



Environmental Science & Policy Graduate Student Association

ESP-GSA

Orientation

Spring 2017

**ENVIRONMENTAL
SCIENCE & POLICY**



Welcome!!!!





Who are we?



Rachel Golden Kroner,
President



Casey Pehrson,
Vice President



Blake Klocke,
Treasurer



Betsy Collins, Secretary



Elly Roland,
Student Representative



Tovah Siegel,
Social Chair



Sharon Bloomquist

sbloomqu@gmu.edu



- ESP Graduate Programs Coordinator
- Office: David King 3039
- Invaluable resource!
- Advice:
 - Meet with her once/semester to verify paperwork, credits, progress in your program, etc.





Other “who’s who” of ESP



- Dr. Al Torzilli: ESP Graduate Program Director
- Dr. Alonso Aguirre: ESP Department Chair
- Dr. Chris Parsons: ESP-GSA Faculty Advisor
- List of faculty, staff, and affiliate faculty:
<https://esp.gmu.edu/faculty-staff/>

ESP Department and Degree Program



- Familiarize yourself with the ESP website
 - General page: <http://esp.gmu.edu/>
 - Forms and policies:
<http://esp.gmu.edu/academic-programs/graduate/forms-and-policies/forms/>
- Review the guidelines/timelines and other documents here:
 - <http://esp.gmu.edu/academic-programs/graduate/forms-and-policies/guidelines/>
 - very important information about paperwork, policies, degree progression, etc.



ESP-GSA: Our goals



- Foster a sense of community
- Increase communication with faculty, the department, and the College of Science
- Advocate for graduate student interests and concerns
- Plan social and academic extracurricular activities for graduate students, faculty, and staff
- Offer resources for graduate students
 - Travel Grants
 - Postings: jobs and funding opportunities



Events



- ESP-GSA Happy Hours
 - Monthly
 - See email/facebook for announcements
- Other events TBD (announcements will follow)
 - End of Year Event (usually at a winery)



<http://esp.gmu.edu/students/graduate-students/esp-gsa-club/>



GMU ESP GSA



Travel Grants



- \$250 to attend conferences
- Applications are due April 1st, 2017 and October 1st, 2017 to espgsa@gmu.edu (see our website for details)
- Applicant must be an ESP-GSA member (dues paid) and attend at least one of our events



<http://esp.gmu.edu/students/graduate-students/esp-gsa-club/>



Webinar Service



- The department and the GSA co-sponsor a webinar service (GoToMeeting)
- It can be used for: seminars, committee meetings, orientations, GSA workshops, other relevant events
- GSA is developing a user guide and will release it soon to make it accessible to grad students



GSA membership



- Dues: \$10 for semester, \$20 for full year
- Membership provides you with access to travel grants
- Dues fund events and support travel grants



<http://esp.gmu.edu/students/graduate-students/esp-gsa-club/>



GMU ESP GSA



Graduate Handbook



- Environmental Science and Policy Department
Graduate Handbook:

<http://esp.gmu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/StudentHandbookFall2016Updates.docx>

[This document is maintained and updated by the GSA. If you want to add something to it, please let us know! \(espgsa@gmu.edu\)](#)



Graduate Handbook contents



- Graduate Policies
- Mason ID
- MyMason
- Textbooks
- Libraries
- Health Services
- Important Forms
- Student Organizations
- Financial Aid
- Teaching Assistantships
- Graduate Student Resources
- Smithsonian Courses
- Transportation
- Housing
- Dining



Graduate Policies:
**Consortium of Universities of the
Washington Metropolitan Area**



- Students enrolled in a degree program may take graduate courses at **another accredited institution** and apply these credits to a master's or doctoral degree with prior approval
- First semester students are not eligible for registration in this program
- A max. of 6 consortium credits can be taken
- George Mason Consortium students pay the George Mason tuition rate



Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation (SMSC) Courses



- Courses are 1-2 week intensive residential programs held throughout the year
- offering 1-3 graduate credits
- at SCBI in Front Royal, Virginia

<http://smconservation.gmu.edu/upcoming-courses/>



Mason ID



- Free **Cue Bus** Rides
- Discounts and/or priority seating at specifies **Patriot Center events**
- **Library card** for GMU & the Washington Research Library Consortium
- Free entry into **Fitness Centers** on campus
- **Photo copying** and computer lab **printing**

& MORE...



Websites

MyMason



- List of week's events & announcements
- Access to:
 - Masonlive (e-mail)
 - Patriot Web (self-service)
 - Blackboard (class resources)

<https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>

Websites

Patriot Web



- Independent webpage
- A self-service website for students
 - manage personal information
 - register for classes
 - view transcripts,
 - review charges & make payments
 - apply for and review status of financial aid

<https://patriotweb.gmu.edu/>

Websites

Blackboard



- A tool that allows faculty and teaching assistants to post class resources
 - readings
 - homework
 - class grades
- Not all professors use it



Websites Environmental Science & Policy



- Abstracts
 - MS Theses
 - PhD Dissertations
- Forms and Policies
 - Forms
 - Guidelines
 - Important Dates
- Graduate Courses
- Graduate Programs

<http://esp.gmu.edu/>

...and more!!



