



Fact Sheet 2021-2022

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CONTACTS

Incoming and Outgoing Primary Contacts

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Universities Located in:

Asia (except South Korea)
Australia & Oceania
Europe*
West Africa
Canada
(*Except Eastern Europe, UK/Ireland, Spain, Italy)

Universities Located in:

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

Additional Contacts

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Executive Director
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IMPORTANT DATES

	Fall 2021	Spring 2022
Applications & Nominations Open	February 1, 2021	August 30, 2021
Nomination Deadline	March 15, 2021	October 1, 2021
Application Deadline:	April 1, 2021	October 15, 2021
Suggested Arrival Date:	August 21, 2021*	January 14, 2022*
Mandatory Orientation	<i>Undergraduate: August 19, 2021*</i> <i>Graduate: August 20, 2021*</i>	<i>Undergraduate: January 13, 2022*</i> <i>Graduate: January 14, 2022*</i>
First Day of Classes:	August 23, 2021	January 18, 2022
Last Day to Add/Change classes:	August 30, 2021	January 25, 2022
Last Day of Classes:	December 4, 2021	May 2, 2022
Final Exam Period:	December 8-15, 2021	May 4-11, 2022

*Dates are estimated

A [three-year academic calendar](#) is available to view online

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.

Required Application Documents

- **Online Application Form**
- Official Transcript (*in English*)
 - This document can be received electronically when emailed by the student's exchange coordinator at their 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 and students from non-English speaking countries only*)
 - **TOEFL:** 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 (For Fall 2021-only):** Due to COVID-19, Mason is accepting Duolingo English Test Scores. Students must provide our office with the URL/link to their test score certificate online to verify

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* *Only for Fall 2021	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.

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
 - Visit 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) with questions about their visa.

ACADEMICS & COURSES

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

There are two ways students can search for potential classes:

- **University Course 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

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
- Undergraduate Computer Science (some courses may be available but students should be prepared to find alternative subjects)

While Volgenau School of Engineering and School of Business courses aren't restricted to exchange students, some may have limited availability. The course 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.

Process

Students register themselves online once admitted. After initial registration, students can add or drop classes, generally through the first week or two 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 – 16 credit hours (undergraduate)*
- 9 credit hours (graduate)*

*Per visa regulations, fully online courses cannot count toward the number of credits registered**

***UPDATE: For the current 2020-2021 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.**

Transcripts

At the completion of the semester, each student will receive one transcript free of charge. 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.

HOUSING

*Due to changes brought about by COVID-19 and visa compliance requirements, both undergraduate and graduate 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 †	\$1,060 (Fall) \$1,725 (Spring/summer)	Health insurance is mandatory for visitors on a J-1 visa
Food	\$2,315 + Bonus Funds* \$300 - \$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* (Currently unavailable) *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.
Public Transportation	Free with Mason ID \$4 - \$6 / one-way	Campus shuttle and local CUE bus (around Fairfax) Metro train to Washington, DC (Requires SmartTrip Card)
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 * (Currently unavailable)
Books and Supplies	\$1,278	Per semester (books can be bought used or rented for less)

Costs are estimated based on Academic Year 2020-2021 rates.

† 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.