WELCOME TO THE SCHAR SCHOOL OF POLICY AND GOVERNMENT
The nature of public policy and government in the 21st century is rapidly evolving.

Changing demographics, advances in technology, fiscal constraints at every level of government, a global economy, and the rise of public-private partnerships are just some of the factors contributing to this shifting landscape. As the needs of citizens, and the ability of governments to meet those needs, become more complex, the current and next-generation of leaders must be more creative and strategic in finding solutions to the challenges that communities face domestically and abroad.

The Schar School of Policy and Government is poised at the forefront of innovation and education, helping shape the policy leaders of tomorrow.

Mark J. Rozell  
Dean, Schar School of Policy and Government  
Ruth D. and John T. Hazel Chair in Public Policy
The Schar School Experience

As a professional, interdisciplinary school that melds theory with practice, the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University prepares undergraduate and graduate students to be leaders and managers who solve problems and advance the public good in all sectors and levels of government — in the United States and throughout the world.

Learning from professors with real-world experience, you will gain the applicable skills and the practical knowledge to lead government agencies and nonprofit organizations, develop public policies and programs, create innovative consulting solutions, and provide expert policy analysis.

The Schar School is located in the Washington, D.C. metro area, one of the most culturally diverse regions in the nation, and the center of U.S. policy.
Discover the Difference

A Relevant Education
The challenges today’s leaders and managers face are complex and require an interdisciplinary approach. Our programs prepare you for careers in any sector, from local to global, so that you can create solutions for a changing world.

Distinguished and Dedicated Faculty
Combining original research with real-world experience, our faculty members go beyond theory to connect learning with practice. Government officials and corporate executives often seek their expertise. Our faculty members are also deeply committed to teaching and mentoring the next generation of leaders and managers.

Quality and Accessibility
Mason offers a highly ranked, affordable education. U.S. News & World Report ranks the Schar School’s graduate programs among the best, and lists George Mason University as a national university to watch. Mason also ranks in the top 15 percent of the best public colleges in America, according to a study by the Business Journals, and the Schar School received a top-ten ranking in Best Value Schools’ list of the top 50 “Innovative Public Service Schools.”

Comprehensive Student Support
We are dedicated to your success. We provide customized advising and career services. Our large and active alumni association regularly engages with our students during and after their studies.

In the Heart of it All
Our Arlington and Fairfax campuses are just outside of Washington, D.C., providing convenient access to a wide range of national and global events, organizations, internships, and professional opportunities.

The Schar School challenged me to develop real solutions to real policy problems. Then I had to defend those solutions to heavy-hitting practitioners like General Hayden, former director of the CIA and NSA. This prepared me to have impact in Washington, D.C. long before I received my diploma.

– GEOFF SCHAEFFER, ALUMNUS

Schar School faculty member and former director of the CIA and NSA, Gen. Michael V. Hayden (Ret.), and former U.S. Senator Charles Robb
Our Graduate Programs

The Schar School offers a wide range of top-ranked, cutting-edge master’s and PhD programs. Most programs include both part-time and full-time enrollment options, allowing you to earn your degree without interrupting your career.

MASTER’S PROGRAMS

Biodefense, MS
OFFERED ON-CAMPUS AND ONLINE
Understanding biological threats is critical in today’s world. The master’s in biodefense will prepare you with the knowledge and analytic skills to assess the risks posed by natural and man-made biological threats, develop strategies for reducing national and international security risks, and bridge the gap between science and policy.

International Commerce and Policy, MA
Broader than an MBA and more focused than a master’s in international affairs, this master’s degree will immerse you in the nexus of business, economics, international relations, and public policy. Develop expertise in global finance, investment, trade, and development, and gain the skillset needed to lead in the public and private sectors, and with multinational organizations, NGOs, nonprofits, and consulting firms.

OPTIONAL CONCENTRATIONS AVAILABLE IN:
• GLOBAL FINANCE, INVESTMENT, AND TRADE
• GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNANCE
• GLOBAL RISK AND STRATEGY

International Security, MA
Prepare to assess and manage traditional security threats and the emerging security challenges of the 21st century. This master’s degree provides a firm grounding in public-private and international collaborative responses to unconventional threats, ranging from transnational crime, terrorism, illicit trade, and the proliferation of emerging technologies and weapons of mass destruction, to state fragility, civil war, and ethnic and sectarian conflict.
The Schar School provided me a huge leg up in issues of operations, strategy, national security, and counter-terrorism that will really make me much more competitive in my field.

