



Graduate Student Handbook

2024-2025

Welcome from the Associate Provost for Graduate Education

Welcome to George Mason University! Mason continues to thrive as Virginia's largest public research university and sets the standard for a bold, progressive education that serves its students and communities – "All Together Different".

Located in the National Capital Region, Mason immerses its students in a welcoming environment and provides them with a transformational learning experience that helps them grow and thrive as individuals, scholars, and professionals.

In Fall 2022, the Graduate Division was launched as a university wide initiative to optimize the graduate student experience and engagement at Mason. Since then, the entire graduate community has been working hard to develop new programs and initiatives designed to support all graduate students in their journey while studying at Mason.

This Fall 2025, we are proud to announce many new initiatives including enhanced graduate academic policies and procedures, growing funding mechanisms, the rebranded 3MT (Three Minute Thesis) competition, and the first Graduate Division Research Poster Competition offering expanded ways for graduate students to reach their goals. Additionally, we have continued to create resources to introduce graduate students, who teach as instructors with our updated Graduate Teaching Training. Last year we adopted the Accelerate to Industry (A2i) program, a new approach to workforce training to help graduate students develop the business, leadership, and communication skills that employers seek. This year we are expanding A2i to include the Graduate Career Conference, a full day of workshops and trainings taught by leading industry professionals.

The Graduate Division, in partnership with the academic units and central offices, is committed to helping you shape your career trajectories from the moment you choose Mason. Complementing your academic and scholarly work, we value your graduate journey as a well-rounded life experience, including personal growth and development. As such, many opportunities to enrich the lives of graduate students are offered throughout your time at Mason.

At times, the path to your graduate degree might seem overwhelming. At Mason, starting with a graduate education website, you will find the people, commitment, support, and resources to help you succeed and create an incredible experience to meet your personal, educational, and professional goals. We hope that this handbook offers useful insight into the many opportunities and resources at your disposal here at Mason.

Go Patriots!

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MASON A TO Z

Colleges & Schools

George Mason University (Mason) is comprised of ten colleges and schools that span a range of academic disciplines:

[Antonin Scalia Law School](#)

[Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution](#)

[College of Education and Human Development](#)

[College of Engineering and Computing](#)

[College of Humanities and Social Sciences](#)

[College of Public Health](#)

[College of Science](#)

[College of Visual and Performing Arts](#)

[Schar School of Policy and](#)

[Government](#)

[Costello College of Business](#)

Graduate Programs

Mason offers 132 graduate and professional degree-granting programs. Additionally, there are over one hundred graduate-level certificate programs that are currently being offered. Many graduate classes are offered at times and locations that allow you to continue to work outside of the university while pursuing your degree. All official and updated information regarding Mason's degree programs can be found online in the [University Catalog](#).

Mason Campuses

Mason is a distributed university, with regional campuses in Fairfax, Arlington, and Prince William counties, and instructional sites in Loudoun County, Herndon, Lorton, Woodbridge, Front Royal, and Songdo, South Korea. Each Mason campus has a distinctive academic focus that plays a critical role in the economy of its surrounding region. At each campus, students and faculty have access to all the university's resources, while the duplication of programs and support services is minimized using technology. Please visit the [Campuses and Instructional Sites](#) page for more information.

Administrative Support

The Graduate Division

The [Graduate Division](#) in the Office of the Provost provides support from the time a prospective graduate student first expresses an interest in studying at Mason to the moment they walk across the stage to receive a degree. We support all Mason graduate programs and ensure the academic success of more than 11,000 graduate students while upholding the quality and rigor of graduate education at Mason. Our office, in conjunction with partners across all our campuses, undertakes a myriad of functions to provide this support. These include facilitating curricular enhancements, administering graduate policies and procedures, and providing internal and external funding opportunities. As students join

Mason's graduate programs, the office collaborates with many other departments and offices on campus to provide a community of support and growth that enables them to develop the professional skills and relationships needed to thrive while at Mason, become prepared for their future career, and respond to market demands and needs. For more information, explore our website at graduate.gmu.edu.

Graduate Student Life

[Graduate Student Life](#) is dedicated to supporting the success and well-being of Mason graduate students by providing programs and initiatives that promote community building, professional development, personal development, and diversity, equity, and inclusion, connecting graduate students to campus resources, and identifying and advocating for graduate student needs.

Graduate and Professional Student Association (GAPSA)

The purpose of [GAPSA](#) is to establish a forum through which Mason graduate and professional students can address issues, advocate for the greater good, grow professionally, and socialize with one another, thus creating a stronger graduate student community that promotes personal and academic success and well-being. GAPSA is the principal body for advocating for the needs of George Mason University graduate and professional students within the University (Board of Visitors, Graduate Council, and other groups) and government bodies (the Commonwealth of Virginia Assembly and State Legislature).

GETTING STARTED AT MASON

Steps for Newly Admitted Graduate Students

As a new student, you will need to follow certain steps to prepare for your future at Mason. Please visit the [admissions](#) page to access a checklist of important tasks. This list is for all graduate students, regardless of your graduate program. Please ensure you also review the checklists provided by your specific college or school for any program-specific tasks you may need to complete. International students may find additional steps listed on the [Office of International Programs and Services](#) webpage.

