GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK

MIDDLE EAST AND ISLAMIC STUDIES
MA PROGRAM

George Mason University
College of Humanities & Social Sciences
Ali Vural Ak Center for Global Islamic Studies
Welcome!

Welcome to the Master of Arts in Middle East and Islamic Studies program at George Mason University’s College of Humanities and Social Sciences!

This student handbook has been developed to introduce you to the program requirements and policies associated with the Master of Arts program in Middle East and Islamic Studies (hereafter MEIS).

Please read through this handbook and familiarize yourself with the requirements, policies, and procedures of your program. The information in this handbook will help you to succeed in your program and assist you in making critical decisions along the way. As questions and issues arise during your studies, this handbook along with the Graduate Catalog should be where you turn to first for answers and guidance.

We welcome you to the MEIS program and hope you find this experience both enjoyable and rewarding.

Dr. Bassam Haddad, Director, Middle East and Islamic Studies MA Program
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Middle East and Islamic Studies Program Overview

Mason’s graduate program in Middle East and Islamic Studies (MEIS) equips students with the tools and analytical skills for understanding major issues and debates in the study of the Middle East, Islam, and Muslim societies. Students study historical and contemporary aspects of society, economy, politics, and culture from both regional and global perspectives—with a strong emphasis on theory and methodology.

This program is designed to address the needs of aspiring scholars as well as practitioners. With our location in the Washington DC metro area, students have the opportunity to complete an internship in the NGO, media, academic, or government sectors as part of their graduate program. The unique combination of experienced faculty, broad selection of courses, stimulating events, and a wide variety of training and dissemination resources, provides students opportunities for an unparalleled engagement with its fields of study.

The MEIS program is offered by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at George Mason University and is one of the flagship interdisciplinary programs.

Ali Vural Ak Center for Global Islamic Studies

The MA program in Middle East and Islamic Studies works in conjunction with the Ali Vural Ak Center for Global Islamic Studies. The mission of the Center is to advance a sound and nuanced understanding of Muslim societies and the Islamic faith, its role in world history, and its current patterns of globalization. The Center coordinates an active programming schedule of events, lectures, workshops, conferences, which all MA students are invited to attend as opportunities to enrich their academic coursework.

Middle East Studies Program

The interdisciplinary Middle East Studies program at George Mason provides students with a firm grounding in the history, politics, and culture of this important region. Under the guidance of internationally recognized faculty, students develop an understanding of the diverse dynamics and complex forces that shape modern realities in the Middle East and Islamic world. Students have the opportunity to examine new Middle East and Muslim diasporas and transnational communities in the West, as well as the role of the Middle East and the Islamic world in a changing geopolitical environment marked by the rise of China, India and the re-emergence of Russia.
MA Degree in Middle East and Islamic Studies

The MA degree is a 30 credit degree program consisting of five core courses (15 credits) and five elective courses (15 credits). Completion of the program also requires that the student pass a language proficiency exam in one of five major languages of the Middle East and Muslim world, (Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, Turkish, Urdu). Relevant language courses are offered at GMU, but note only 3 credits from these courses may be used to fulfill the elective credit for the MA. Students who wish to complete the optional research project or master’s thesis as a capstone for their MA take three or six fewer elective credits, respectively. Students may also fulfill elective requirements through an internship taken for academic credit or through an approved individualized research and readings course. All students are required to take the program foundation course MEIS 500 within their first year of study, usually during the first fall semester. The degree is designed to be completed over a two year period for full-time students and must be completed within six years for part-time students.

Core Courses

**MEIS 500 - Critical Issues and Debates in Middle East and Islamic Studies** - 3 credits
Introduces the interdisciplinary study of the Middle East and the Islamic world through an examination of recent seminal works and debates in the field representing the disciplinary perspectives of history, religious studies, political science, and sociology.

