

Financing Your Education

The Office of Student Financial Aid offers financial aid counseling, financial assistance (if eligible), referral resources about scholarships and work-study jobs, and limited short-term emergency loans (for noneducational, emergency expenses).

Applying—You must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year as soon as possible after January 1. George Mason University's school code for the FAFSA is 003749. To receive priority consideration for available funds, your FAFSA must be received by the federal processor on or before March 1. Types of financial aid available include Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford Loans, privately sponsored education loans, and Federal Work Study. Summer financial aid is available on a very limited basis; the George Mason University Summer Financial Aid Application must be filed by eligible students by April 1. If you have questions, call the Direct On-Line Aid Resource System (DOLARS) at (703) 993-4GMU, visit the Office of Student Financial Aid on the World Wide Web (<http://apollo.gmu.edu/finaid>), or schedule an appointment to meet with your financial aid counselor.

Eligibility Requirements—Students must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents, and enrolled in an eligible program for a minimum of six credits. To maintain your financial aid eligibility, students must maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by the U.S. Department of Education and the Office of Student Financial Aid.

Hours—Weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., except Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., (703) 993-2353.

Graduate Scholarship Opportunities

All externally funded scholarship opportunities for new graduate students are listed on the **Scholarship Bulletin Board** on the Office of Student Financial Aid web site at <http://apollo.gmu.edu/finaid>. This web site is updated frequently throughout the year. After reviewing the list of scholarships, you may request applications for specific scholarship programs by contacting:

Scholarship Administrator
Office of Student Financial Aid
4400 University Drive, MS 3B5
Fairfax, VA 22030-4444

Telephone: (703) 993-2353
Fax: (703) 993-2350

The Stephen J. Wright Scholars Program

Three state-supported fellowships are available for non-Caucasian U.S. citizens through the Stephen J. Wright Scholars Program: the Deans' Graduate Award, the Commonwealth Graduate Award, and the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Doctoral Scholars Award. Annual awards range from \$5,000-\$12,000 and are renewable with satisfactory academic progress. The university further assists students with tuition and fees. Each of these awards is intended to assist students who plan to teach at the university level. For deadline information

and applications for these programs, contact the scholarship administrator in the Office of Student Financial Aid.

Graduate Program Aid

George Mason University annually awards a limited number of three-year fellowships for beginning doctoral students. These fellowships carry stipends of \$10,000 and tuition waivers of up to 9 hours per regular semester. The university also offers assistantships, some in research and some in instruction, which are awarded without regard to financial need. A student holding an assistantship must have degree status and take a minimum of 6 graduate credit hours per semester. Stipends ranged from \$7,758-\$10,540 for the 2000-2001 academic year. Limited tuition waivers are also available for graduate assistants. All fellowship awards, assistantships, and tuition waivers are made by the individual graduate programs.

Fellowships—All newly admitted, degree-seeking graduate students may be considered for fellowship opportunities if a complete application is submitted by the application deadline. The university offers a number of master's and doctoral fellowships. Stipends vary up to \$10,000 and often include additional tuition benefits. To be considered for a fellowship, new graduate students must have been offered admission to a graduate program, and must carry a minimum of 6 credit hours per semester. Awards are offered through individual academic departments. Please contact the academic department to determine if an additional fellowship application is required.

Fellowship recipients are selected primarily on the basis of academic merit. In making awards, departments consider all materials submitted for the student's admission file, including undergraduate and graduate transcripts; standardized test scores, if taken; honors and awards; writing samples; and recommendation letters.

Assistantships—Graduate students may apply for teaching or research assistantships. Teaching assistants conduct classes under the supervision of a professor or participate in support activities such as grading exams, conducting laboratory sections, or setting up experiment apparatus. Research assistants work with a faculty member up to 20 hours per week and are directly involved in faculty research and research support. To apply for a teaching or a research assistantship, check the appropriate box on the graduate application and contact the academic department directly to determine if a additional department application is required.

Graduate Programs Tuition and Fees*

In-State	\$191 per credit hour
Out-of-State	\$529 per credit hour

Annual Room and Board

Room	\$2,700-4,370
Board	\$1,700-2,320

Note: Room and board charges vary according to accommodations and meal plan elected.

**Figures are based on fall 2001 tuition and fee rates and are subject to change. Tuition and fees may vary for some graduate programs.*