Mason Honor Code

At Mason, Academic Integrity is a cornerstone of our work and community, both in the classroom and in our research activities. We maintain this commitment to high academic standards through Mason's Honor Code, an agreement made by all members of our community. Students sign an agreement to adhere to the Honor Code on their application for admission to Mason and are responsible for being aware of the most current version of the code, which can be accessed on the [Academic Standards Code](#) webpage. The Honor Code Pledge reads as follows:

"To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University Community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this Honor Code: Student Members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work."

Academic Calendar

Most programs follow a semester academic calendar (Fall, Spring, and Summer). Some programs use a modular or other alternative calendar. The University Registrar maintains all official academic calendars. You can find all the calendars [here](#). If you have any questions on which calendar to follow, contact your program.

KEYS TO ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Academic Advising

When a student is admitted to a program of graduate study at Mason, they will be assigned an advisor by the academic unit responsible for the student's program of study. Registration for newly admitted graduate students, as well as for continuing students, begins with contacting the student's academic advisor. In consultation with the advisor, the student can obtain information about specific courses and degree requirements and develop an individual program of study. Students are encouraged to seek the guidance and support of their advisor. The graduate student is responsible for compliance with the policies and procedures of the college or school and all applicable departmental requirements that govern the individual program of study as well as any applicable [university policies](#). Students should consult with their advisors before registration each semester.

Communication in the University

Mason uses electronic mail (your@gmu.edu email address) to provide official information to students. Students are responsible for making themselves aware of the content of university communication sent to their Mason e-mail account and are required to activate that account and check it regularly. Students are also expected to maintain an active and accurate mailing address in order to receive communications sent through the United States Postal Service. Refer to [Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) for more information.

Graduate Academic Standing

Graduate students must maintain satisfactory grades and make adequate progress in all other aspects of their degree programs to continue as students. Academic Standing reflects the student's level of accomplishment regarding these aspects.

A degree-seeking graduate student may be terminated for the reasons listed in [AP.6.6.2](#) unless an academic policy exception is obtained. Non-degree-seeking graduate students may also be terminated for unsatisfactory performance as described in the above link. These are minimum standards of performance; some programs have set higher standards. Students should consult with their respective School/College or local academic unit for further information.

Once a student has met the criteria for termination, they may only avoid termination by obtaining an academic policy exception, as described further below under the heading "Graduate Academic Policy Exceptions and Appeals." The exception and appeals processes are administered by the student's academic unit in conjunction with the Graduate Division.

Full-Time and Half-Time Status Classification

Students can be classified as either full-time or half-time. Graduate students are considered full-time if they are enrolled in at least 9 graduate credits per semester OR hold a full-time assistantship (20 hours per week) and are enrolled in at least 6 graduate credits per semester. Graduate students are considered half-time if they are enrolled in at least 4.5 graduate credits per semester. Special consideration is given to eligible students enrolled in dissertation or thesis credits. For more information, please visit [AP.6.2 Full-Time and Half-Time Status Classification](#).

Domicile Determination

Domicile is initially determined by the [Office of Admissions](#) when a student applies to Mason. To be considered for in-state tuition, students must meet the residency requirements set forth by the [Code of Virginia](#). To qualify for in-state tuition, a student (or, in the case of a dependent student, their parent, spouse, or legal guardian) must demonstrate through clear and convincing evidence that they have been domiciled in Virginia for at least 12 continuous months immediately prior to the first day of classes.

If you believe you were mistakenly classified as out-of-state, or your circumstances have changed and you believe you now qualify for in-state tuition, you should submit a domicile appeal. For instructions and deadlines for domicile appeals, please see the [Domicile Appeals](#) page on the website of the Office of the Registrar.

The University allows eligible nonresident Doctoral and MFA students to be charged at the in-state rate for tuition and fees. For more information on in-state tuition eligibility, please visit the [In-State Eligibility for Doctoral and MFA Students](#) page.

Credit by Exam, or Transfer

All students must take more than half of their required credits at Mason. Relevant graduate credits earned from an institution accredited by a Mason-recognized accrediting agency, earned at another institution and recommended for graduate credit by the American Council on Education, earned as a former Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degree student, or earned at Mason in non-degree graduate student status may be transferred towards doctoral or master's degree or certificate program requirements in accordance with university and program requirements. Note that credits accepted for transfer do not compute into any Mason GPA. For more information, please visit the [AP.6.5.2 Transfer of Credits](#) page.

Students enrolled in a degree program may take graduate courses at another accredited institution and apply these credits to a master's or doctoral degree with prior approval. Approval must be secured in writing from the Director of the graduate program and the Dean or Director of the relevant school, college, or institute, and submitted to Mason's Office of the University Registrar before registering at the other institution. Refer to the [AP.6.5.3 Permission to Study Elsewhere](#) page for more information.

Leaves of Absence

Mason understands that a graduate student may experience life events that impact the student's time and capacity to devote to their education program. A leave pauses the student's status, with the opportunity to return to their program at a set time and have their degree completion deadline extended. A graduate student may request a leave of absence for medical, parental, or personal reasons. Refer to the Graduate Division [webpage](#) for further information as well as [AP.6.4 Student Status](#) for more information.