**HIST 575 – Approaches to Middle East and Islamic History** - 3 credits
Introduces students to the central issues and debates surrounding the study of the Middle East, Islam, and Muslim societies. Covers key methodological issues including the role of area studies vis-à-vis disciplinary approaches and debates on the politics of knowledge production and historiography.

**GOVT 632 – Politics and Societies of the Middle East** – 3 credits
Studies the Middle East in comparative perspective, using social scientific categories of analysis. Topics include: regime types, their basis and causes; influential political trends such as Arab nationalism, Ba’athism, and political Islam; the role of kinship, religion, and tribe in opposition and regime politics; the regional oil economy and economic crisis; democratic liberalization; and the growth of civil society.

**RELI 644 – Islamic Texts and Contexts** – 3 credits
Introduces foundational Islamic texts; scholarly traditions of commentary, criticism and analysis on these texts; and application and significance of these texts in contemporary Islamic discourses.

Methods course (dependent on student’s disciplinary focus) – ANTH 650, HIST 610, SOCI 620, GOVT 500, RELI 630, or GLOA 605 – 3 credits

Middle East and Islamic Studies MA Program • meis@gmu.edu • https://meis.gmu.edu/
Elective Courses

In addition to the list below, elective courses may include special topics courses when relevant, directed readings and research, study abroad courses, internships, and other courses with the approval of the program director. Relevant language courses are offered at GMU, but note only 3 credits from these courses may be used to fulfill the elective credit for the MA.

ANTH 635 - Regional Ethnography – 3 credits (when topic is Middle East and North Africa)

ARTH 599 - Special Topics in Art History and the Decorative Arts Credits: 1-6 (when topic is Middle Eastern or Islamic art)

ARTH 699 - Topics in Art History – 3 credits (when topic is Middle East or Islamic art)

CONF 653 - World Religions, Diplomacy, and Conflict Resolution – 3 credits

CONF 722 - Conflict and Religion – 3 credits

ENGH 665 - Seminar in Global Culture – 3 credits (when topic is Middle East or Muslim world)

FREN 553 - Topics in North African Francophone Literature and Culture – 3 credits

FRLN 550 - Special Topics – 3 credits (when topic is a language of the Middle East or Muslim world)

FRLN 551 - Special Topics – 3 credits (when topic is a language of the Middle East or Muslim world)

GGS 533 - Issues in Regional Geography (when topic is Middle East) Credits: 1-6

GLOA 599 – Issues in Global Affairs (when topic is Middle East) 3 credits

GOVT 731 - Advanced Seminar in Comparative Politics – 3 credits (when topic is the Middle East or a Muslim world region)

GOVT 733 - Islam and Politics – 3 credits

HIST 585 - Problems in Middle Eastern History – 3 credits

MEIS 599 – Issues in Middle East and Islamic Studies – 3 credits

MEIS 794 - Graduate Internship in Middle East and Islamic Studies – 3 credits

MEIS 796 - Directed Readings in Middle East and Islamic Studies – 3 credits
RELI 591 - Special Topics in Religious Studies – 3 credits (when topic is Islam or Muslim communities)

RELI 645 - Muslim Comparative Theologies: Sunni-Shi’i Religious Thought – 3 credits

RELI 646 - Islam and Human Rights – 3 credits

RELI 660 - Islamic Biomedical Ethics – 3 credits

Elective courses listed above are those that have been offered in recent years. Each semester the MEIS website will list the current special topics courses that are available.

One study abroad class (3 credits) may be applied towards MEIS elective credit after obtaining prior approval from the program director.

Optional Research Project (Capstone) 3 credits

The research project provides students with an opportunity to build on work undertaken in a completed course, internship/practicum or a research area of interest to student. The student’s main faculty advisor in consultation with the department’s faculty director approve and supervise capstone research projects. Projects may be theoretical, experimental, observational, or based upon fieldwork, case studies, or literature review resulting in a report, presentation, expanded paper or an article for a scholarly journal. Students are generally expected to have completed all MEIS core requirements prior to undertaking the research project and may not do so unless the core methods requirement has been met.

