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 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
The Schar School is dedicated to your success and provides customized advising and career services. Our large, diverse alumni association is an active partner in our student life and career development initiatives.

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. This proximity affords convenient access to adjunct professors who are expert practitioners in their fields, as well as to an array of special speakers who bring significant experience and access to the classroom.

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, ONLINE, OR THROUGH A COMBINATION OF BOTH
Understanding biological threats is more important in today’s world than ever before. The Master of Science in Biodefense provides students with the knowledge and analytic skills to assess the risks posed by the full spectrum of natural and human-made biological threats, develop strategies for reducing these threats, and bridge the gap between the scientific and policy communities.

International Commerce and Policy, MA
Broader than an MBA and more focused than a master’s in international affairs, this master’s degree will enable you to operate at 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 DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNANCE
• GLOBAL FINANCE, INVESTMENT, AND TRADE
• GLOBAL RISK AND STRATEGY

International Security, MA
This master’s degree program prepares professionals to address enduring and emerging security challenges of the 21st century by deepening conceptual knowledge of the field, learning in depth about a range of current security issues, and mastering analytic and policy skills for a career in the field. The international security program provides strong background in theories of international relations and strategic thought, as well as electives on a wide range of topics, from great power competition to terrorism and WMD, and nontraditional threats from crime and corruption, cyberspace, food and natural resource insecurities, and more. The approach is inclusive and cross-disciplinary. Students will learn about leadership, decision-making, and the major national security institutions of defense, intelligence, and diplomacy.

OPTIONAL CONCENTRATIONS AVAILABLE IN:
• INTELLIGENCE
• PEACE OPERATIONS
• TRANSNATIONAL CHALLENGES

OR, SAMPLE ELECTIVES FROM THREE CLUSTERS OF TOPICS:
• MANAGING GLOBAL RISKS
• NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY AND PROCESSES
• REGIONAL AND TRANSNATIONAL SECURITY CHALLENGES

Organization Development and Knowledge Management, MS
FALL ADMISSION ONLY
Develop the essential leadership, skills, and creativity 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 strategies as you explore organizational leadership theory and practice, engage with the shift from hierarchical structures to group-based learning, and uncover creative strategies to promote adaptive and collaborative work environments. You will also develop skills in appreciative intelligence and mindfulness, which will help you facilitate creativity and innovation in teams and organizations. Throughout the program, you will work on various consulting team projects, culminating in a capstone project where you will use the innovative appreciative inquiry methodology to help create positive design and organization transformation with client organizations.

Political Science, MA
Deepen your understanding of domestic and international political processes and institutions while learning from some of the country’s leading political scientists and commentators. As a student in this program, you will be prepared for research and academia, as well as careers in government, the private sector, and with consulting firms, nonprofits, and NGOs. Throughout the program, you will learn about American and comparative politics, international relations, political theory, and public administration. You will also improve your research skills, including your knowledge of research design and methods, by conducting an original research project.

CONCENTRATION AVAILABLE IN:
• INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

OR, 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 and consulting firms.

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

In addition to the above pre-defined concentrations, you can also design a concentration of your own choosing by working with your academic advisor.

Public Policy, MPP
Effective public policies advance the public good. Gain the theoretical grounding and hands-on tools needed to address diverse policy issues from terrorism, human trafficking, climate change, and hunger, to health, public finance, and regional economic development. Throughout the MPP program, you will develop vital skills in policy analysis, program evaluation, and ethical inquiry to tackle public problems. Additionally, you will be prepared to assess contributing factors and design and manage solutions across the policy spectrum.

OPTIONAL EMPHASIS AREAS AVAILABLE IN:
• ECONOMIC POLICY
• EDUCATION POLICY
• 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

In addition to the above pre-defined emphasis areas, you can also design an emphasis area of your own choosing by working with your academic advisor.
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 and industry. This master’s degree will train you in the advanced theory, policy, law, research, practices, and tools required to effectively and efficiently supply, manage, and operate transportation facilities, services, and logistics supply chains. The program is on the cutting edge, emphasizing contemporary trends in surface transportation, aviation, and maritime. For example, you will learn how smart transportation solutions such as autonomous vehicles, drones, shared transportation, electric vehicles, big data, and automated payment systems create new planning and policy issues and challenges, as well as opportunities for sustainable, inclusive, and livable communities.

PHD PROGRAMS

Biodefense, PhD
The PhD in Biodefense offers a multidisciplinary education that prepares students to address critical issues at the nexus of health and security on local, national, and global levels. The program combines a foundation in the life sciences with specialized knowledge and training in the fields of security and policy. This program is designed to produce the next generation of scholars and practitioners capable of formulating and implementing new strategies to counter the full spectrum of threats to global health security.