— PAUL HELFGOTT
STUDENT, MASTER’S IN PUBLIC POLICY
Organization Development and Knowledge Management, MS

*Fall Start Only*

Develop the essential leadership, creative problem-solving, and analytical skills needed to become a change agent in your organization, work, and life. In this cohort-based program, you will gain competency in both organization development and knowledge management as you explore organizational leadership theory and practice, analyze the shift from hierarchical structures to group-based learning, and uncover creative strategies to promote adaptive and collaborative work environments.

Political Science, MA

Deepen your understanding of political processes at all levels of government while learning from some of the country’s leading political commentators. As a graduate, you will be prepared for research and academia, as well as careers in government, consulting, nonprofits, and nongovernmental organizations.

**Optional Specializations Available in:**
- American Government and Politics
- Comparative Politics
- International Relations

Public Administration, MPA

Gain a comprehensive understanding of how management, policy, and politics intersect, and start your path toward a thought-leadership position in government. As one of the largest and most prestigious MPA programs in the U.S., you will learn from industry experts and leading practitioners who have served at the local, state, and national levels of government, as well as with nonprofits, consulting firms, and more.

**Optional Concentrations Available in:**
- Administration of Justice
- Emergency Management and Homeland Security
- Environmental Science and Public Policy
- Human Resources Management
- International Management
- Nonprofit Management
- Policy Studies
- Public Management
- Public and Nonprofit Finance
- State and Local Government
- Third-Party Governance
Public Policy, MPP
Effective public policies advance the public good. Gain the theoretical grounding and hands-on tools needed to address policy issues such as terrorism, human trafficking, environmental hazards, and hunger, as well as public finance and budgeting, regional economic development, and urban policy.

OPTIONAL EMPHASIS AREAS AVAILABLE IN:
- GLOBAL MEDICAL AND HEALTH POLICY
- INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS
- NATIONAL SECURITY AND PUBLIC POLICY
- PUBLIC FINANCE AND BUDGETING
- REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
- SOCIAL POLICY
- TERRORISM, TRANSNATIONAL CRIME AND CORRUPTION
- TRANSPORTATION POLICY
- U.S. GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS AND POLICY MANAGEMENT
- URBAN POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT

Transportation Policy, Operations, and Logistics, MA
Effective transportation policy strengthens communities and secures global competitiveness. Join the next generation of leaders in transportation policy, operations, and logistics, and be prepared for influential positions at all levels of government. This master’s degree will train you in the advanced theory, policy, law, research, and practices required to effectively and efficiently supply and operate transportation facilities and services.

PHD PROGRAMS

Biodefense, PhD
The PhD in biodefense operates at the intersection of science and policy. With specialized knowledge and training, you will develop the expertise to assess and respond to natural and man-made biological threats. The program combines a biological science foundation with policy analysis methods, and prepares you to build strategies to reduce these risks to national and international security.

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION AVAILABLE IN:
- INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
- TERRORISM AND HOMELAND SECURITY
- TECHNOLOGY AND WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION
Political Science, PhD
The PhD in political science prepares you to teach, conduct research, and influence decision-makers across the political landscape. Access to prominent domestic and international political organizations, housed in the nation’s capital, enhances the academic experience. This direct application of your analytic skills will enhance your training as a scholar, positioning you for leadership in government, consulting, nonprofits, and nongovernmental organizations.

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION AVAILABLE IN:
• AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
• INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
• POLITICAL THEORY
• COMPARATIVE POLITICS
• PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Public Policy, PhD
At the heart of the public policy doctoral program is the principle of bringing scholarship to bear on real world problems. The PhD in public policy prepares you to engage in creative and original research that helps society solve some of its most pressing problems. The curriculum gives students the foundation to be effective teachers, leaders, and innovators in the public and private sectors. Our interdisciplinary approach gives you the option of defining your own field of study or conducting your research through one of the program’s emphasis areas.

EMPHASIS AREAS (OPTIONAL – YOU MAY ALSO CREATE YOUR OWN):
• CULTURE AND SOCIETY
• ENTREPRENEURSHIP, GROWTH, AND PUBLIC POLICY
• GLOBAL AND INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMS
• ORGANIZATIONAL AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
• REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION
• TECHNOLOGY, SCIENCE, AND INNOVATION
• U.S. GOVERNANCE

DUAL-DEGREE AND JOINT PROGRAMS

JD/MPP Joint Degree in Law and Public Policy
Master the fundamentals of legal and public policy analysis with a joint degree with the Schar School and School of Law, granting you upon completion both a JD from the School of Law and a Master’s of Public Policy from the Schar School.
A Capital Advantage

With campuses in Arlington and Fairfax, Virginia, the Schar School of Policy and Government is located just minutes from Washington, D.C. The Schar School’s prime location in the heart of U.S. policy offers students unparalleled access to one-of-a-kind professional opportunities with top employers. Graduates are doing consequential work in both the public and private sectors, obtaining positions with the U.S. Department of State, USAID, the World Bank, the United Nations, Deloitte, Booz Allen Hamilton, Shanghai Media Group, Cross-Cultural Solutions, Global Health Council, and many others.

