



## Fact Sheet 2021-2022 (UPDATED FOR SPRING 2022)

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## CONTACTS

### Incoming and Outgoing Primary Contacts

Main & Outbound Exchange Team: [intlex@gmu.edu](mailto:intlex@gmu.edu)  
Incoming Exchange Team: [inbound@gmu.edu](mailto:inbound@gmu.edu) **\*NEW\***

#### Martha Sadler

Exchange Program Administrator  
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#### Universities Located in:

Asia (except South Korea)  
Australia & Oceania  
Europe\*  
West Africa  
Canada

(\*Except Eastern Europe, UK/Ireland, Spain, Italy)

#### Christopher Hicks

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#### Universities Located in:

Africa (except West Africa)  
Americas (except Canada)  
Middle East  
Eastern Europe  
United Kingdom, Ireland, Spain, Italy  
Russia, South Korea

### Additional Contacts

Marie Alice Arnold, Interim Executive Director  
[Marnold7@gmu.edu](mailto:Marnold7@gmu.edu)

## IMPORTANT DATES

	Spring 2022	FALL 2022*
<b>Applications &amp; Nominations Open</b>	September 1, 2021	February 1, 2022
<b>Nomination Deadline</b>	October 1, 2021 <b>(Extended to 10/10)</b>	March 15, 2022
<b>Application Deadline:</b>	October 15, 2021 <b>(Extended to 10/20)</b>	April 1, 2022
<b>Suggested Arrival Date:</b>	January 21, 2022*	August 19, 2022*
<b>Mandatory Orientation</b>	TBD (Tentatively virtual)	TBD*
<b>First Day of Classes:</b>	January 24, 2022	August 22, 2022*
<b>Last Day to Add/Change classes:</b>	January 31, 2022	August 29, 2022*
<b>Last Day of Classes:</b>	May 7, 2022	December 4, 2022*
<b>Final Exam Period:</b>	May 11-18, 2022	December 7-14, 2022*

\*Dates are estimated. The Office of the University Registrar maintains academic calendar at [registrar.gmu.edu/calendars](https://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars)

# APPLICATION PROCESS

## Eligibility

**Undergraduate:** 2.5 GPA minimum (*on a 4.0 scale*). Students should have completed at least one year of study at the bachelor level by the time of arrival.

**Graduate:** 3.0 GPA minimum (*on a 4.0 scale*). Students should have completed at least one semester of study at the master/postgraduate level by the time of arrival.

**English Language Proficiency Requirements:** See table below.

## Nomination

Students must be nominated by their home institution. Nominations are accepted by e-mail using the spreadsheet form “GEO – Nomination Form Template” (sent separately). Please use the student’s full legal name as shown on their passport.

## Application

- [Online Application Form](#)
- Official Transcript (*in English*)  
*This can be received electronically when emailed by the exchange coordinator at student’s home university.*
- Color Copy of Valid Passport
- Visa Documentation (*non-U.S. citizens only; see below for details*)
- Official English Language Proficiency Exam Results (*non-U.S. citizens*)
  - **TOEFL:** Official TOEFL Scores must be sent electronically using Mason’s school code (5827)
  - **IELTS:** Exchange coordinators can email or mail *\*official\** IELTS scores directly to the student’s Program Administrator at Mason.
  - **DuoLingo (Through Fall 2022-only):** Due to COVID-19, Mason is accepting Duolingo English Test Scores. Students must provide our office with the URL to their test score certificate online

English Language Proficiency			
TOEFL	Internet-based (Testing Code: 5827)	Undergraduate <i>Required minimum in each section: 18 points</i>	80 points
		Graduate <i>Required minimum in each section: 20 points</i>	88 points
IELTS	Academic	Undergraduate <i>Required minimum in each subsection: 6.0</i>	6.5 overall score
		Graduate <i>Required minimum in each subsection: 6.0</i>	
Duolingo* *Accepted through Fall 2022	Academic	Undergraduate	110
		Graduate	120

## VISA

Non-U.S. citizens are required to obtain a J-1 visa (students with U.S. citizenship must travel on their U.S. passport). Mason will provide incoming exchange students with a DS-2019 (Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status) that students will need for their visa appointments. Students entering the U.S. on J-1 visas are also Exchange Visitor Students in the BridgeUSA program.