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION AVAILABLE IN:
• INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
• TERRORISM AND HOMELAND SECURITY
• TECHNOLOGY AND WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

“...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, MASTER’S IN PUBLIC POLICY ‘19
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 augment your training as a scholar, positioning you for leadership in government and with consulting firms, 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 scholars, 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):
- AMERICAN FOREIGN AND NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY
- ECONOMIC POLICY
- ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY
- POPULATION, MIGRATION, AND PUBLIC POLICY
- REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION
- TECHNOLOGY, SCIENCE, AND INNOVATION

Middle East and Islamic Studies
Professor Bassam S. Haddad is director of this comprehensive interdisciplinary program that goes beyond security studies and strives to understand historical and contemporary issues of the Middle East region. Professor Peter Mandaville’s research on Islam and international relations has been used by the White House and the State Department among other agencies for its thoughtful insights to the realities of modern Islam in a globalized world.
GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Schar School graduate certificate students take the same classes as our master’s students, choosing from a wide selection of specialized electives taught by renowned faculty who bring real-world experience to the classroom. Students typically earn their certificate in one to one-and-a-half years on average, but with evening classes and a flexible part-time schedule, you can pursue the program at a pace that works for you. Each graduate certificate program is comprised of five courses (15 credits).

THE SCHAR SCHOOL OFFERS THE FOLLOWING CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS:

- BIODEFENSE CERTIFICATE
- EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY CERTIFICATE
- GLOBAL HEALTH AND SECURITY CERTIFICATE
- NATIONAL SECURITY AND PUBLIC POLICY CERTIFICATE
- NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE
- PUBLIC MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE
- SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SECURITY CERTIFICATE
- TERRORISM AND HOMELAND SECURITY CERTIFICATE

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 Mason’s School of Law. Graduates receive both a Juris Doctor from the School of Law and a Master’s of Public Policy from the Schar School of Policy and Government.

Taking on the World’s Most Dangerous Problems

In a dangerous world, the Schar School’s Terrorism, Transnational Crime, and Corruption Center (TraCCC) tackles the most compelling issues facing governments and their citizens around the globe—human organ trafficking, wildlife poaching, modern slavery, illicit trade, cyber and organized crime, the opioid epidemic, and others. TraCCC, directed and founded by Professor Louise Shelley, is the first center of its kind in the U.S. to teach, research, train, and help formulate policy on the world’s most dangerous problems.
A Faculty of Thought Leaders

Our faculty’s passion for public service and policymaking matches that of our students. We have distinguished and dedicated faculty from a wide range of disciplines. They are world-class academic scholars, public intellectuals who have shaped policy debate, as well as experienced professionals who specialize in the scholarship of practice. They all seek to create new knowledge, connect learning with practice, make a difference in the world, and teach and mentor the next generation of leaders and scholars.

While the Schar School itself is large, the school remains committed to quality teaching and small classes. As a result, students often form mentoring relationships with their professors that help them succeed in class, understand complex policy issues, conduct research that addresses public problems, and excel throughout their careers. There are more than 90 full-time faculty members, as well as hundreds of adjunct professors who bring real-world experience to the classroom.

With our location in the national capital region, we have unprecedented access to renowned speakers and faculty experts. From heads of state and governors to former directors of central intelligence and political correspondents, our distinguished faculty members bring a wealth of experience and perspectives to our community.

Just days before President Trump met with North Korea leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore in 2018, a delegation of Schar School biodefense and international security faculty arrived in South Korea for a week of presentations addressing a topic of great concern for the South Koreans: “Issues and Concerns in International Security.”
Practitioners in the Classroom

**Ret. General Michael V. Hayden, former director of the CIA and NSA,** is a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Schar School, and in 2017 founded the Schar School’s Michael V. Hayden Center for Intelligence, Policy, and International Security. The center provides for the full examination of intelligence and its interplay with U.S. national security.

Michael V. Hayden sits down with Showtime's Homeland TV show creators and cast to talk about espionage in pop culture at a Schar School event.

**Former Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe** joined the Schar School in 2018 as a Distinguished Visiting Professor. McAuliffe, who has had an illustrious career in government, politics, and business, guest lectures in Schar School undergraduate and graduate classes on national and international affairs, with a primary focus on how workers can succeed in the increasingly global economy.

Terry McAuliffe guest lectures for Professor Justin Gest's public policy class on the topic of “Money in Politics.”
A 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.