Registration Expectations

All graduate students in a master's or doctoral degree program must register and pay associated tuition and fees each term, including summer if required by the program, until the degree is awarded. Refer to [AP.6.1.2 Continuous Registration Requirement](#) for more information. A master's or doctoral degree student who does not register and who has not requested and received a Leave of Absence or Permission to Study Elsewhere must request permission to re-enroll upon return in accordance with the guidelines outlined in [AP.6.4.3](#). Graduate certificate and non-degree students who are not registered and enrolled for more than two semesters must obtain permission from their graduate program through a re-enroll form.

University Policies

As a graduate student, you are responsible for knowing Mason's rules, regulations, requirements, administrative policies and Academic Policies. The university catalog contains much of this information.

When the university or one of its academic units changes course requirements, grading procedures, or criteria for acceptance into particular programs, academic standing, or graduation, the changes apply to all students enrolled at the time of implementation of the change and thereafter. Refer to the [Students Rights and Responsibilities](#) page for more information.

Master's Degrees

Requirements

Candidates must satisfy all applicable university degree requirements and all requirements established by the master's program faculty. Individual departmental degree requirements are listed under the respective master's programs in the [University Catalog](#). Programs may impose more stringent requirements. Please visit the [AP.6.9 Requirements for Master's Degrees](#) page for more information.

Thesis Research Guidelines

Requirements regarding a thesis vary with the degree program. Several master's programs offer both thesis and non-thesis options. The same quality of work is expected of students regardless of their chosen option. For more information, consult the section on degree requirements under each degree program. For students submitting a master's thesis, the Library's [University Dissertation & Thesis Services](#) office helps graduate students prepare, format, complete, and submit their theses correctly and on time.

Doctoral Degrees

Requirements

Candidates must satisfy all applicable university degree requirements and all requirements established by the doctoral program faculty. Departmental degree requirements are listed under the respective doctoral programs in the [University Catalog](#). Programs may impose more stringent requirements. Please visit the [AP.6.10 Requirements for Doctoral Degrees](#) page for more information on time limits, doctoral research competency requirements, advancement to candidacy, and other doctoral-level requirements and procedures.

Dissertation Research Guidelines

A dissertation is required for the Doctor of Philosophy degree and most professional doctoral degrees. The dissertation is a written example of original thought that demonstrates doctoral candidates' mastery of the subject matter, methodologies, and conceptual foundations of their chosen field of study. Dissertation requirements vary among doctoral programs. Please contact your department or check their webpage for program-specific dissertation guidelines and requirements. The Library's [University Dissertation & Thesis Services](#) office helps graduate students prepare, format, complete, and submit their theses correctly and on time.

Graduate Certificates

Mason offers graduate certificates in a variety of fields. Some certificate programs have been crafted to meet the specific needs of federal agencies, companies, and organizations in the Washington, D.C., area. Please [click here](#) to review current certificate offerings. Graduate certificates can help to expand knowledge and skillsets on top of the coursework of a graduate degree. They offer more specific coursework under more broad graduate majors and add more skill and expertise to a resume. For more information on graduate certificate

policies and how they can be pursued alongside an existing Masters or Doctoral program, visit the [AP.6.8 Requirements for Graduate Certificates](#) page.

Graduate Student Academic Policy Exceptions and Appeals

Sometimes a student encounters an extraordinary obstacle while pursuing a graduate degree that threatens to impact the student's graduate academic standing. In this situation, an exception to university academic policy can be requested. The [Academic Exception Request](#) page outlines the procedure for initiating this process with your College/School. A request for exception does not guarantee the request will be granted. This is not the process to seek grade changes, alter course withdrawal/drop or transfer of credit decisions, or to appeal an Honor Committee decision.

FUNDING GRADUATE STUDY

Graduate Assistantships and Lectureships

Graduate Assistantships and Lectureships provide a supervised opportunity for graduate students to gain experience in their field of study through teaching, research, or professional career preparation.

Graduate Assistantships are a form of university employment for admitted, full-time master's and doctoral students who must enter with and maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA which includes not having unsatisfactory grades both at the time of hire and for each term they are to hold an assistantship. Assistantships are compensated according to the Provost's Office guidelines and the unit's established rates for contracted responsibilities. Position responsibilities, time commitment, and compensation will vary by department and position.

Graduate Lectureships are a form of university employment held by admitted, part-time or full-time master's or doctoral students who must enter with and maintain a minimum of 3.0 cumulative GPA which includes not having unsatisfactory grades both at the time of hire and each term they are to hold a lectureship. Lectureships are compensated based on the didactic hour in accordance with the Adjunct Faculty Matrix. Lectureships are intended for graduate students who wish to gain teaching experience but are not eligible for Graduate Teaching Assistantships.