In addition to providing internships and career opportunities, the Schar School’s location in the Washington, D.C. area also introduces students to countless prominent events, speeches, panel discussions, and workshops. Drawing on its D.C. area connections, the Schar School recently launched the Michael V. Hayden Center for Intelligence, Policy, and International Security, which will provide for the full examination of intelligence and its interplay with U.S. national security.

President Luis Guillermo Solís Rivera of Costa Rica provided a historical perspective of the evolution of Central America’s political, social, and economic development.
The 2017 Virginia gubernatorial candidates squared off in a debate hosted by the Schar School, with Dean Mark J. Rozell serving on the panel.
When you graduate from Mason’s Schar School of Policy and Government, you will join a growing worldwide network of more than 16,000 alumni. Our master’s and PhD graduates are doing consequential work at leading companies, consulting firms, nonprofits, NGOs, and higher education institutions, as well as with local, state, and federal government agencies in the Washington, D.C. area and across the country.

A Powerful Network

Powerful Network

When you graduate from Mason’s Schar School of Policy and Government, you will join a growing worldwide network of more than 16,000 alumni. Our master’s and PhD graduates are doing consequential work at leading companies, consulting firms, nonprofits, NGOs, and higher education institutions, as well as with local, state, and federal government agencies in the Washington, D.C. area and across the country.
A sampling of the employers who have recently hired our graduates include:

- Accenture
- Agency for International Development
- Altarum Institute
- Arlington/Fairfax Counties, Virginia
- BAE Systems
- Booz Allen Hamilton
- Brookings Institution
- Central Intelligence Agency
- City of Charlotte, North Carolina
- Deloitte
- Delphos International
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Defense
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of State
- Dickinson College
- Duquesne University
- Eno Center for Transportation
- Environmental Protection Agency
- European Central Bank
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- General Dynamics Information Technology
- Georgetown University
- Green Building Council
- Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- Institute for Defense Analyses
- International Monetary Fund
- Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
- National Endowment for Democracy
- National Science Foundation
- New Zealand Trade and Enterprise
- Office of Naval Research
- RAND Corporation
- Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)
- United Nations
- University of Iowa
- Urban Institute
- U.S. Institute of Peace
- U.S. Senate
- Virginia Department of Transportation
- World Bank

*Partial list*
A Faculty of Thought Leaders

The Schar School is known worldwide for research that discovers new knowledge and develops practical solutions to challenges in public policy, government, and international affairs. Our faculty consists of scholars and experts who seek to push the frontiers of conventional wisdom, apply rigorous analysis to complex issues, and make a positive contribution to the world.

“...It is truly an honor to work with such talented individuals who — by their own accord — bring a wealth of experience and diversity to the classroom. Located just miles from policy in action, Schar School students, faculty, and staff are uniquely positioned to connect theory with communities of practice.”

– TONYA T. NEAVES, RESEARCH FACULTY
Areas of Expertise

ACADEMIC FIELDS

- Change Management
- Comparative Politics
- Elections
- Federalism/State & Local Government
- Gender
- Industrial Organization
- Interest Groups
- International Economics
- International Migration
- International Relations
- International Security
- Knowledge Management
- Leadership
- Legislatures
- Nonprofit Management
- Organizations
- Philanthropy
- Political Communication
- Political Economy
- Political Theory

POLICY AREAS

- Presidency & Executive Branch
- Public Administration
- Public Law
- Public Management
- Public Opinion
- Qualitative Methods
- Quantitative Methods
- Race & Ethnicity
- Sociology
- U.S. Politics

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Labor Policy
- Macroeconomics
- Microeconomics
- Regional Development
- Regulatory Policy
- Science & Technology Policy
- Security Policy
- Social Welfare Policy
- Trade Policy
- Transportation Policy
- Urban Policy

REGIONS

- Africa
- East Asia
- Europe
- Latin America
- Middle East
- South Asia
- United States
Research of **Consequence**

George Mason University is ranked among the highest research institutions in the country by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, earning a designation in the “Highest Research Activity” (R1) category. Today, more than $100 million in research grants and contracts have been awarded to faculty, students, and staff.

With this university-wide commitment to research of consequence, the Schar School is truly part of policy in action, working to address and solve key issues that impact the lives of citizens and nations.

