

Graduate Student Exit Survey

Summer and Fall 2017, Spring 2018

Office of Institutional Research and Assessment – George Mason University

The survey is administered online through Qualtrics. This instrument is not to be filled out.

I. Background Information

- Among the graduate schools that you considered, was Mason your:
 - First choice
 - Second choice
 - Third choice or lower
- Did you pursue your graduate degree at Mason primarily part-time or full-time?
 - Part-time
 - Full-time

II. Financial Support and Employment

- While enrolled in your graduate studies, did you receive financial support from Mason?
 - Yes (check all that apply)
 - Teaching assistantship
 - Research assistantship
 - Graduate professional assistantship
 - Fellowship/scholarship
 - Mason employee tuition waiver benefit
 - No, I did NOT apply
 - No, I applied but did NOT obtain
- While enrolled in graduate studies at Mason, did you **WORK FOR PAY** on or off campus (other than an assistantship)?
 - Yes
 - No

4.1 If yes, how often did you **WORK FOR PAY**? (Mark all that apply)

		Most semesters	A few semesters	Not at all
On campus (other than an assistantship):	Part-time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Full-time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Off campus:	Part-time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Full-time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- What is your approximate level of indebtedness related to your graduate studies at Mason?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,001-60,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000 or less | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60,001-70,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,001-20,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$70,001-80,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20,001-30,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$80,001-90,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30,001-40,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$90,001 or more |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40,001-50,000 | |

III. Academic Program

6. To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following statements about faculty in your graduate program:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A or Don't Know
The courses I have taken were taught well.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is good communication between faculty and students regarding student needs, concerns, and suggestions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There have been many opportunities outside the classroom for interaction between students and faculty.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Faculty in my program are interested in the professional development of graduate students.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Faculty in my program are helpful and supportive in my search for professional employment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Faculty in my program are well qualified to teach their courses.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Faculty in my program have been willing to meet with me to discuss my academic performance.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following statements about your graduate program :	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A or Don't Know
My program has high academic standards.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My program integrates current developments in my field.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My program prepared me well for my profession.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My program was intellectually challenging and stimulating.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My program encourages student collaboration and teamwork.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would recommend my graduate program to prospective students.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If I were starting over, I would enroll in this program again.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There were enough online courses to meet my needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The intellectual caliber of students in my program is high.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I developed knowledge and skills to conduct research in my field as a result of the program.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

IV. Thesis/Project/Dissertation and other Experiences

8. Using the list below, please tell us:	<i>Which of the following is the final culminating requirement for graduation? (Select one)</i>
Thesis/Dissertation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Culminating research paper (not part of a thesis/dissertation)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Culminating research project (not part of a thesis/dissertation)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Culminating/capstone project	<input type="checkbox"/>
Portfolio	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comprehensive/proficiency exam	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internship/practicum, or field experiences	<input type="checkbox"/>
International experiences	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please specify: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following statements about your principal advisor for your final culminating requirement?	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A or Don't Know
Spent the time necessary to advise me on academic matters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was interested in my research/project goals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Discussed my research/project with me on a regular basis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Critiqued my work in ways that helped my work progress	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Returned my work in a timely manner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

V. Experiential Learning

10. While you were a student at Mason, did you do or participate in any of the following? Check all that apply.

- a. Authored or co-authored a published academic paper
- b. Presented or co-presented at a conference or professional meeting
- c. Produced creative projects that were nationally presented/exhibited/juried/evaluated.
- d. Participated in a recital or performance
- e. Participated in an event that showcased my artwork or design project.
- f. Participated in an event that exhibited or demonstrated my invention or engineering project
- g. Did community service or volunteer work
- h. Study abroad
- i. Participated in cooperative education
- j. Took a student leadership role on campus

10.1. (If a is selected for Q10) Please indicate where the academic paper was published. Check all that apply.

- Peer-reviewed journal
- Professional conference proceedings
- e-Book or e-journal via online publishing services (e.g., Glasstree)
- Websites (e.g., personal or organizational) including Blogs
- Monographs/series/reports/conference proceedings published at Mason
- Other, please specify: _____

VI. Library Services

11. To what extent did the following library services and resources enhance your learning at Mason?

	A great deal	A fair amount	A little	Not at all	NA/Never used
Print collections (e.g., collections in my field of study, Special Collections)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online digital resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Library services (e.g., Interlibrary loan, Thesis/Dissertation Services, Data & GIS Services, Mason Publishing Services)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Technology/tools in support of research (e.g., InfoGuides)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Library staff assistance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Space to study (e.g., Group Study Rooms, Mediascape, open area, quiet environment)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VII. Time to Degree

12. Was the amount of time needed for you to graduate:

Less than originally expected

More than originally expected (answer questions 12.1-12.3)

About the same as originally expected

Unsure

If you answered "**More** than originally expected" in question 12, answer questions 12.1-12.3. Otherwise, proceed to question 13.