There are four classifications, identified by the student's job responsibilities:

- *Graduate Professional Assistant (GPA)*: A graduate student participating in a non-teaching/non-research position performing work that is related to their program of study, that is commensurate with level of study, and that provides substantive professional experience in their field of study and career preparation.
- *Graduate Research Assistant (GRA)*: A graduate student participating directly in research or research-support activities under faculty supervision.
- *Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA)*: A graduate student participating directly in classroom teaching and support activities under faculty supervision. The student might or might not be the instructor of record. Students hired into GTA positions, regardless of the funding source, should have responsibilities that contribute to both their academic progress as well as their professional goals and experience. Professional development support for GTAs is available through the academic departments or faculty members affiliated with the GTA position.
- *Graduate Lecturers*: A graduate student who serves as Instructor of Record for a credit-bearing undergraduate course under faculty supervision.

Students employed as GTAs, or Graduate Lecturers can also find teaching resources and professional development opportunities in the following places:

- [GT Training](#): This introductory training presents appropriate and relevant instructional support and resources to include pragmatic considerations and tools for graduate teaching assistants, graduate lecturers, and post-doc scholars across

Mason's campuses. The Graduate Teaching Training, fitting within a bigger picture of graduate preparation at Mason, serves to elevate the overall student experience in the classroom.

- [Graduate Teaching Academy](#): for all students and encourages participants to connect their scholarly activities with career and professional training centered on skill development. Participants will work to create challenging and stimulating learning environments, while attending growth-based trainings providing personal enhancement.
- [Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning](#): Whether supporting a course or serving as instructor of record, GTAs are welcome to participate in Stearns Center opportunities like Course ReDesign Academy, Innovations in Teaching & Learning conference, Writing Intensive Course Workshops, and consultations. The Stearns Center website includes a plethora of “how to” teaching strategy resources and classroom guides.
- [ITS](#): for course roster, learning management system technology support (e.g., Blackboard)
- [Collaborative Learning HUB \(CLUB\)](#): for scantron scanning; learning management system technology support (e.g., Blackboard); recording teaching videos.
- [University Libraries Subject Librarians](#): for creating course reserves; accessing Open Educational Resources (OER) for teaching; developing course research assignments that ask students to use the library.
- [Classroom Support](#): for real-time tech support in classrooms by phone.

Assistantship opportunities are posted in a variety of places including [Mason Jobs, Handshake](#), and department pages. Students may also contact their program directors and/or advisors for assistantship information and opportunities.

Internal Fellowships, Scholarships, Grants, and Awards

Graduate fellowships, grants, and awards are offered to enhance academic performance, promote research of consequence, and advance professional development. An award or grant is referred to as “internal” when the funding comes from a source inside the university, such as an academic unit or department, faculty grant, or the Office of the Provost. The Graduate Division sponsors several different [graduate student awards](#), which are listed below. You may also wish to inquire with your academic program about awards or grants offered at the level of the unit to students in your college, department, or program of study.

- *High Impact Grants*: These competitive grants are a funding opportunity for master’s and doctoral students. They provide tuition support for graduate students’ courses that significantly enhance training and education and/or satisfy credit-bearing requirements towards completion of the graduate degree.
- *Doctoral Research Scholars*: These competitive assistantships are a funding opportunity for full-time or part-time doctoral students, who have completed a minimum of 48 credits of coursework. They provide support for graduate students to advance their research to progress in 998 or 999 requirements towards completion of their degree.

- *Summer Research Fellowship*: These fellowships provide financial support to graduate students during the summer term, allowing them to devote significant time to their dissertation or thesis research. The award fosters greater professional productivity and assists in timely degree completion.
- *Dissertation Completion Grant*: These competitive awards go to doctoral students in the final semester of completing their dissertations. They enable students to focus full-time on research and writing, improve the quality of their work, and shorten the time needed to complete their degrees.
- *Graduate Student Travel Fund (GSTF)*: This fund helps cover the costs of doctoral and master's students' attendance at and participation in professional conferences. Please refer to the [guidelines](#) page when applying.
- *Graduate Inclusion & Access (GIA) Scholarship*: This scholarship supports the growth and development of an inclusive graduate community, which is an essential strength of Mason. This scholarship, awarded on a competitive basis, is open to new, incoming doctoral students from disadvantaged and/or underrepresented groups in their respective fields of graduate study. Please visit the [scholarship page](#) to view the eligibility and selection criteria if you are planning to apply for a Mason doctoral program in the future.
- *Mentoring for Anti-Racism and Inclusive Excellence (MARIE)*: This program will provide financial support to part-time and full-time graduate students in the completion of projects that will further Mason's ARIE mission and goals. Along with the monetary award, students will receive mentoring support for the duration of their projects.

External Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

Graduate fellowships, grants, and awards are offered to enhance academic performance, promote research of consequence, and advance professional development. An award or grant is referred to as "external" when the funding comes from a source outside the university, such as a government agency, scholarly or professional organization, or private foundation. External fellowships, grants, and awards can be used to fund a master's or doctoral student's research, writing, fieldwork, training (including foreign language study), and professional development. Some awards offer support for tuition. Some external awards qualify for additional support through the Graduate Division, in some cases including assistance with tuition and health.

