

Graduate Student Exit Survey

Summer and Fall 2020, Spring 2021 (FINAL)

Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness – George Mason University

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

I. Background Information

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

II. Financial Support and Employment

3. While enrolled in your graduate studies, did you receive financial support from Mason?
 Yes (Go to 3.1)
 No, I did NOT apply (Go to 4)
 No, I applied but did NOT obtain (Go to 4)

	3.1 (If Yes to Q3) which type of financial support did you receive from Mason? (check all that apply)		3.2 (if Yes to any in Q3.1) Please indicate how many <u>semesters</u> you received financial support for each one selected on the left.
	Yes	No	
a. Teaching assistantship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
b. Research assistantship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
c. Graduate professional assistantship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
d. Fellowship/scholarship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
e. Mason employee tuition waiver benefit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

4. While enrolled in graduate studies at Mason, did you **WORK FOR PAY** either off campus or on campus (other than an assistantship)?
 Yes No

4.1 If yes, how often did you WORK FOR PAY ? (check 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"/>

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

- None
- \$10,000 or less
- \$10,001-20,000
- \$20,001-30,000
- \$30,001-40,000
- \$40,001-50,000
- \$50,001-60,000
- \$60,001-70,000
- \$70,001-80,000
- \$80,001-90,000
- \$90,001 or more

III. Academic Program

6. To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following statements about **faculty** in your graduate program:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	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 Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	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"/>

8. 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

IV. Thesis/Project/Dissertation/other Experience Requirements

9. Using the list below, please tell us:	Which one of the following best describes the final culminating requirement for graduation?		
	Required	Optional	NA
Thesis/Dissertation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Culminating research paper (not part of a thesis/dissertation)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Culminating research project (not part of a thesis/dissertation)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Culminating/capstone project	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Portfolio	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comprehensive/proficiency exam	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internship/practicum, or field experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
International experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please specify: _____	<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. Other global experience (e.g., internship with an international org/agency based in US, complete a project in another country)
- j. Community-based experience/project
- k. Internship/practicum, or field experience
- l. Participated in cooperative education
- m. Took a student leadership role on campus
- n. Completed an entrepreneurship project in a club, competition, or in the MIX makerspaces

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. Time to Degree

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

- Less** than originally expected
- More** than originally expected (answer questions 11.1-11.3)
- About the same** as originally expected
- Unsure

If you answered "**More** than originally expected" in question 11, answer questions 11.1-11.3. Otherwise, proceed to question 12.

VIII. Satisfaction

13. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of your graduate program :	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	N/A or Don't Know
a. Academic advising	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Career counseling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Mentoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Professional development activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Sense of belonging/community within your graduate program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Financial support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Work/lab space on campus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Social/collaborative space on campus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Discipline specific software and equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. 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 Mason 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 X)
- College of Health and Human Services (go to CHHS section)
- College of Visual and Performing Arts (go to CVPA section)
- Volgenau School of Engineering (go to section X)

College of Education and Human Development ONLY

15. What did you like best about your academic experience? _____

16. What did you like least about your academic experience? _____

17. Which of the following best describes your current situation?

- I am seeking employment in my field.
- I have secured employment in my field.
- I am already employed in my field.

18. Do you plan, in the next year, to apply for a different position based on your degree?

- Yes
- No

School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution ONLY

19. 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, Accelerated BA or BS/MS
- Yes, other, please specify _____
- No

20. Which of the additional field experiences have you had in the School for Conflict and Analysis Resolution? Check all that apply.
- Independent study
 - Service-learning
 - Travel courses
 - Other, specify: _____

21. Have you attended a S-CAR career workshop or event (examples include: Career Fair, Resume Clinic, Networking Event, etc.)
- Yes (go to 22)
 - No (go to 21.1)

- 21.1. If no, which of the following describes your primary reason for not attending S-CAR 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: _____

22. 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 Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Facilitation skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Academic Writing skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research & critical analytic skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

College of Science ONLY

23. Did your current employer (other than Mason) provide financial assistance for obtaining your degree?
- Yes (go to 24)
 - No (go to 25)
 - 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)

24. 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 _____

25. Is your current employer in need of additional graduates with qualifications that can be provided by Mason?
- Yes (go to 26)
 - No (skip to the end of COS section)

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

College of Humanities & Social Sciences ONLY

27. 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

28. How likely are you to pursue further graduate-level education?
- Highly unlikely
 - Somewhat unlikely
 - Neutral
 - Somewhat likely
 - Highly likely

29. 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 _____

30. 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 31-33 are for **SCHAR master's students**)

31. 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 32)
- No (go to 31.1)

31.1. 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: _____

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

- Yes
- No

33. 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 Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
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 34–36 are for **SCHAR PHD students**)

34. 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 34.1)
- I occasionally participated in activities (go to 34.1)
- I rarely participated in activities (go to 34.2)
- My participation fluctuated throughout the program (go to 34.2)

34.1. (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: _____

34.2. (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: _____

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

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

College of Health and Human Services ONLY

37. The items below address workplace readiness skills. Please indicate how satisfied you are with the preparation you received at Mason (e.g., via classes, practicum/internships/ field experience or placements) for each of the following:

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	NA
Writing clearly and professionally	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Applying problem-solving skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reasoning and critical thinking skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Working well in a group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strong oral communication skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research skills (e.g., conducting an independent, scholarly project)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

38. Considering the teaching and related learning methods involved, please indicate your overall level of satisfaction with each of the following:

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	NA
On-line courses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hybrid (partly on-line) courses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service learning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Volunteer work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

College of Visual and Performing Arts ONLY

39. To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following statements?	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A or Don't Know
<i>While at Mason:</i>					
I collaborated on a research or creative project with faculty and/or students from disciplines other than my own	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I personally developed theory and methodology in my discipline	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My educational experience was personally satisfying	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

X. Alumni Involvement

Mason’s Alumni Association uses your contact information to help keep you informed about Mason news and events and to offer discounts and benefits to members of the Alumni Community.

40. Have you joined the Online Alumni Community?

Yes No

41. Please enter your preferred email address after graduation: _____

(Your responses to Q40 and Q41 will be shared with the Office of Alumni Relations)

XI. Final Comments

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

Very dissatisfied Dissatisfied Satisfied Very satisfied

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

Comments: _____

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