**PASSPORTS MUST BE VALID FOR SIX (6) MONTHS BEYOND THE END DATE OF THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM.**

In order for a DS-2019 to be issued, students must submit the following documents on their application:

- **Certificate of Financial Responsibility** (available on application portal)
- **Proof of Funding Documents** - See the [Office of International Programs and Services website](#) for information on acceptable documentation.

After students have received their DS-2019 (which will be mailed to their home university), they will need to [apply for their J-1 visa](#). Students may contact Christine Bodziak in the Office of International Programs and Services ([cbodziak@gmu.edu](mailto:cbodziak@gmu.edu)) with questions about their visa.

# ACADEMICS & COURSES

## Colleges & Coursework Available

George Mason University is divided into ten schools or colleges. Exchange students are eligible to take courses from the following:

- [College of Education and Human Development](#)
- [College of Humanities and Social Sciences](#)
- [College of Visual and Performing Arts](#)
- [School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution](#)
- [Volgenau School of Engineering](#)
- [College of Health and Human Services](#)
- [College of Science](#)
- [Schar School of Policy and Government](#)
- [School of Business](#)

## Course Offer

There are two ways students can search for potential classes: The University Catalog and the Schedule of Classes.

- **University Catalog** - Students can search the online catalog to view **all** courses offered at Mason.
- **Schedule of Classes** - Students can search the Schedule of Classes to see courses offered in a specific term

\*Fall class schedule is publicly available online in March and spring classes in October of the year prior.

\*Classes are generally offered in the same semester (i.e. a class offered in Fall 2018 is likely to be offered in Fall 2019).

## Restrictions & Limitations

Exchange students are **unable** to take courses in the following subjects:

- Undergraduate Nursing courses
- J.D. courses offered at the Antonin Scalia Law School
- BMGT courses in the Master of Science in Management Program

The following subjects are open to exchange students but may have **limited availability** due to demand:

- Courses in the Volgenau School of Engineering (Specifically undergraduate Computer Science courses)
- Courses in the School of Business
- (some courses may be available but students should be prepared to find alternative subjects)

**\*Academic Prerequisites:** Courses may also have prerequisites that students must show they meet through a Course Override Request process. The University Catalog shows each course's prerequisites [catalog.gmu.edu/](http://catalog.gmu.edu/)

**NOTE:** The course override approval process can take some time and in the waiting period courses may fill up. Therefore, students should ensure they plenty of alternative courses selected. We are unable to reserve spaces for exchange students or require departments to add spaces for them.

## Registration Process

Students register themselves online once admitted and they have set up their PatriotPass/Mason email student portal. After initial registration, students can add or drop classes, generally through the first week of each semester. Registration will open in mid-April for the fall semester and mid-November for the spring.

Many courses at Mason have automatic prerequisites or requirements that will require a special course override. For example, the course may say it is not open to non-degree students (what exchange students are classified as). However, exchange students are exempt from this rule. Students will submit the "course override request(s)" questionnaire in their application after they have been accepted and will work with our registration specialist to get registered for the course. **Additional information on academics can be found [online](#).**

**Required Course Load per Semester:** 12 – 15 credit hours (undergraduate) / 9 credit hours (graduate)\*

**\*UPDATE:** For the current 2021-2022 academic year, due to COVID-19, students must have at least 50% of their coursework in-person or hybrid courses. This requirement may change for future terms.

# HOUSING

\*Due to changes brought about by COVID-19 and visa compliance requirements, J-1 Exchange Students are required to live on-campus. This requirement may change in the future.