George Mason University's [Office of Fellowships](#) works to increase awareness of and success in external funding competitions by offering information about funding opportunities, application workshops, individual coaching, and feedback on application materials, as well as post-award guidance for students who have received external awards.

Financial Aid

The [Financial Aid Services](#) office may direct the non-need-based awards (like those listed above) toward lowering your loans, reducing the amount of money you will borrow. For more information about how a non-need-based award may affect your financial aid package, contact the Financial Aid office. Students who need additional financial support may apply for financial aid by completing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) a minimum of 30 days prior to the start of your program. Graduate students are only eligible for unsubsidized loans when applying for Federal Aid.

Please visit the [Financial Aid Eligibility](#) page for more information on eligibility criteria. For information on how to apply for financial aid, please [click here](#).

RESOURCES

Access and Inclusion: Policies & Procedures

Non-Discrimination Policy

George Mason University is committed to providing equal opportunity and an educational and work environment free from any discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, military status (including veteran status), sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, pregnancy status or genetic information. For the complete non-discrimination policy under University Policy Number 1201, please [click here](#).

Prohibited Relationships with Students

For the complete policy under University Policy Number 1204, please [click here](#).

Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment and Other Forms of Interpersonal Misconduct

It is a violation of University policy to engage in Sexual Assault, Quid Pro Quo Sexual Harassment, Hostile Environment Sexual Harassment, Sexual Exploitation, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence and Stalking, and Complicity in the commission of any act prohibited by this policy, and Retaliation against a person for the good faith reporting of any of these forms of conduct or participation in any investigation or proceeding under this policy (collectively, "Prohibited Conduct"). Prohibited Conduct is prohibited regardless of the sex, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity/expression of the Complainant or Respondent. Please [click here](#) for the complete policy under University Policy Number 1202 and/or other related policies.

Title IX Compliance

Mason is committed to providing safe and non-discriminatory learning, living, and working environments for all members of our community, and does not discriminate based on sex or gender in any education or employment programs and activities. To that end, this policy prohibits specific forms of behavior that violate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX"); Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ("Title VII"); and/or the Virginia Human Rights Act. Such behavior also requires the university to fulfill certain obligations under the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 ("VAWA") and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act ("Clery Act"). Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 covers a broad set of unwanted acts. Items that are investigated under Title IX include stalking, intimate partner violence, sex, and gender-based harassment, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, complicity, and retaliation. If you have experienced any of these behaviors, remedial and protective measures and support services are available for you. There are also a variety of ways to report the incident to seek remedy. Please [click here](#) for the Title IX Coordinator's contact information. To make a report to Mason's Title IX Coordinator, [click here](#).

Access and Inclusion: Units & Services

Disability Services

As part of George Mason University's continuing commitment to upholding the letter and spirit of the laws that ensure equitable treatment of people with disabilities, the university established and maintains the [Disability Services](#) office. Under the administration of University Life, the office implements and coordinates reasonable accommodations and disability-related services that provide students equal access to university programs and activities. Disability Services is available to serve all Mason students with disabilities.

Center for Culture, Equity, and Empowerment (CCEE)

The [Center for Culture, Equity, and Empowerment](#) leverages programs and services focused on advocacy and direct student support to strengthen equity and inclusion at George Mason University and is composed of two areas: Student Engagement for Racial Justice (SERJ) and Coalition Building and Diversity Education (CBDE).

First-Gen+ Center

The [First-Gen+ Center](#) serves students who are underrepresented in higher education and more specifically students who identify as first-generation or undocumented, possess refugee status, or come from a limited income family. They provide support and resource connections for these communities.

INTO Mason

[INTO Mason](#) is a partnership between the company INTO and George Mason University to provide English language (Academic English) and academic preparation coursework (Pathway programs) to students who do not yet meet the academic or English language proficiency level required for regular admission to the university.

LGBTQ+ Resources Center

The [LGBTQ+ Resources Center](#) serves as a hub and central resource for the Mason community for accessing Mason's LGBTQ services and information. LGBTQ+ Resources offers programs, workshops and presentations as well as providing a Safe Zone within the office and training for Safe Zones throughout the university.

Office of International Programs and Services (OIPS)

The [Office of International Programs and Services](#) assists international students and scholars with processing key documents, provides educational cultural, and social programs including the annual International Week held each April, and provides advising on a walk-in and appointment basis. The office advises non-immigrant students, scholars, faculty, and staff at George Mason University on a range of issues vital to Mason's international community.

Office of Military Services (OMS)

The [Office of Military Services](#) works with military members of Mason Nation to create and adapt strategies to help them achieve their academic and career goals while enhancing their college experience. OMS offers free counseling services from professional clinical psychologists, social workers, counselors, learning specialists, and a psychiatrist through

individual and group counseling, workshops, online self-help, and community education programs. The Office of Military Services accepts walk-ins during normal business hours, but if you have in-depth questions, you can [schedule an appointment](#) with a Transition Coordinator.

Women and Gender Studies Center

The [Women and Gender Studies Center](#) bridges academic coursework with student development, leadership, and coalition building. Our mission is to educate the George Mason University community about gender issues through an intersectional lens that addresses race, sexuality, ability, ethnicity, national identity, and religion.