Textbooks



- GMU bookstore
 - Buying or renting textbooks
 - Supplies
 - Clothing
- Library
- Other online providers



Libraries



- Two libraries on Fairfax campus
 - **Fenwick** (north of campus center near the quad)
 - **Johnson Center (JC)**, (second floor on the south side of the building)
- Offer workspace carrels - need to reserve online in advance
- Website: <http://library.gmu.edu/>

Library Workshops



- Zotero
- Writing Groups
- Library Skills
- Library Tours

- Website: <http://library.gmu.edu/>



Libraries Liaison Librarian



- Collaborates with students and faculty, instructs classes, and provides one-on-one research assistance
- Kathy Butler, Librarian for Environmental Science & Policy
 - A244 Fenwick Library



Libraries Thesis & Dissertation Service



- All theses and dissertations have to be in a **specific format**
- Workshops are offered
- **Sally Evans**, University Dissertation & Thesis (UDTS) Services Coordinator
 - Fenwick Library, C203



Libraries

ZOTERO



- A citation management program (GMU's version of Endnotes)
- It is strongly suggested that you start using and familiarizing yourself with Zotero now as **you will be using it for your thesis or dissertation.**
- Workshops are offered

<http://www.zotero.org>

Important forms



- **Environmental Science and Policy website**
under “Forms and Policies”:
<http://esp.gmu.edu/academic-programs/graduate/forms-and-policies/forms/>
 - ESP Graduate Blooms Evaluation Form
 - required for doctoral proposal defense, master’s thesis defense, doctoral dissertation defense
 - http://esp.gmu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Blooms-evaluation-form_graduate3.docx
- **Registrar’s site:**
<http://registrar.gmu.edu/forms/index.html>



Your bio on the ESP page



- There is a space for your bio on the ESP page:
- <http://esp.gmu.edu/students/graduate-students/current-students/>
- Many of these are out of date
- If you would like to update your bio, please email the text of your new information to espgsa@gmu.edu by February 1st
- Follow the format of the existing bios on this page:
- We will send these updates to the web manager



Funding Opportunities



- Teaching Assistantship
- Research Assistantship (through your advisor or an office on campus)
- Presidential Scholarship/Provost's Award for incoming students (not offered every year)
- Provost office also provides limited funding for:
 - Dissertation completion grants
 - Summer stipends (for PhD candidates)
 - See website for more:
provost.gmu.edu/graduate-education/grad-ed/



Funding Opportunities



- Office of [Research Development](#)
- Office of [Graduate Fellowships](#)
- List of [fellowship opportunities](#)
- Online [database of fellowships](#)

- Questions about external funding?
- Contact Kay Agoston, kagoston@gmu.edu



ESP Seminars



- Special guest lectures on campus
- Lightning talks
- See ESP emails for scheduling/announcement
- Should be available via webinar

ESP Social Media



- Facebook –
 - Our page (request to join and we will add you) <https://www.facebook.com/groups/espgsa>
 - Departmental page:
<https://www.facebook.com/ESPMasonU/>
- Twitter @ESPMasonU (departmental page)
- Instagram @georgemasonesp (dept page)
- Follow for information about events, seminars, funding opportunities, etc.

Graduate and Professional Student Association (GAPSA)



- A GMU wide group that attempts to unite graduate and professional students across the university
- The GAPSA website is very helpful for general information about this area, housing, transportation etc.
- Graduate Student Travel Fund (\$50 - \$1000)
 - <http://gstf.gmu.edu/>



Center for Teaching and Faculty Excellence



- Professional development opportunities for graduate students
- Free courses (competitive admission):
 - [PROV601](#): navigating through grad school
 - [PROV701](#): navigating the job search
- Offer other workshops and events throughout the year

<http://ctfe.gmu.edu/>



Writing Center



- [Weekly write-ins](#)
 - Fridays 9:30am to 1:00pm in the JC Library
 - A quiet space to focus on writing
- All day write-in
 - One Saturday during the Fall semester, TBD
- Writing Assistance/Tutoring services

writingcenter.gmu.edu



OSCAR



- Office of Student Scholarship, Creative Activities, and Research
- OSCAR provides funds for undergraduate researchers to work with graduate researchers on a competitive basis
- See website for more details:

<http://oscar.gmu.edu/>



Open-Access publishing



- Mason offers an Open Access Publishing Fund to cover the costs of publishing in an open access journal
- Grad students are eligible
- Up to \$3,000
- See stipulations on [their website](#)



Graduate Student Life

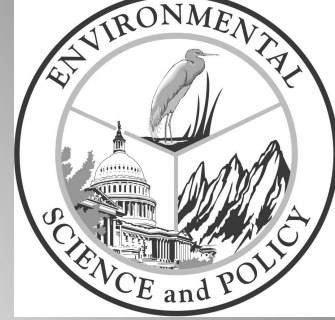


- Many workshops, events, opportunities for free food!
- Upcoming:
 - [Workshops](#)
 - Overcoming procrastination
 - Strategies for concentration
 - See their website for more