Additionally, the school’s alumni chapter keeps graduates connected to the Schar School community through a variety of professional development, social, and service-focused events.
A sampling of the employers who have recently hired our graduates include:

- Al Arabiya News Network, United Nations Bureau
- Alexandria Police Department
- American Physical Therapy Association
- ANSER Corporation
- Arlington County Government
- Booz Allen Hamilton
- CACI
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Center for the National Interest
- Chemonics International, Inc.
- City of Fairfax Government
- D3 Systems, Inc.
- D.C. Government
- Deloitte
- ERPi
- Fairfax County Government
- Federal Aviation Administration
- Grant Thornton
- Hagerty Consulting
- Harvard Kennedy School
- Henrico County Sheriff’s Office
- Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
- IBM
- Institute for Defense Analyses
- International Monetary Fund
- Japan Coast Guard
- Key Point Government Solutions
- LMI Government Consulting
- Loudoun County Government
- Montana Department of Transportation
- NASA
- National Business Group on Health
- National Institutes of Health
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Northrop Grumman Corporation
- Office of the Prime Minister of the Bahamas
- Office of the Prime Minister of Jamaica
- Pan American Development Foundation
- QualX Corporation
- Quorum Analytics
- Relief International
- Space Adventures
- Systems Planning and Analysis, Inc.
- Temple University
- Tetra Tech
- The British Council
- The Ohio State University
- United Nations Foundation
- United Technologies
- U.S. Agency for International Development
- U.S. Department of Commerce
- U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- U.S. Department of Justice
- U.S. Department of State
- U.S. Department of the Interior
- U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Inspector General
- U.S. House of Representatives
- U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement
- U.S. Marshals
- U.S. Naval Academy
- U.S. Senate
- United Way Worldwide
- University of Maryland
- University of Wisconsin
- Virgin Orbit
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
- Washington & Lee University

FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT SCHAR.GMU.EDU/CAREER
A Capital Advantage

The Schar School is known worldwide for research that develops new knowledge and offers 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.

— TONYA T. NEAVES, RESEARCH FACULTY

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

REGIONS
- Africa
- East Asia
- Europe
- Latin America
- Middle East
- North America
- South Asia
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 key issues that impact the lives of citizens and nations.

**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. Many Schar School faculty are key players in this effort, including Louise Shelley, Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera, and Mariely Lopez-Santana.
Research in Action

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

Nereyda 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, institutes, and initiatives:

- Center for Business Civic Engagement
- Center for Energy Science and 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 the Study of Social Change, Institutions, and Policy (SCIP)
- Center for Transportation Public – Private Partnership Policy
- Centers on the Public Service
- Gender and Policy Initiative
- 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)
- Virginia Almanac Project Initiative

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 recent 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 2020, the university will hold its 39th 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 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:

- Civil Discourse and High Threats: Croatia Overcoming Socio-Political Challenges (Croatia)
- Entrepreneurial Leadership for the Global Marketplace (Oxford University)
- Haiti Field Experience: Development, Stabilization, and Disaster Response (Haiti)
- Political, Economic, and Social Challenges (South Africa)
- Study abroad to George Mason’s Korea Campus (Various Topics)
- The Island After the Castros: Cuba-U.S. Relations, Trade, and Human Rights (Cuba)
- Mexico-US Relations: Security, Immigration, Trade Walls, or Bridges in an Era of Populisms and Nationalisms (Mexico)

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 student and alumni, the Schar School’s career and student services advisors will help you define your goals, explore career and internship opportunities, and develop the skills needed for a successful job search, including crafting a resume and cover letter that will help you advance in your career.

“...

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 AFFAIRS

Professional Development Planning (PDP) Series

A signature program of the Schar School, the Professional Development Planning (PDP) Series is an optional non-credit opportunity for graduate 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 access the Schar School Handshake 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 within Handshake, 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
- Academic Careers Panel
- Presidential Management Fellowship Information Session
- Interviewing Skills Clinic
- Mock Interviews
Applying for Admission

The Schar School of Policy and Government is eager to help you achieve your academic and professional goals. Our community of scholars and practitioners shares your commitment to public service and encourages you to become 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—those who have completed their undergraduate or graduate degree outside of the U.S.—are required to apply one month prior to the domestic deadline for spring applications.

<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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Master’s Programs</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Dec 1</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 (GRAs) and Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTAs) are only available for full-time PhD students and are offered in the fall term for the upcoming academic year. If a GRA or GTA position is of interest, please indicate this on your application.

Visit schar.gmu.edu/admissions to review the application deadlines.
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 sample courses 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 deadline for spring applications, 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.

Military Friendly® School
As a Military Friendly® School, George Mason University and the Schar School of Policy and Government are proud to welcome veterans, active duty service members, guardsmen, reservists, and dependents to our community. 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 Financing Your Education
As a public institution in Virginia, George Mason University 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

## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS
- Biodefense
- Emergency Management & Homeland Security
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