Commitment to Research

As an R1 University, Mason has a robust and significant research portfolio focused on solving the world's most pressing problems by supporting research of consequence. Mason provides [central resources and support](#) for research at the university. Additionally, all colleges/schools have an Associate Dean or Director of Research focused on supporting college/school research goals.

Institutes and Centers

Mason's commitment to research goes beyond the work of individual faculty members and graduate students. The university and its partners invest in research centers and institutes that excel at focused and multidisciplinary studies, working together to solve global problems. These interdisciplinary research institutes and centers study, analyze, and develop knowledge in a variety of fields, using collaboration and communication to help generate discoveries. Please [click here](#) for more information. University level support for research development and multidisciplinary research is also available through the [Research and Innovation Initiatives](#) program.

Office of Research Integrity and Assurance (ORIA)

[ORIA](#)'s mission is to provide resources to promote the ethical and responsible conduct of research. Prior to beginning research with human or animal subjects you must provide applications to the Institutional Review Board or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, both committees are managed by ORIA.

Commitment to Academic Excellence

Office of the University Registrar

The [Office of the University Registrar](#) helps Mason students with registration and all related matters, including access to academic records, course listings, online forms, graduation information, and office information. The mission of Mason's Office of the University Registrar is to serve as stewards of academic information by creating, maintaining, certifying, and protecting student course, degree, and student records.

Mason Online

[Mason Online](#) allows students to take the same classes offered on campus in an online format while at home, stationed abroad, or traveling. Programs and courses maintain the same academic rigor and integrity as their campus-based counterparts, while offering the flexibility to fit your needs. In many cases, the degree is the same as if you took classes on campus.

Student Centers

The [Johnson Center](#) (JC) – the biggest and busiest student center building at Mason’s Fairfax campus – cultivates opportunities to engage with members of the Mason Nation. The JC Atrium food court is the largest on Fairfax campus and brings students together before and after class to share and discover great ideas over great meals. The JC inspires learning and positive change through its library and meeting spaces. Many of the community’s events are held in places like Dewberry Hall and the Cinema.

University Career Services

[University Career Services](#) is George Mason University’s centralized career center. UCS serves both undergraduate and graduate students with an industry-focused approach. Career Services provides a comprehensive list of [career resources](#) for graduate students to utilize.

University Libraries

George Mason University has five state-of-the-art [libraries](#): the Fenwick and Gateway Libraries on the Fairfax Campus; the Arlington Campus Library and Law Library; and the Mercer Library on the SciTech Campus. Check [here](#) for the hours of operation. [University Dissertation and Thesis Services](#) (UDTS) helps Mason graduate students prepare, format, complete, and submit their theses and dissertations correctly and on time. Finally, the Fenwick library on Fairfax campus includes dedicated quiet study space for graduate students on the [fifth floor](#).

Writing Center

The [Writing Center](#) offers free writing support to all Mason students, faculty, and staff through individual consultations (face-to-face and online), workshops, and online writing resources. For graduate writers specifically, the center offers weekly write-ins, writing-and-feedback groups, and thesis and dissertation consultations. The Writing Center works with writers through all stages of the writing process, from brainstorming and organizing to revising and polishing. For all graduate student resources, please [click here](#).

Communication Center

The [Communication Center](#) offers support for building oral communication skills. They promote a supportive and inclusive environment to enhance overall public speaking skills and confidence, no matter what occasion you are preparing for. Their trained consultants are willing to assist from topic selection to research to delivery.

SP@RC Lab

The [Scholarly Productions at the Research Commons \(SP@RC\) Lab](#) assists scholars in the production and dissemination of research and creative activities, hopefully sparking inspiration for your next project. Some of their services and resources include poster printing, Risograph printing, four Mac workstations, the One Button Studio, and instructional workshops and consultations. They are also equipped with Adobe Creative Cloud, Microsoft Office, GIMP, and Zotero, amongst other software. This lab can be utilized by any Mason students or faculty; workstations are available on a first come, first serve basis.

Mentor-Mentee Expectations

To be successful in a graduate program, it is imperative to build a relationship with your advisor. This mentorship can be vital to your graduate experience and your career beyond. As with any partnership, the following are examples of expectations that should be met for the mentor-mentee relationship to be mutually beneficial:

- Respect for one another as a student and a professional.
- Open, clear, and timely communication about research expectations, project timelines, the student's progress, and any issues that may arise.
- Working cohesively towards goals.

This is not a comprehensive list because every mentor-mentee relationship is different. Therefore, it is important to discuss all expectations individually. To learn more about Mason's expectations for student and faculty interactions, [click here](#).

Commitment to Health, Wellness, and Safety

Athletics

George Mason University is home to the Patriots, and currently competes in 20 Division I sports. There are sporting events throughout the school year, so be sure to check out a game or two. Visit the [Mason Athletics](#) page for more information, game dates, event tickets, and more.

Campus Safety

The [Department of Police and Public Safety](#) is comprised of three main divisions as well as a robust student Police Cadet program that provides support to all three divisions in various capacities. For emergencies, please call 911. The department operates 24/7 on all three campuses. Should you need an officer dispatched to your location, or for over-the-phone non-emergency assistance, please call (703) 993-2810.