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**MASON RECEIVES MULTIMILLION-DOLLAR AWARD FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

George Mason University has been selected by the Department of Homeland Security to lead its Center of Excellence in Criminal Investigations and Network Analysis.
Research in Action

**Germs on a Plane: The Transmission and Risks of Airplane-Borne Diseases**

Neryeya Sevilla, a recent biodefense PhD graduate and military veteran, created a computer model for tracking and stopping suspected pandemics transmitted via air travel. Her research could save billions of dollars in misdirected federal and state money and give millions of air passengers more precise information about infections.

**Digital Disinformation in Central Asia**

Professor Eric McGlinchey, with funding from the U.S. Department of Defense’s Minerva Research Initiative, will lead a team of Schar School doctoral students and experts in the field to explore the erosion of U.S. soft power in post-Soviet Central Asia.

Research Centers and Institutes

The Schar School is home to world-class research centers and institutes:

- Center for Energy Science and Policy
- Center for Global Policy
- Center for Micro-Economic Policy Research
- Center for Regional Analysis
- Center for Science and Technology Policy
- Center for Security Policy Studies
- Center for the Study of International Medical Policies and Practices
- Center for Transportation Public – Private Partnership Policy
- Centers on the Public Service
- Michael V. Hayden Center for Intelligence, Policy, and International Security
- Stephen S. Fuller Institute for Research on the Washington Region’s Economic Future
- Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center (TraCCC)

Doctoral Dissertations

PhD students work side-by-side with faculty members to explore the intersection of technology, culture, organizational dynamics, international affairs, and public policy, conducting research that influences decisions at the local, national, and multinational levels. A sampling of this year’s dissertations include:

- Where is the Safe Water? Capturing the Missing Explanation in Inter-Country Variation in Access
- Salt, Light, and Cocaine: Religious Civil Society and Narco-Violence in Mexico’s Border Region
- Switching Sides: Political Power, Alignments, and Alliances in Post-Saddam Iraq
- The Rise of Computer Network Operations as a Major Military Innovation
- Tracing Order in Seeming Chaos: Understanding the Informal and Violent Political Order of Karachi
- Interest Groups and Ideas: The Battle over Housing Finance in the Run-up to the Financial Crisis
Global Perspectives

Students from all 50 U.S. states and more than 120 countries call George Mason University home and give the University one of the most diverse student populations in the United States. This rich diversity of viewpoints, backgrounds, and cultures is cited by many students as one of their favorite parts of the Mason experience.

In 2018, the University will hold its thirty-seventh annual International Week, where George Mason students from around the globe join together to develop a program of activities to showcase their countries and cultures and to allow us to learn and participate with them.
Short-Term Study Abroad

The Schar School offers intensive, seven- to ten-day credit **courses around the world** to provide you with comparative political experience to enhance your personal and professional development. Past international immersion programs have included the following, among others:

**Security Challenges** (Vietnam)  
**Utilizing Big Data for the Social and Policy Sciences** (Croatia)

**Political, Economic, and Social Challenges** (South Africa)  
**Entrepreneurial Leadership for the Global Marketplace**  
(Oxford University)

A World Destination

Within the past four years, students have come to the Schar School from more than 45 countries and territories:

Afghanistan  
Albania  
Angola  
Austria  
Bangladesh  
Bolivia  
Bulgaria  
Canada  
Democratic Republic of the Congo  
China  
Cameroon  
Colombia  
Dominican Republic  
Egypt  
Estonia  
Gambia  
Georgia  
Germany  
Ghana  
India  
Iran  
Iraq  
Italy  
Japan  
South Korea  
Kazakhstan  
Mali  
Mexico  
Mongolia  
Morocco  
Nepal  
Peru  
Pakistan  
Qatar  
Russia  
Saudi Arabia  
Senegal  
Spain  
Saint Lucia  
Sudan  
United Arab Emirates  
Thailand  
Tajikistan  
Turkey  
Taiwan  
United Kingdom  
Yemen  
Zimbabwe
Career Development

The Schar School offers comprehensive career and student development services to prepare you for success. Offering individualized assistance to students and alumni, the Schar School’s career and student services advisors will help you explore career and internship opportunities, define your goals, and develop the skills needed for a successful job search, including crafting a resume and cover letter that stand out.

The Schar School student services team of academic and career advisors partners with you to design a plan to help you fulfill your academic and professional aspirations. Our programs and services deliver the knowledge required to attain a rewarding and meaningful career and manage career decisions with confidence.