<http://gradlife.gmu.edu/>



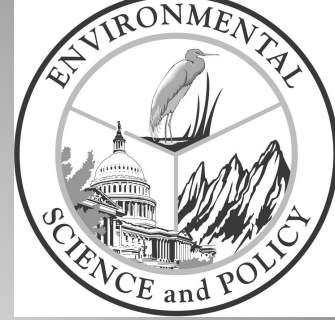
Parking and Transportation



- See this website for parking information
- <http://parking.gmu.edu/>
- Transportation
- <http://transportation.gmu.edu/>
- The DC Metro: <http://wmata.com/>
- Check the repairs schedule (Safe Track) for delays and shut downs:
<http://wmata.com/rail/safetrack.cfm?>



Fitness at GMU



- Fitness centers, classes, personal training:
- <https://recreation.gmu.edu/fitness/>



Journal of Mason Graduate Research

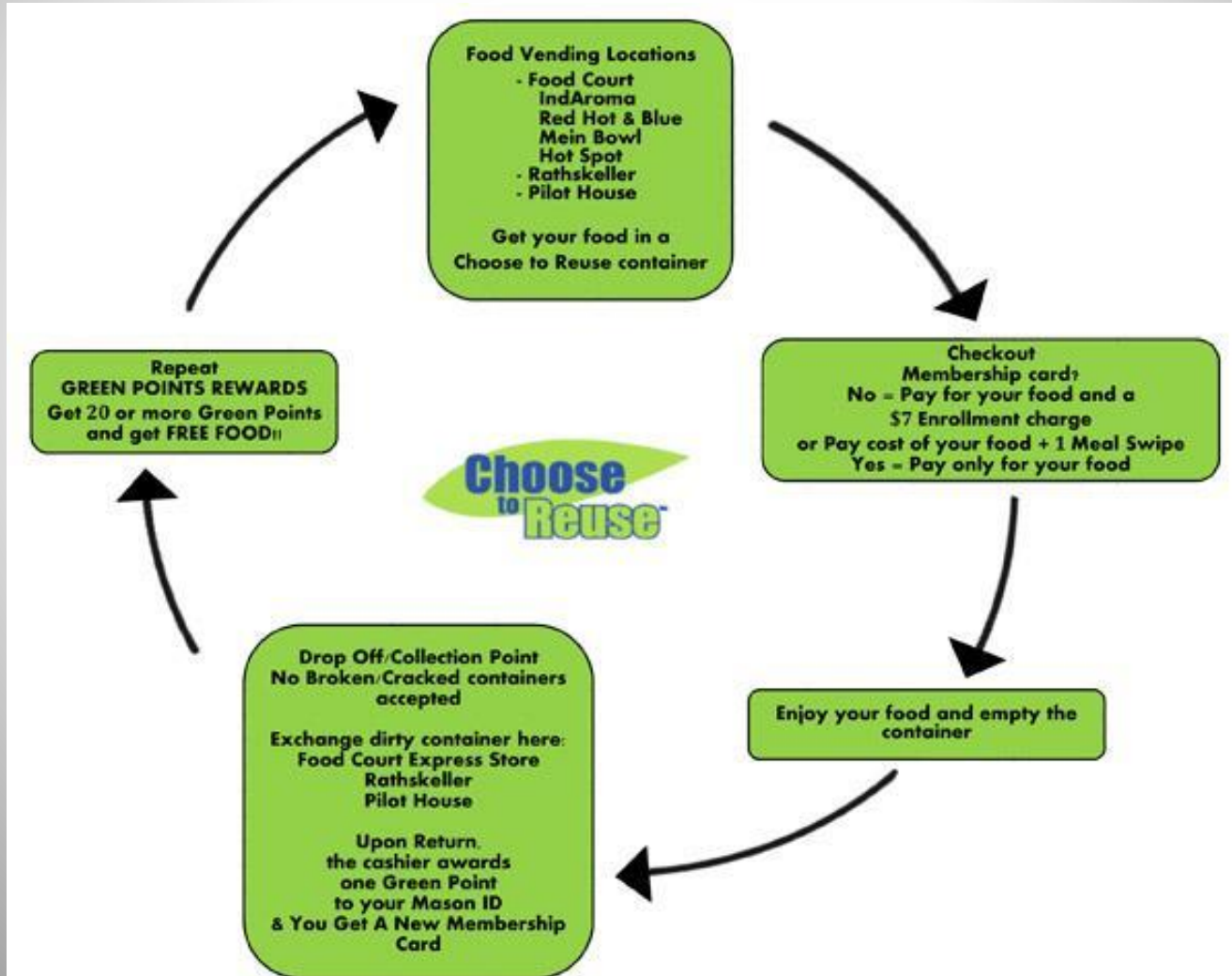


- Publish in or review for a peer-reviewed journal for GMU graduate students!
- <http://journals.gmu.edu/jmgr>



Dining services

Choose to reuse





Questions?