Center for the Advancement of Well-Being

The [Center for the Advancement of Well-Being](#) provides a place for students, faculty, and staff to thrive. They promote a positive and supportive environment and provide the Mason community with educational, co-curricular, and professional development experiences. Their goal is to promote well-being and help to cultivate a well-lived life through developing vitality, purpose, resilience, and engagement.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

[Counseling and Psychological Services](#) provides confidential personal and academic services to students. Individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultations to students, faculty and staff, and community education programs are offered. Services are provided by a staff of licensed clinical psychologists, social workers, professional counselors, learning specialists, and a psychiatrist. Additionally, Counseling and Psychological Services supports the Peer Empowerment Program, which provides trained peer support to Mason students through programs, mentoring, and direct advising. For more information regarding appointments, locations, and operating hours, please [click here](#).

Environmental Health and Safety (EHS)

The [Environmental Health and Safety Office](#) (EHS) is committed to providing resources and programs relevant for George Mason University faculty, staff, and students. Toward this effort, they collaborate with the university community to sustain a healthful and safe working and learning environment. Please [contact EHS](#) with questions or suggestions on how to improve health, safety, environmental stewardship, and emergency preparedness.

Graduate Student Housing

Dedicated graduate student housing is offered at Mason's Fairfax Campus and SciTech campus. For more information about graduate housing, please [click here](#). Additionally, [Off-Campus Housing Services](#) seeks to provide a centralized resource and comprehensive list of academic and social engagement opportunities to meet the needs of students living off-campus and those transitioning to off-campus living, contributing to a successful, holistic, and seamless collegiate experience.

Mason360

[Mason360](#) helps students join one of the more than 450 student organizations on campus, connect with other Patriots, and discover campus events, workshops, resources, and other opportunities. Students can also download Mason360 as an app at the Google Play Store and App Store.

Mason Recreation

Mason Recreation promotes an inclusive atmosphere that fosters lifelong well-being for students and the wider university community through active experiences, education, and engagement. Students have the option to pay for a membership to access the full range of available facilities and programs. Visit Mason Recreation's [membership page](#) for more information on pricing, terms, and conditions.

Parking and Transportation Services

[Transportation Services](#) sells parking passes online and provides the ability to pay for your parking tickets or appeal them. Additionally, shuttle service [schedules](#) are available with a campus map displaying shuttle stops.

Student Health Services

[Student Health Services](#) provides accessible and affordable health care to all currently enrolled Mason students in a caring and confidential environment. Clinics on the Fairfax, Mason Square, and Science and Technology campuses offer a wide variety of services to keep

Mason students healthy, from diagnosis and treatment of illness and injury to immunizations, prescriptions, and physical exams.

Student Organizations

At Mason, there are many organizations that are open to graduate students. Joining gives you a chance to be involved in campus life and to meet and interact with your peers. Please visit our [Graduate Registered Student Organizations](#) page to see a list of RSOs that are run and for graduate students specifically. Check out [Mason360](#) to browse the currently active student organizations at Mason.

Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC)

The [Student Support and Advocacy Center](#) is committed to providing an empowering environment for all Mason students to seek support services and to explore healthy life choices. We offer educational programming, one-on-one consultations, and resources in the areas of sexual and interpersonal violence, financial well-being, substance use, and collegiate recovery. We also assist students who encounter barriers to personal success.

Where to Eat

With more than 30 dining locations across our campuses, some open 24 hours, hungry Mason students have the flexibility to eat what they want when they want. Mason's campuses feature a variety of dining choices, from Starbucks to Chick-fil-A to Steak 'N Shake to Chipotle. The Fairfax Campus [dining map](#) guides you to that essential smoothie, burger, or falafel, and our restaurant list with hours of operation will tell you when and where you can indulge in a treat on all campuses. Pull up a seat and have something to eat!

INDEX OF CONTACTS

Center for the Advancement of Well-Being

Location: Northern Neck, Room 119 (Fairfax)

Website: <https://wellbeing.gmu.edu/>

Collaborative Learning HUB (CLUB)

Website: <https://club.gmu.edu>

Location: Johnson Center, Suite 311 (Fairfax)

Email: club@gmu.edu

Phone: 703-993-3141

Communication Center

Website:

<https://communicationcenter.gmu.edu/>

Location: Johnson Center, Room 227E (Fairfax)

Email: gmspeech@gmu.edu

Contemporary Student Services and Off-Campus Housing

Website: <https://contemporary.gmu.edu/>

Location: Lounge in the HUB 1012 (Fairfax)

Email: masoncss@gmu.edu

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

Website: <https://caps.gmu.edu>

Location: SUB 1, Suite 3129 (Fairfax)

Phone: 703-993-2380

Department of Police and Public Safety

Website: <https://police.gmu.edu>

Non-Emergency Phone: 703-993-2810

Anonymous Tip Hotline: 703-993-4111

Disability Services

Website: <https://ds.gmu.edu>

Location: SUB 1, Suite 2500 (Fairfax)