12.1 To what extent did the following **academic reasons** prevent you from progressing in your degree program as expected?

	A great deal	A fair amount	A little	Not at all
a. Lack of course availability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Inadequate advising	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Difficulty in completing comprehensive/qualifying exams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Difficulty in my project, thesis, or dissertation research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Difficulty in completing coursework	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Difficulty in fulfilling other degree requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12.2 To what extent did the following **personal/family reasons** prevent you from progressing in your degree program as expected?

	A great deal	A fair amount	A little	Not at all
g. Finances	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Demands of my employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Military deployment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Self/family responsibilities (health, birth, child or elderly care, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. Lack of motivation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. Other reasons , please specify:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12.3 Of the reasons (a-l) selected in question 12.1 and/or question 12.2, what was the **most important reason** that prevented you from progressing in your degree program as expected: _____

VIII. Satisfaction

13. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of your **graduate program**:

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	N/A or Don't Know
a. Academic advising (e.g., assistance with course planning and meeting degree requirements)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Career counseling (e.g., assistance with career planning, job search, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Mentoring (e.g., support of professional growth)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Financial support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Work/lab space on campus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Social space on campus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Discipline specific software and equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Ease in finding information related to my study/program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

IX. School or College

14. Select your college: (If you received degrees from multiple colleges, select your primary college)

- College of Education & Human Development (go to CEHD section)
- School for Conflict Analysis & Resolution (go to S-CAR section)
- College of Science (go to COS section)
- College of Humanities & Social Sciences (go to CHSS section)
- Schar School of Policy and Government (go to SCHAR section)
- School of Business (go to section IX)
- College of Health and Human Services (go to section IX)
- College of Visual and Performing Arts (go to section IX)
- Volgenau School of Engineering (go to section IX)

College of Education and Human Development ONLY

15 How satisfied are you with the following:	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	N/A or Don't Know
a. Practicum/internship or other experience-based learning in your program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The supervision in that practicum/internship/experience-based learning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. The relevance of your program for your intended field	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution ONLY

16. Have you been enrolled in a dual or joint degree program in the School for Conflict and Analysis Resolution?

- Yes, Dual Master's degrees in Conflict Resolution and Mediterranean Security
- Yes, Dual degree in Social Work and Conflict Analysis and Resolution
- Yes, Master's International, a joint program with the Peace Corps and George Mason University
- Yes, Accelerated BA or BS/MS
- Yes, other, please specify _____
- No

17. Which of the following field experiences have you had in the School for Conflict and Analysis Resolution? Check all that apply.

- Internship
- Independent study or research
- Study abroad
- Service-learning
- Travel courses
- Other, specify: _____

18. Which of the following best describes the delivery mode for most of the courses you have had in your program at Mason?

- Face-to-face only
- Mostly face-to-face
- About half face-to-face and half online
- Mostly online
- Online only

College of Science ONLY

19. Did your current employer (other than Mason) provide financial assistance for obtaining your degree?

- Yes (go to 19)
- No (go to 20)
- Not applicable – I was not working while at Mason (skip to end of COS section)
- Not applicable – I was working at Mason (skip to end of COS section)

20. In what form did your current employer provide financial assistance for obtaining your degree? Check all that apply.

- Tuition reimbursement
- Book purchases
- Other, please specify_____

21. Is your current employer in need of additional graduates with qualifications that can be provided by Mason?

- Yes (go to 22)
- No (skip to the end of COS section)

22. Please specify the employer name and the qualifications the employer is looking for. _____

College of Humanities & Social Sciences ONLY

23. Were you enrolled in any of the following? (select all that apply)

- Dual Master's Degree
- Accelerated bachelor's/master's program
- Graduate certificate before or during your graduate degree study

24. Which of the following best describes the methods of course delivery you would have **preferred** for your graduate program at Mason (regardless of whether you actually took courses in that mode)?

- Face-to-face courses only
- Mostly face-to-face courses
- About half my courses face-to-face and the other half online
- Hybrid courses (single courses with half the class meetings face-to-face, and half online)
- Mostly online courses
- Online courses only

25. How likely are you to pursue further graduate-level education?

- Highly unlikely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Neutral
- Somewhat likely
- Highly likely

26. Which of the following sources of financial assistance did you use during your graduate studies at Mason? Check all that apply.

