



## Fact Sheet 2019-2020

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## CONTACTS

### Incoming and Outgoing Primary Contacts

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Universities Located in Africa, Asia, Ireland, Oceania,  
 Russia, Scandinavia, or United Kingdom

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Universities Located in the Americas, Caribbean,  
 Continental Europe (excluding Russia & Scandinavia),  
 the Mediterranean, and the Middle East

### Additional Contacts

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## IMPORTANT DATES

	Fall 2019	Spring 2020
<b>Applications and Nominations Open</b>	February 1, 2019	August 30, 2019
<b>Nomination Deadline</b>	March 15, 2019	October 1, 2019
<b>Application Deadline:</b>	April 1, 2019	October 15, 2019
<b>Mandatory Orientation</b>	<i>Undergraduate:</i> August 19, 2019 <i>Graduate:</i> August 21, 2019	<i>Undergraduate:</i> January 15, 2020* <i>Graduate:</i> January 16, 2020*
<b>First Day of Classes:</b>	August 26, 2019	January 21, 2020
<b>Last Day of Classes:</b>	December 7, 2019	May 4, 2020
<b>Final Exam Period:</b>	December 11-18, 2019	May 6-13, 2020

*\*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*)
  - Exchange coordinators can email or mail IELTS scores directly to the student's Program Administrator at Mason.

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>	

## 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). Students will need to submit the following documents in order to obtain a DS-2019:

- Certificate of Financial Responsibility
- 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](mailto: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 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](#)

Students can search for courses in the [online catalog](#) to view all courses offered at Mason. To see courses offered in a specific semester, students can view [the schedule of classes](#). Fall classes go live in March and spring classes go

live 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 couple weeks 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.

### 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*

At the completion of the semester, each student will receive one transcript free of charge mailed to their home university. Students can order additional transcripts for a fee [online](#). Fall transcripts will be mailed in February and spring transcripts will be mailed in July.

Additional information on academics can be found [online](#).

# HOUSING

## 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. 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

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

## Graduate Students

### On-Campus Housing

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer on-campus housing options for graduate students. There are an *extremely limited* number of rooms available at Townhouse Building A near the Fairfax campus. There are also rooms 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

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

## ESTIMATED EXPENSES

On-Campus Housing	\$3,255 - \$4,160 \$3,720 - \$4,800 \$4,505 - \$5,345	Per semester (triple occupancy) Per semester (double occupancy) Per semester (single occupancy)
Mandatory Health Insurance †	\$966 (fall) \$1,500 (spring/summer)	Health insurance is required for all exchange students on a J-1 visa
Food	\$2,145 - \$2,505 \$190 - \$2,505 \$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
Public Transportation	Free with Mason ID \$4 - \$6 / one-way	Campus shuttle and local CUE bus (around Fairfax) Metro train to Washington, DC
SEVIS Fee Nonimmigrant Visa Application Fee ♦	\$180 Minimum of \$131 (varies by country)	Paid to the U.S. Government Paid to U.S. Consulate
Personal Expenses	\$2,330 \$3,566	Per semester for students living on-campus Per semester for students living off-campus
Books and Supplies	\$600	Per semester (books can be bought used or rented for less)

*Costs are estimated based on 2018-2019 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.