Email: ods@gmu.edu

Phone: 703-993-2474

Financial Aid Office

Website: <https://www.gmu.edu/financial-aid>

Location: SUB1, Suite 1100 (Fairfax)

Phone: 703-993-2000

First-Gen+ Center

Website: <https://firstgen.gmu.edu/>

Location: SUB1, Suite 2400 (Fairfax)

Graduate and Professional Student Association

Website: <https://gapsa.gmu.edu/>

Email: gapsa@gmu.edu

Graduate Division

Website: <https://graduate.gmu.edu/>

Email: provgrad@gmu.edu

Graduate Student Life

Website: <https://gradlife.gmu.edu>

Location: SUB 1, Room 3324 & 3326 (Fairfax)

Email: gradlife@gmu.edu

Housing and Residence Life

Website: <https://housing.gmu.edu/>

Location: Piedmont/Tidewater Hall Ground Floor

Email: housing@gmu.edu

Information Technology Services (ITS)

Website: <https://its.gmu.edu/>

Location: Innovation Hall, Suite 226 (Fairfax)

Email: support@gmu.edu

Phone: 703-993-8870

INTO Mason

Website: <https://intomason.gmu.edu/>

Email: intoadmissions@gmu.edu

Phone: 703-993-4501

LGBTQ+ Resources

Website: <https://lgbtq.gmu.edu/>

Location: SUB 1, Suite 2200 (Fairfax)

Email: lgbtq@gmu.edu

Phone: 703-993-2702

Mason Online

Website: <https://masononline.gmu.edu/>

Location: Fairfax

Email: online@gmu.edu

Phone: 703-993-8978

Mason Recreation

Website: <https://recreation.gmu.edu/>

Locations & Contact: <https://bit.ly/34APqX2>

ODIME

Website: <https://odime.gmu.edu/>
Location: SUB 1, Suite 2400 (Fairfax)
Email: ccee@gmu.edu
Phone: 703-993-2700

Office of Environmental Health & Safety (EHS)

Website: <https://ehs.gmu.edu/>
Location & Contact:
<https://ehs.gmu.edu/contact/>

Office of Fellowships

Website: <https://graduate.gmu.edu/financial-support/grants-fellowships-awards/external>
Location: Merten Hall, 3100 (Fairfax)
Email: filwshps@gmu.edu

Office of International Programs and Services (OIPS)

Website: <https://oips.gmu.edu/>
Location (Fairfax): SUB 1, Suite 4300
Location (Mason Square): 222 Van Metre Hall
Email: oips@gmu.edu
Main Phone: 703-993-2970

Office of Military Services (OMS)

Website: <https://military.gmu.edu/>
Location: SUB 1, Suite 1510 (Fairfax)
Email: military@gmu.edu
Phone: 703-993-1316

Office of Research Integrity & Assurance (ORIA)

Website: <https://oria.gmu.edu/>
Location: Research Hall, Suite 141 (Fairfax)
Contacts: <https://oria.gmu.edu/about/contact/>

Office of the University Registrar

Website: <https://registrar.gmu.edu/>
Location: SUB 1, Suite 2102 (Fairfax)
Email: registrar@gmu.edu
Phone: 703-993-2441

Parking and Transportation Services

Website: <https://bit.ly/2XzRPzW>
Location (Fairfax): Sandy Creek Transit Center
Location (SciTech): Colgan Hall, Room 112
Location (Mason Square): Van Metre Hall, Room 219
Email: parking@gmu.edu
Phone: 703-993-2710

SP@RC Lab

Website: <https://library.gmu.edu/sparc>
Location: Fenwick Library, 2100 (Fairfax)
Email: sparc@gmu.edu

Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning

Website: <https://stearnscenter.gmu.edu/>
Location: Innovation Hall, Suite 412 (Fairfax)
Email: stearns@gmu.edu
Phone: 703-993-6200

Student Health Services (SHS)

Website: <https://shs.gmu.edu/>
Clinic Locations:
<https://shs.gmu.edu/locations/>

Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC)

Website: <https://ssac.gmu.edu/>
Location (Fairfax): SUB 1, Suite 3200
Location (Mason Square): 222 Van Metre Hall
Email: ssac@gmu.edu
Phone (Fairfax): 703-993-3686
Phone (Mason Square): 703-993-8984

Title IX Office

Website: <https://bit.ly/3bb4ptb>
Location: Aquia Building, Suite 373 (Fairfax)
Email: titleix@gmu.edu
Phone: 703-993-2000

University Career Services (UCS)

Website: <https://careers.gmu.edu/>
Location: SUB 1, Suite 3400 (Fairfax)
Email: careers@gmu.edu
Phone: 703-993-2370

University Libraries

Website: <https://library.gmu.edu/>
Information Desk Email:
info@gmu.libanswers.com
Information Desk Phone: 703-993-2240

Women and Gender Studies Center

Website: <https://wmst.gmu.edu/center>
Location: Johnson Center, Suite 240K (Fairfax)
Email: wgst@gmu.edu
Phone: 703-993-2896

The Writing Center

Website: <https://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>
Location: Johnson Center, Room 227E
Email: wcenter@gmu.edu
Phone: 703-993-1200