- Outside scholarships/fellowships
- Employer tuition reimbursement from Mason
- Tuition reimbursement for active-duty military members
- Employer tuition reimbursement from another employer
- Veterans' benefits
- Other, specify_____

27. What was your primary reason for choosing Mason?

- Faculty
- Reputation of the program
- Reputation of the university
- Cost
- Course offerings
- Location
- Other, specify_____

Schar School of Policy and Government ONLY

(Items 28-32 are for **SCHAR master's students**)

28. Have you met with your academic advisor while you were in the program?

- Yes (go to 28.1)
- No (go to 29)

28.1. If yes, how many times per semester? _____

29. Have you sought career advising while you were in the program?

- Yes (go to 29.1)
- No (go to 30)

29.1. If yes, how many times did you consult with Career Services? _____

30. Have you attended a SCHAR career workshop or event (examples include: Career Fair, Resume Clinic, Salary Negotiation, How to obtain a Security Clearance, etc.)

- Yes (go to 31)
- No (go to 30.1)

30.1. If no, which of the following describes your primary reason for not attending SCHAR career workshops or events?

- I was not aware of event offering
- The evening events conflicted with my work schedule
- I was not interested in the event topics
- Other, please specify: _____

31. Have you had the opportunity to deliver presentations in your coursework?

- Yes
- No

32. Please indicate your level of Agreement with the following Statements:

<i>Compared to when I started my program, I feel more confident in the following:</i>	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Presentation skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Writing skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research & analytic skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(Items 33 – 35 are for **SCHAR PHD students**)

33. Which of the following best describes your participation in SCHAR PhD Student Services or Career Services activities (examples include: Research Morning, Academic Careers Panel, Teaching Workshop, Graduate Student Research Conference, etc.)

- I frequently participated in activities (go to 33.1)
- I occasionally participated in activities (go to 33.1)
- I rarely participated in activities (go to 33.2)
- My participation fluctuated throughout the program (go to 33.2)

33.1. (If Frequently participated or Occasionally participated in activities) Which workshops did you find helpful? Select all that apply.

- Research Morning
- Academic Careers Panel
- CV Development for PhD Students
- Teaching Skills & Student-Centered Learning
- Graduate Student Research Conference
- Publishing and Journal Evaluation
- Academic funding Workshop
- Other, Please specify: _____

33.2. (If rarely participated or participation fluctuated throughout the program) Which of the following describe your primary reasons for rare or fluctuating participation in SCHAR PhD student services or career activities? Select up to two.

- I was not aware of event offerings
- The activities conflicted with my work or class schedule
- I lived out of the area and could not attend
- I was unable to determine which activities were important
- I was not interested in the topics
- Other, Please specify: _____

34. Please provide suggestions for workshop topics or delivery method that would benefit future SCHAR PhD students.

35. What advice would you like to have received yourself as a first -year student at the beginning of the PHD program?

X. Institutional Support

36. To what extent did the following services contribute to your success at Mason?	A great deal	A fair amount	A little	Not at all	NA/Did not use the service
a. University career services (e.g., job search resources, interview practice)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Graduate student life seminars and workshops (e.g., Thriving in Graduate School, Preparing for Careers in the Academy)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Graduate Student Write-Ins or Writing Center Grad Write-Ins	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Support for graduate student teaching and research from the Center for Teaching and Faculty Excellence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

37. While you were attending Mason, were you the parent/guardian of a dependent child under the age of 18?

- Yes (go to 38) No (go to 40)

38. If you could start over at Mason, what types of parenting support services at Mason would be most beneficial to you? (Check all that apply)

- Childcare (e.g., on-campus, subsidized)
- Student-Parent Support Group
- Family-focused/Family-friendly events on-campus (with space for family meeting/play)
- Family-oriented facilities on-campus (e.g., lactation rooms, family restrooms, family housing, play spaces)
- Afterschool programs for school aged children
- Other, please specify: _____

39. Where would you have felt comfortable going to ask about on-campus parenting resources or for support? (Check all that apply)

- Your department
- Your advisor/supervisor
- Student Health Services
- Counseling and Psychological Services
- Student Support and Advocacy Center
- Office of Disability Services
- Child Development Center
- Women and Gender Studies Center
- Compliance, Diversity, and Ethics
- Other, please specify: _____

XI. Final Comments

40. What were your career goals when you first arrived at Mason? _____

41. To what extent did you feel supported to pursue your career goals while you were at Mason?

A great deal A fair amount A little Not at all

42. Overall, how satisfied are you with your Mason experience? Please elaborate in the comment section below.

Very satisfied Satisfied Dissatisfied Very dissatisfied

43. Have you updated your preferred contact information with the Alumni Association? (Your name and response will be shared with the Office of Alumni Relations.)

Yes No

44. Please comment regarding your Mason experiences in the space provided.

Comments: _____

Preferred email address after graduation: _____

Your preferred email address will be shared with the Office of Alumni Relations.

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