Graduate Student Exit Survey
Summer and Fall 2021, Spring 2022
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 semesters you received financial support for each one selected on the left.
	Yes	No	
a. Teaching assistantship	☐	☐	_____
b. Research assistantship	☐	☐	_____
c. Graduate professional assistantship	☐	☐	_____
d. Fellowship/scholarship	☐	☐	_____
e. Mason employee tuition waiver benefit	☐	☐	_____

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	☐	☐	☐
	Full-time	☐	☐	☐
Off campus:	Part-time	☐	☐	☐
	Full-time	☐	☐	☐

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.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
There is good communication between faculty and students regarding student needs, concerns, and suggestions.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
There have been many opportunities outside the classroom for interaction between students and faculty.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Faculty in my program are interested in the professional development of graduate students.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Faculty in my program are helpful and supportive in my search for professional employment.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Faculty in my program are well qualified to teach their courses.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Faculty in my program have been willing to meet with me to discuss my academic performance.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My program integrates current developments in my field.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My program prepared me well for my profession.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My program was intellectually challenging and stimulating.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My program encourages student collaboration and teamwork.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I would recommend my graduate program to prospective students.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
If I were starting over, I would enroll in this program again.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
There were enough online courses to meet my needs.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The intellectual caliber of students in my program is high.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I developed knowledge and skills to conduct research in my field as a result of the program.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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	☐	☐	☐
Culminating research paper (not part of a thesis/dissertation)	☐	☐	☐
Culminating research project (not part of a thesis/dissertation)	☐	☐	☐
Culminating/capstone project	☐	☐	☐
Portfolio	☐	☐	☐
Comprehensive/proficiency exam	☐	☐	☐
Internship/practicum, or field experience	☐	☐	☐
International experience	☐	☐	☐
Other, please specify: _____	☐	☐	☐

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.*

11.1 To what extent did the following **academic reasons** prevent you from progressing in your degree program as expected?	Not at all	A little	A fair amount	A great deal	NA
a. Lack of course availability	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
b. Inadequate advising	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
c. Ineffective research mentoring	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
d. Difficulty in completing comprehensive/qualifying exams	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
e. Difficulty in my project, thesis, or dissertation research	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
f. Difficulty in completing coursework	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
g. Difficulty in fulfilling other degree requirements	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

11.2 To what extent did the following **personal/family reasons** prevent you from progressing in your degree program as expected?	Not at all	A little	A fair amount	A great deal	NA
h. Finances	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
i. Demands of my employment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
j. Military deployment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
k. Self/family responsibilities (health, birth, child or elderly care, etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
l. Lack of motivation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
m. **Other reasons**, please specify:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

11.3 Of the reasons (a-m) selected in question 11.1 and/or question 11.2, what was the **most important reason** that prevented you from progressing in your degree program as expected: _____

VII. Professional Development and Support Services

12. How many times did you utilize the following professional development/support services while you were in the graduate program at Mason?	None	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9 or more
a. Academic advising (e.g., assistance with course planning and meeting degree requirements)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
b. Mentoring (e.g., support of professional growth, conducting research)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
c. Career counseling (e.g., assistance with career planning, job search, etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
d. Professional development opportunities (e.g., Graduate Student Life Write-In Day, Research Skills/Tools Workshop, Preparing for Careers in the Academy course, college/school organizations and activities, conferences)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
e. Student Support Advocacy Center or CAPS	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
f. Student Health Services.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
g. Academic and research support services (Writing Center, Library, Learning Services)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
h. Office of International Programs and Services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
i. Disability Services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
j. Other, please specify_____	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

VIII. Library Services

13. To what extent did the following activities assist you as a student while at Mason?	Not at all	A little	A fair amount	A great deal	NA/I was not engaged in this activity
Visiting the library (Fenwick, Arlington, Mercer, or Gateway)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Asking library staff for research help (including Virtual Chat)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Meeting with a subject librarian	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Attending a library workshop	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Reserving a study room	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Searching for books, journal articles, etc.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Using a subject guide	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Watching library videos/tutorials	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

