

FACT SHEET

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024

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IMPORTANT DATES

	FALL 2023	Spring 2024
Applications & Nominations Open	February 1, 2023	September 1, 2023
Nomination Deadline	March 15, 2023	October 1, 2023
Application Deadline:	April 1, 2023	October 15, 2023
Course Registration Begins	Mid-May	Mid-November
Suggested Arrival Date	*August 16, 2023* (TENTATIVE)	*January 10, 2024 (TENTATIVE)
Mandatory Orientation	*August 17, 2023* (TENTATIVE)	*January 11, 2024 (TENTATIVE)
First Day of Classes:	August 21, 2023	January 16, 2024
Last Day to Add/Change classes:	August 28, 2023	January 23, 2024
Last Day to Drop classes	September 5, 2023	January 30, 2024
Last Day of Classes:	December 2, 2023	May 6, 2024
Final Exam Period:	December 6-13, 2023	May 10-17, 2024

*Dates are estimated. The Office of the University Registrar maintains academic calendar at registrar.gmu.edu/calendars

APPLICATION PROCESS

Eligibility

Students must attend a current partner university and be nominated by their home institution for the exchange program.

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.](#)

***NOTE: Financial Requirements for J-1 Student Exchange Visa*:** Students must also show sufficient funding of their program in order to apply for a J-1 Student Exchange Visa. For more information, please see the [Incoming Exchange Website.](#)

Nomination

- Students must be nominated by their home institution (please use the student's *full legal name as shown on passport*).
- Official Transcripts can also be sent along with nomination (transcripts forwarded by student are considered *unofficial*)
- GEO will contact nominated students with a link to the Incoming Exchange Application portal (MasonAbroad)

Application

- **ONLINE APPLICATION**
- **OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT (in English)**
 - MUST BE SENT BY THE HOME INSTITUTION DIRECTLY TO MASON/GEO (can be sent via e-mail by exchange coordinator)
- **COLOR COPY OF VALID PASSPORT**
 - Passport must be valid for at least 6 months beyond program END date
- **FINANCIAL DOCUMENTATION** (required for student visa eligibility; non-U.S. citizens only; see "VISA" section below)
 - Certificate of Financial Responsibility
 - Proof of Funding documentation
 - See [Incoming Exchange Website](#) for full financial requirements
- **OFFICIAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY EXAM SCORES (non-U.S. citizens) – ALL SCORES <2 YEARS OLD**
 - **TOEFL:** Official TOEFL Scores must be sent electronically using Mason's school code (5827 *George Mason University, Undergraduate Organization*)
 - **IELTS:** Exchange coordinators can email or mail **official** IELTS scores directly to Mason at inbound@gmu.edu.
 - **DuoLingo (Accepted through Spring 2024):** Students request scores be sent to George Mason University from DuoLingo.

English Language Proficiency Minimum Score Requirement			
TOEFL	Internet-based	Undergraduate <i>*Required minimum in each section: 18 points</i>	80 Total*
		Graduate <i>*Required minimum in each section: 20 points</i>	88 Total*
IELTS	Academic	Undergraduate <i>*Required minimum in each subsection: 6.0</i>	6.5 overall*
		Graduate <i>*Required minimum in each subsection: 6.5</i>	7.0 overall*
Duolingo* <i>* through Spring 2024</i>	Academic	Undergraduate	110 Total
		Graduate	120 Total

STUDENT VISA REQUIREMENTS

Non-U.S. citizens are required to obtain a J-1 visa (students with U.S. citizenship must travel on their U.S. passport). In order to apply for a J-1 Visa, students must first receive a DS-2019 Form from Mason (Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status). This form is issued AFTER students have been accepted into the exchange program.

Students entering the U.S. on J-1 visas are also Exchange Visitor Students in the BridgeUSA program.

REQUIRED AT APPLICATION (See Application Section Above)

1. **Passport:** Must be valid for six (6) months beyond the end date of the exchange program
2. **Certificate of Financial Responsibility** (available on MasonAbroad application portal)
3. **Proof of Funding Documents**
 - See the [Office of International Programs and Services website](#) for acceptable **TYPES** of Proof of Funding documentation
 - See [Incoming Exchange Website](#) for **MINIMUM AMOUNTS** required for Proof of Funding documentation

UPON ACCEPTANCE

Welcome Packet: Mason will mail students a physical Welcome Packet to their home institution. The Welcome Packet includes the DS-2019 form and exchange program acceptance letter. Students are responsible for picking up their Welcome Packet from their home institution's mobility office

Student Visa Application and Appointment: Once students have their physical Welcome Packet, students will need to [apply for their J-1 Exchange Visa](#).

DURING EXCHANGE PROGRAM

1. **Full-time Enrollment & Attendance:** Students are expected to enroll full-time at Mason (12 credits minimum for undergraduate students; 9 credits for graduate students)
2. In-Person Requirement:

***Students may contact Christine Bodziak (cbodziak@gmu.edu) with the Office of International Programs and Services with questions about their visa.

ACADEMICS & COURSES

Colleges

George Mason University is divided into ten schools or colleges (See [Colleges & Schools](#))

- [Antonin Scalia Law School \(Unavailable for exchange\)](#)
- [Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution](#)
- [College of Education and Human Development](#)
- [College of Engineering & 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](#)
- [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 regardless of term.