## Undergraduate Students

### On-Campus Housing

Housing is guaranteed for undergraduate exchange students. Students are generally placed in double occupancy rooms in on-campus student dormitories. Mason offers two types of dormitories:

- **Suites:** Consist of either a double, single Δ, or triple room with a shared bathroom (a maximum of six residents will share a bathroom). A handful of suites have kitchenettes (sink, microwave, small refrigerator). Those living in suites **must** buy a [meal plan](#). Each student will receive a bed, chair, desk, dresser, and closet (free Wi-Fi and cable). Suite-style buildings include:
  - [Eastern Shore\\*](#)
  - [Mason Global Center](#)
  - [Piedmont / Tidewater / Blue Ridge / Sandbridge](#)
  - [Hampton Roads\\*](#)
  - [Whitetop\\*](#)
- **Apartments:** Consist of fully furnished unit with full kitchen, dining area, living room, and a combination of single Δ or double rooms with at least one bathroom (maximum of six students per apartment). Each student will receive a bed, chair, desk, dresser, and closet (free Wi-Fi and cable). Those living in apartments can choose to buy a [voluntary meal plan](#), but it's not required. Apartment-style buildings include:
  - [Liberty Square\\*](#)
  - [Potomac Heights\\*](#)
  - [Student Apartments\\*](#)
  - [Northern Neck\\*](#)
  - [Rogers\\*](#)
  - [Townhouses\\*](#)

Δ Single occupancy dormitories are rarely available and are primarily reserved for students with disabilities.

\*Students studying abroad for the academic year who wish to spend any part of winter break at Mason should live in one of these dorms.

To apply for housing, students will receive step-by-step instructions to complete the housing application after acceptance (and after students have claimed their Mason student e-mail).

After applying, students will receive a housing selection date and time. It is **very important** that students select their housing on their assigned date and time. Students who do not select housing during their assigned time will go to the end of the list and may no longer be guaranteed housing.

### Off-Campus Housing (CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE)

Students wishing to live off-campus may utilize the services offered by Mason's [Off-Campus Housing Service website](#).

## Graduate Students

### On-Campus Housing

There are graduate student accommodations available at Beacon Hall on the [Science and Technology Campus](#). This campus is 30-60 minutes away from the Fairfax campus (by free shuttle) depending on traffic conditions.

- [Graduate Housing](#)

### Off-Campus Housing (CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE)

Students should utilize the services offered by Mason's [Off-Campus Housing Service website](#).

# ESTIMATED EXPENSES

On-Campus Housing	\$3,465 - \$4,780 \$3,465 - \$5,245 \$5,505 - \$6,555	Per semester (triple occupancy) Per semester (double occupancy) Per semester (single occupancy)
Mandatory Health Insurance <sup>⊕</sup>	\$1,076 (Fall) \$1,750 (Spring/summer)	Health insurance is mandatory for visitors on a J-1 visa
Food	\$2,405 + Bonus Funds* \$350 - \$2,415 \$1,600 - \$2,800	Per semester meal plan in housing without full kitchen Per semester meal plan in housing with full kitchen Per semester for living off campus *Bonus Funds can be used in most on-campus dining venues for additional purchases outside of the meal plan. Bonus funds are non-refundable and must be used by the end of the semester.  More information can be found on the Mason Dining web page: <a href="https://masondining.sodexomyway.com/meal-plans/index">https://masondining.sodexomyway.com/meal-plans/index</a>
Public Transportation	Free with Mason ID \$4 - \$6 / one-way	Campus shuttle and local CUE bus (around Fairfax)  Metro train to Washington, DC (Requires <a href="#">SmartTrip Card</a> )
SEVIS Fee (Form I-901) Nonimmigrant Visa Application Fee (Form DS-160)♦	\$220 Minimum of \$160 (varies by country)	Paid to the U.S. Government Paid to U.S. Consulate
Personal Expenses	\$2,336 \$4,238	Per semester for students living on-campus Per semester for students living off-campus
Books and Supplies	\$1,278	Per semester (books can be bought used or rented for less)

**Costs are estimated based on Academic Year 2021-2022 rates.**

<sup>⊕</sup> Health insurance is mandatory for visitors on a J-1 visa. More details are available on the [Student Health Services website](#).

♦Fee(s) subject to change. For non-U.S. citizens on a J-1 visa only.

## Post-Program Transcripts

At the completion of the semester, each student will receive one transcript free of charge and sent to the home institution. This can be mailed to a physical address or sent electronically via e-mail.

- Students can order additional transcripts for a fee [online](#).
- Fall transcripts will be mailed in February and spring transcripts will be mailed in July.