14. To what extent did courses in your major contribute to your information competency/skills as specified below?	Not at all	A little	A fair amount	A great deal
Developing a research question based on the information reviewed/ synthesized	☐	☐	☐	☐
Understanding how information in your discipline is organized and structured	☐	☐	☐	☐
Understanding which search tools and strategies to use for different information needs	☐	☐	☐	☐
Understanding the commodification of information and how it affects access to various types of information	☐	☐	☐	☐
Understanding how individuals or groups of individuals may be underrepresented or systematically marginalized within the systems that produce and disseminate information	☐	☐	☐	☐
Distinguishing between copyright, fair use, open access, and the public domain	☐	☐	☐	☐
Evaluating news media for misleading or biased reporting	☐	☐	☐	☐
Interpreting and analyzing charts, graphs, and other data visualizations	☐	☐	☐	☐

IX. Satisfaction

15 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	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
b. Career counseling	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
c. Mentoring	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
d. Professional development activities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
e. Sense of belonging/community within your graduate program	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
f. Financial support	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

g. Work/lab space on campus	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
h. Social/collaborative space on campus	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
i. Discipline specific software and equipment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
j. Ease in finding information related to my study/program	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

X. School or College

16. 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

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

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

19. 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.

20. 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

21. 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

22. 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:_____

23. Have you attended a S-CAR career workshop or event (examples include: Career Fair, Resume Clinic, Networking Event, etc.)
☐ Yes (go to 24)
☐ No (go to 23.1)

23.1. 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: _____

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

Compared to when I started my program, I feel more confident in the following:	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Facilitation skills	☐	☐	☐	☐
Academic Writing skills	☐	☐	☐	☐
Research & critical analytic skills	☐	☐	☐	☐

College of Science ONLY

25. Did your current employer (other than Mason) provide financial assistance for obtaining your degree?
    ☐ Yes (go to 26)
    ☐ No (go to 27)
    ☐ 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)

26. 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_____

27. Is your current employer in need of additional graduates with qualifications that can be provided by Mason?
    ☐ Yes (go to 28)   ☐ No (skip to the end of COS section)

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

College of Humanities & Social Sciences ONLY

29. 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

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

31. 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_____

32. 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 33-35 are for **SCHAR master's students**)
33. 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 34)
☐ No (go to 33.1)

33.1. 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**: _____**

34. Have you had the opportunity to deliver presentations in your coursework?
☐ Yes
☐ No

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

Compared to when I started my program, I feel more confident in the following:	**Strongly Disagree**	**Disagree**	**Agree**	**Strongly Agree**
Presentation skills	☐	☐	☐	☐
Writing skills	☐	☐	☐	☐
Research & analytic skills	☐	☐	☐	☐

 (Items 36 – 38 are for **SCHAR PHD students**)
36. 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 36.1)
☐ **I** occasionally participated in activities (go to 36.1)
☐ **I** rarely participated in activities (go to 36.2)
☐ My participation fluctuated throughout the program (go to 36.2)
36.1**.** (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:_____

36.2. **(**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:_____

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

38. 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

39. 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/ filed experience or placements) for each of the following:	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	NA
Writing clearly and professionally	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Applying problem-solving skills	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Reasoning and critical thinking skills	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Working well in a group	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Strong oral communication skills	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Research skills (e.g., conducting an independent, scholarly project)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

40. 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	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hybrid (partly on-line) courses	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Service learning	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Volunteer work	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

College of Visual and Performing Arts ONLY

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

XI. 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.

42 Have you joined the Online Alumni Community?
☐ Yes   ☐ No

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

    (Your responses to Q42 and Q43 will be shared with the Office of Alumni Relations)

XII. Final Comments

44. Overall, how satisfied are you with your Mason experience? Please elaborate in the comment section below.
    ☐ Very dissatisfied   ☐ Dissatisfied   ☐ Satisfied   ☐ Very satisfied

45．Please specify how COVID-19 affected your Mason experience? How can Mason better help future students address similar challenges?

_____
_____
_____

46. Please provide additional comments regarding your Mason experiences in the space provided.

Comments:_____
_____
_____
_____