Students choosing to complete a research project take one less elective course (3 credits). Students may register for MEIS 798 or one of the following courses in the student’s elected discipline:

ANTH 796 – Master’s Research Project: Capstone research project conducted under the supervision of a faculty project director and project evaluation committee. Project should be a substantial contribution to anthropological knowledge and is in lieu of a thesis.

GOVT 798 - Political Science Research Project: Research project related to student’s concentration under supervision of a faculty advisor. Student produces substantial and original contribution to political science knowledge on model of article in scholarly journal.

HIST 798 - Directed Research and Writing in History: Intended for students in department’s pre-doctoral track who are not writing master’s thesis. Goal is to produce substantial and original contribution to historical knowledge on model of article in scholarly journal.
**MEIS 798** – Research Project in Middle East and Islamic Studies. Research project taken under supervision of MEIS faculty advisor. Prerequisites: completion of 21 credit hours towards completion of MA in Middle East and Islamic Studies; satisfactory completion of a research methods course approved as a core course for the MA MEIS.

**SOCI 696** - Independent Study: Theoretical and research literature chosen by student and instructor.

**Optional Thesis (6 credits)**

Students in the MA program in Middle East and Islamic Studies may enroll in this course after completion of all core courses for the MA degree and have assembled a committee of three faculty (at least two of whom must be CHSS faculty members). To ensure that these prerequisites have been met, students will need the approval of the MEIS director before enrolling in the course.

Having assembled a committee, and prepared an approved thesis proposal, students enrolled in this course will be engaged in writing an original piece of research based upon the student's own fieldwork or analysis of primary source material. The thesis will demonstrate mastery of relevant secondary literature, as well as working knowledge of relevant theoretical and methodological approaches in the field.

Students who are engaged full time writing their thesis can enroll in this course for a maximum of 6 credits. Students who do not complete their thesis in a single semester, can continue to register for one credit of MEIS 799 in successive semesters until they have reached the maximum time to graduation limit. Students also have the option of splitting the 6 credits between two semesters, but must complete a minimum of 6 credits total in order to complete the thesis requirements for the program. Students taking other courses concurrent with their thesis are expected to split the 6 credits over two semesters.

All students must abide by the College’s guidelines for the writing and submission of theses found in the university catalog.

Students choosing to complete the master’s thesis take two less elective courses and register for 6 credits of MEIS 799.

**MEIS 799** – Thesis Research and Writing in Middle East and Islamic Studies (6 credits)

**Language Proficiency**

Prior to graduating, students must demonstrate professional competency in one of five major languages of the Middle East and Muslim world: Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Hebrew, or Urdu. Also, note the following:
• You should take the language proficiency test roughly a semester before graduating, so that you have time to retake it if necessary
• The official language proficiency test is administered by Nathaniel Greenberg of Modern and Classical Language, you will need to reach out to him to schedule a time
• One language course (3 credits) can count towards electives (but not more than that unless it is an upper level, complex course and if then prior approval is required from the MEIS Director)

Note a waiver for this requirement may be received either through 1) documentation verifying primary language of instruction at either the high school or university level in respective foreign language; transcripts showing coursework at the advanced level in respective foreign language (e.g. minor/degree) or 2) an informal examination with an appropriate faculty/examiner designated by the director in consultation with the program's steering committee.
MEIS 794: Internship Guidelines

Course objectives/learning outcomes: Students will gain career-related experience in the field of Middle East and/or Islamic studies, adding an experiential dimension to the education they receive in the MA-MEIS program. Students will deepen their understanding of the Middle East and/or the Islamic world through engagement in real world applications of this knowledge in the governmental, nonprofit, or private sectors.

