Environmental Science & Policy Graduate Student Association

ESP-GSA

Orientation

Spring 2017
Welcome!!!!
Who are we?

Rachel Golden Kroner, President

Betsy Collins, Secretary

Elly Roland, Student Representative

Casey Pehrson, Vice President

Blake Klocke, Treasurer

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:**


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
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
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/](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](http://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/](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

- Food Vending Locations
  - Food Court
  - IndAroma
  - Red Hot & Blue
  - Mein Bowl
  - Hot Spot
  - Rathskeller
  - Pilot House

- Get your food in a Choose to Reuse container.

- Repeat GREEN POINTS REWARDS
  - Get 20 or more Green Points
  - and get FREE FOOD!!

- Check out
  - Membership card:
    - No - Pay for your food and a $7 Enrollment charge
    - or Pay cost of your food + 1 Meal Swipe
    - Yes - Pay only for your food

- Drop Off/Collection Point
  - No Broken-Cracked containers accepted
  - Exchange dirty container here:
    - Food Court Express Store
    - Rathskeller
    - Pilot House

- Upon Return, the cashier awards
  - one Green Point
  - to your Mason ID
  - & You Get A New Membership Card

- Enjoy your food and empty the container.
Questions?