– JILL V. EMERSON, ASSISTANT DEAN, STUDENT SERVICES

Professional Development Planning (PDP) Seminar

A signature program of the Schar School, the Professional Development Planning (PDP) Seminar is an optional non-credit opportunity for first-year master’s students to identify and leverage personal strengths and develop a plan for academic and professional success.
A Competitive Edge

The Career Development Office hosts events throughout the year, and employers regularly engage with Schar School students through recruitment events, mock interviews, resume reviews, and other networking opportunities.

In addition to workshops and events, students utilize the Schar School CareersNow database, where open job and internship positions are regularly posted by employers actively recruiting our students and alumni. Students also have access to the University-wide database, HireMason, along with other resources provided by University Career Services.

WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

- Federal Job Search Strategies
- Alumni Mentorship Program
- Career and Internship Fairs
- Resume Review Clinic
- Personal Branding
- Leveraging LinkedIn for Networking
- Salary Negotiations and Expectations
- Tips for Obtaining a Security Clearance
- Employer Information Sessions
- Presidential Management Fellowship Information Session
- Interviewing Skills Clinic
- Mock Interviews
Applying for Admission

When you graduate from the Schar School of Policy and Government, you will be poised to apply the knowledge and skills gained in our classrooms at some of the most prestigious companies, consulting firms, nonprofits, multinational organizations, and government agencies in Washington, D.C. and around the world.

Join the next generation of leaders and scholars, and be a part of policy in action.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS
At the Schar School of Policy and Government, we believe in building a strong and diverse cadre of students through a selective and holistic review process. Students come from a range of academic backgrounds and professional disciplines. Admission is competitive, and requirements vary by program.

Master’s Applicants
GRE/GMAT Tests
For many of our master’s programs, the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) are optional for applicants who meet certain criteria. Test scores are required for applicants to the master’s programs in biodefense, international security, and political science, as well as students who wish to be considered for merit-based scholarships.

Application Deadlines
The following master’s program application deadlines are for domestic students. International students—who have completed their undergraduate or graduate degree outside of the U.S.—are required to apply one month prior to the domestic deadlines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Master’s Programs</th>
<th>Fall Application Deadline</th>
<th>Spring Application Deadline</th>
<th>Priority Deadline for Scholarship or Assistantship Consideration</th>
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<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>Dec 1</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Other Programs</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Dec 1</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
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Doctoral Applicants
Doctoral applicants may apply for admission in the fall semester, for either full-time or part-time study. Applications are not accepted for the spring semester.

Graduate Research Assistantships (GRA) and most scholarships, fellowships, and tuition waivers are only available for full-time PhD students and are offered in the fall term for the upcoming academic year. If a GRA position is of interest, please indicate this on your application.

PhD application deadline (August matriculation): December 1
Visit the Schar School
We invite you to experience for yourself the commitment and enthusiasm of the Schar School community. We offer information sessions, open houses, and course samplers throughout the year, where you may meet with current students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

For International Students
The Schar School and the University as a whole are known for an international focus and celebration of global perspectives and experiences. More than 45 countries and territories are represented within the Schar School community.

International students are required to apply one month prior to the domestic deadlines, and additional information such as TOEFL test scores may be required for admission consideration. Contact the Admissions Office for any questions or visit: schar.gmu.edu/international.

Top Military Friendly® School
George Mason University is proud to have been selected as a Gold Award winner by Victory Media as a 2018 Military Friendly® School. With a dedicated Office of Military Services, you will be connected to a variety of services, including counseling and advising on benefits, academic and admissions requirements, and career transition.

Upon admission to the Schar School, you may also apply for the ERPi Patriot Scholarship, spearheaded by a Schar School alumnus to give back to the veteran community and dependents of veterans. Learn more: schar.gmu.edu/veterans.

Tuition and Financial Assistance
As a public institution in Virginia, Mason’s Schar School is one of the top values in education, offering a world-class education at reasonable rates. Should you need assistance, there are various resources to help you finance your education at the Schar School.
SCHAR SCHOOL PROGRAMS:
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Government & International Politics
Public Administration

MASTER’S DEGREE PROGRAMS

Biodefense
International Commerce & Policy
International Security
Organization Development & Knowledge Management
Political Science
Public Administration
Public Policy
Transportation Policy, Operations & Logistics

PHD PROGRAMS

Biodefense
Political Science
Public Policy

LEARN MORE: SCHAR.GMU.EDU
Schar School Graduate Admissions
3351 Fairfax Drive, MS 3B1
Arlington, VA 22201

Phone: (703) 993-8099
Fax: (703) 993-4876
Email: schar@gmu.edu

For more information, visit:
SCHAR.GMU.EDU/ADMISSIONS

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