application Fee Waiver

George Mason University College of Science (Mason Science) is committed to advancing inclusive excellence and fostering an environment free from discrimination, harassment, and retaliation throughout our STEM community. At Mason Science, our values include cultivating an organizational culture that promotes belonging, respect, and civility. We believe that varied opinions, cultures, and perspectives are what provides vibrancy, innovation and growth to an academic community. By prioritizing cultural responsiveness in academics, teaching, research, and global engagement, we strive to attract faculty and staff who exemplify the Mason Science mission and vision.

Waiver Eligibility

To be eligible for this Access, Belonging, and Community Engagement (ABCE) Graduate Program Application Fee Waiver, you must meet at least one of the criteria below. *Please note: This waiver is not granted due to financial hardship.*

- Graduated from a Historically Black College / University (HBCU), Tribal College, Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), or Minority Serving Institution (MSI);
- First generation college student;
- From a single parent household;
- Resides in a rural city or town;
- Acceptance to one of the following national fellowship programs (**See fellowship list below**);
- From a group that is underrepresented in STEM;
- Individuals with a disAbility / different ability;
- Active Duty or Veteran of the US Armed Forces;
- Demonstrated commitment to ABCE (**Requires essay; see prompt below**); or
- Experience overcoming extraordinary / remarkable adversity (**Requires essay; see prompt below**).

In addition, you must meet **both** of the following academic criteria:

- GPA 3.0 or higher
- Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education

Essay Prompt

Please read each prompt carefully and provide a concise but thorough response for ONE. A waiver request will be denied if the essay does not answer the prompt chosen.

In no more than 150 words, please describe how you've demonstrated a commitment to **advancing feelings of belonging** in the workplace, academic environment, or another relevant organizational setting.

OR

In no more than 150 words, please describe your experience with **overcoming extraordinary / remarkable adversity** (i.e., more adversity than the average person experiences)

National Fellowships List

- BECAS
- Bill and Melinda Gates Millennium Scholarship
- Department of Energy Computational Science Graduate Fellowship (DOE CSGF)
- Ford Fellowship
- GEM Fellowship
- Graduate Fellowship for STEM Diversity (GFSD) Fellowship
- National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship (NDSEG)
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)
- QUAD Fellowship
- Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation (SMART) Fellowship
- Soros Fellowship