Course requirements:
- Institution in which internship is to be completed must be approved by the MEIS Director
- Students must complete 10hrs/week of internship work (or a total of 140 hrs. over the course of the semester). Use an hours log (see below example)
- Students will be assigned to a faculty member in the MEIS program who will supervise their internship work through regular meetings throughout the semester.
- Upon completion of the internship, and before the end of the semester in which the internship credit will be given, students will complete a brief report detailing their work and accomplishments in the internship. Submitted to faculty member assigning student grade for course.
- The student's main supervisor at the internship site will complete an evaluation of the nature and quality of the student's internship work, sent by Graduate Coordinator to supervisor (see attached evaluation form, available on MEIS website)

Please follow these steps to be enroll in MEIS 794:

Step 1 - Begin Your Internship Search. Visit University Career Services to begin your search, help polish your cover letter and resume, and consult with a career counselor about available internships and eligibility. Each student is responsible for finding his/her own internship placement and making arrangements for working with the organization.

Step 2 - Apply for the internships of your choice. The MEIS Internship Guidelines should be sent by the student to the organization when inquiring about the internship.

Step 3 - Complete internship application materials. A complete application includes the following documents, found on the MEIS website.
  - Internship Application
  - Letter of acceptance from the intern organization

Step 4 - Submit completed application to the MEIS office. Upon review and approval, the Graduate Program Coordinator will give the student the CRN to register for MEIS 794.
Final Employer Evaluation of Intern's Performance

Please use this form to record your evaluation and comments on your intern’s performance. Your evaluation represents 40% of the student’s final academic grade. Please share the evaluation with the student. Forward one copy to by email to: meis@gmu.edu. Thank you very much.

Student ______________________________
Supervisor ______________________________ Organization ____________________
Placement Starting Date ____________________ Ending Date _____________________
Student has worked approximately _____________ hours in total.

Please rate the following:

A = Excellent  B = Good  C = Average  D = Poor

Dependability

Ability to work with others

Initiative in accomplishing tasks

Ability to meet deadlines

Ability to work independently

Ability to use constructive feedback

Quality of work completed

Openness to new ideas and responsibilities

What are the students’ main strengths in performing internship duties?

What are the student’s main weaknesses in performing internship duties?

Additional comments you believe would be helpful to the student.

Comments in regard to accepting other George Mason University students.
Signature ___________________________ Date ____________

Title ___________________________
**Internship Time Sheet**

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**Total Hours** (Please copy this sheet as needed to record ALL hours at internship site)

Student’s Signature | Date | Site Supervisor’s Signature | Date
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*Revised May 2003*
University Regulations

Academic Integrity

*Students are reminded of their obligation to adhere to the GMU Honor Code.* All class work should clearly acknowledge the source of ideas and materials, and direct quotations must be explicitly identified and properly cited. *If you are in any doubt, please contact the instructor before submitting your work.*

Compliance, Diversity, and Ethics – Title IX Compliance

*GMU is strongly committed to providing a safe and inclusive learning environment for the entire Mason community and operates a zero-tolerance policy for all forms of sexual harassment and misconduct.* If you feel you might have experienced any form of harassment, you should feel free to contact the Director at any time, as well as to draw on the support available through the Title IX Office.

Disability Services

*GMU is equally committed to providing equitable access to students with disabilities. Students who require accommodations should register with Disability Services as early as possible, since accommodations/grade adjustments cannot be made retroactively.*
Academic Policies

University and College Policies

- **Classification** – Graduate students are considered full time if they are enrolled in at least 9 graduate credits per semester or hold a full-time assistantship (total 20 hours a week) and are enrolled in at least 6 graduate credits per semester. Graduate students are considered part time if they are enrolled in at least 6 graduate credits per semester.

- **Credit Limit** – Graduate students may enroll in a maximum of 12 credit hours per semester.
  - Students who wish to enroll in additional hours must complete a [Graduate Course Overload Request form](https://meis.gmu.edu/). Students must first obtain permission from their graduate program director. The approved form must then be sent to the CHSS Office of Graduate Academic Affairs for further review. If approved by the Dean, the form will be forwarded to the Registrar’s Office for final processing and the student will be able to register for additional credit hours via Patriot Web.