Schedule of Classes - Students can search the Schedule of Classes to see courses offered in a **specific term** (i.e. Fall 2022)

- *FALL SEMESTER class schedule is finalized and published online in *March*
- *SPRING SEMESTER class schedule is finalized and published online in *October* of the year prior.
- *Classes are generally offered in the same semester (i.e. a class offered Fall 2021 is likely to be offered in Fall 2022).

Restrictions & Limitations

RESTRICTIONS: Exchange students are **NOT** able to take courses in the following subjects:

- Undergraduate Nursing courses
- J.D. courses offered at the Antonin Scalia Law School
- Honor (HNRS) coursework
- Thesis/capstone courses (reserved for Mason degree-seeking students)
- BMGT courses in the Master of Science in Management Program

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

- Courses in the College of Engineering & Computing (Specifically undergraduate IT & Computer Science)
- Courses in the School of Business

***ACADEMIC PREREQUISITES*:** Individual courses may also have required prerequisites that students must show they meet through a *Course Override Request* process on the MasonAbroad application. The University Catalog shows each course's prerequisites catalog.gmu.edu/

IMPORTANT NOTE:

- ****ALL STUDENTS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO FIND ALTERNATIVE COURSES/SUBJECTS****
- Courses may not be offered the term being attended, may get cancelled, or spots may fill up, or prerequisites may not be met.
- As well, the course override approval process can take some time and in the waiting period courses may fill up.
- Therefore, students should ensure they have plenty of alternative courses.
- We are unable to reserve spaces for exchange students or require departments to add spaces for them.

Registration Process

- Registration will open in mid-May (Fall semester) and mid-November (Spring semester) AFTER acceptance
- Students register themselves online after they have set up their PatriotPass/Mason student email.
- Students can ADD or DROP classes generally through the first week of each semester.

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

***NOTE:** For the current 2022-2023 academic year (ending May 2023), due to COVID-19, students must have **at least the majority of their classes in-person or hybrid courses to meet student visa requirements. This may change in future terms.**

***Prior to the coronavirus outbreak, exchange students were required to take a minimum of 12 credits (Undergraduate) or 9 credits (graduate) of coursework fully in-person. Students will be notified if the in-person requirement changes back to the pre-pandemic requirement.

HOUSING & MEAL PLANS

Housing Application

Students may apply for housing AFTER they have been accepted into the Exchange program. Students will use their Mason NetID to log into the housing application portal. Further instructions will be on students' MasonAbroad application portal.

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.

Please see [Housing Important Dates](#) for accommodation start/end dates. Typically, students must move out of their residences the day after final exams. Yearlong students staying over Winter Break or Summer Break must pay additional fees if staying on-campus during those break periods.

Undergraduate Students

Students are generally placed in **double** occupancy rooms in on-campus student residences. *Please note single occupancy rooms are limited and subject to availability with preference given to those requiring disability accommodations.*

Mason offers two types of accommodations for undergraduate exchange students – *suites and apartment style*:

- **Suites:** Consist of either a single^Δ, double, 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). Each student will receive a bed, chair, desk, dresser, and closet (free Wi-Fi and cable). **Those living in suites must buy a [meal plan](#).** Suite-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.

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

Graduate Students

Graduate student accommodations on campus are extremely limited and preference is given to those requiring disability accommodations. Most graduate students live off-campus.

- **Graduate Housing:** Please note the Main Campus (Fairfax, VA) has only Townhouses or the Angel Cabrera Global Center (ACGC). Beacon Hall is located on Mason's SciTech Campus located in Prince William, VA. Connected by a campus shuttle that takes approximately 45minutes to over 1 hour depending on traffic.
- **Off-Campus Housing:** Students should utilize the services offered by Mason's [Off-Campus Housing Service](#).

ESTIMATED EXPENSES

Tuition/Course fees	\$0	Exchange students do NOT pay tuition/course fees to Mason
On-Campus Housing (Paid to Mason)	\$3,640 - \$4,900 \$3,640 - \$5,510 \$5,785 - \$6,890	Per semester (triple occupancy) Per semester (double occupancy) Per semester (single occupancy)
Mandatory Health Insurance [⊕] (Paid to Mason)	\$1,179 (Fall) \$1,920 (Spring/summer)	Health insurance is mandatory for visitors on a J-1 visa *Costs based on 2022-2023 Academic Year Rates
Meal Plan (Paid to Mason)	Starts at \$2,715 + Bonus Funds* Starts at \$265 + Bonus funds * \$1,600 - \$2,800*	Per semester meal plan in housing without full kitchen • (Independence or Liberty Meal Plans) Per semester meal plan in housing with full kitchen • (Independence, Liberty, Freedom, or Patriot Meal Plans) Per semester for living off campus <i>Bonus Funds</i> 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: https://masondining.sodexomyway.com/meal-plans/ *Costs based on 2022-2023 Academic Year Rates
Estimated Transportation Costs	\$1,304 \$2,368	Students living on-campus Students living off-campus
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	\$2,302 \$5,194	Per semester for students living on-campus Per semester for students living off-campus
Books and Supplies	\$1,314	Per semester (books can be bought used or rented for less)

***Costs are estimated based on Academic Year 2022-2023 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.

Post-Program Transcripts

At the completion of the semester, each student will receive ONE (1) transcript free of charge and sent to the home institution. Transcripts will be sent *digitally* unless physical copies are requested by the home institution.

- Students can order additional transcripts for a fee through the Office of the Registrar [online](#).
- Post-Program Transcripts will be sent in late-January (Fall students) and late-June (Spring students)