- **Time Limit** – Master’s degree students have six years from the time of first enrollment as a degree-seeking student to complete their degrees. International students attending in F-1 or J-1 status also have more restrictive time limits; contact the Office of International Programs and Services for information.
  - Permission to Re-Enroll – Permission to re-enroll in a program must be obtained by all master’s students who have failed to enroll in at least 1 credit of course work for two or more consecutive semesters at Mason. The [Graduate Application for Reenrollment form](https://meis.gmu.edu/) must be approved and signed by the graduate program director.
  - Students who are given permission to re-enroll following an absence from Mason may **NOT** count the six-year time limit as beginning on the date of re-enrollment. Students who will not meet published time limits because of circumstances beyond their control may petition for an extension.

- **Registration**
  - Consortium Registration – Enrolled, degree-seeking graduate students may be eligible to take courses through the [Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area](https://meis.gmu.edu/). Participation is limited to courses that are approved by the student’s department chair and dean, apply to the student’s program of study, are not offered during that semester at Mason, and have space available at the visited institution. Graduate students may take one consortium course per semester, with a career maximum of 6 credits. Credit earned through the consortium is considered resident credit, so grades count in the Mason GPA.
  - Course Withdrawal – For graduate students, withdrawal after the last day to drop a course requires approval by the student’s academic dean, and is permitted only for nonacademic reasons that prevent course completion.
  - Selective Withdrawals are not permitted for graduate students.
Repeating a Course – Graduate students who have passed a course with a satisfactory grade (B-) are not permitted to repeat the course for replacement credit unless the academic program specifies a higher minimum satisfactory grade. Students must obtain permission from their program to repeat a course in which they have earned an unsatisfactory grade.

Students are encouraged to register for classes as soon as possible after registration opens.

Grading

- Although a B- is a satisfactory grade for a course, students must maintain a 3.00 average in their degree program and present a 3.00 GPA on the courses listed on the graduation application.
- Academic Warning – A notation of academic warning is entered on the transcript of a graduate student who receives a grade of C or F in a graduate course or while a grade of IN is in effect.
- Academic Dismissal – A degree-seeking graduate student is dismissed after accumulating grades of F in two courses or a total of 9 credits of unsatisfactory grades (C or below) in graduate courses.

Graduation – Students must be registered during the semester in which they intend to graduate. Graduate Intent must be filed through Patriot Web according to the semester deadlines. After filing intent, students should update their current mailing address, phone number, and email address in Patriot Web and insure all "IP" (In Progress) and "IN" (Incomplete) grades are resolved by the end of the semester.

MEIS Program Policies

MEIS students are subject to all University and College policies governing graduate study. Please review and familiarize yourself with relevant sections of the University Catalog at: http://catalog.gmu.edu/

Credit Overload

MEIS students will not routinely be permitted to take a credit overload in the first semester of enrollment. Credit overloads in subsequent semesters may be considered based on performance. Permission must be obtained from the MEIS Director.

Electives

If a chosen elective course falls outside the approved elective course list (see the MEIS website for the list of approved electives offered each semester), students may petition to have the course count toward their elective credits. Students need to provide a written justification explaining why the proposed course is appropriate to fulfill MEIS elective requirements and/or is relevant to their research project or thesis. Students may be asked to submit a syllabus for the proposed course for review and approval. In some cases, a letter from the instructor of the elective course may also be requested. All elective courses outside the approved list will need final approval from the MEIS Director.
**Independent Study**
A student may take up to 3 credits of individualized research and readings credit in fulfillment of elective requirements.

**Internship Credit**
A student may fulfill up to 3 credits of elective credit for the program through the completion of an internship at an approved internship site and location.

**Repeating a Course for Credit**
Graduate students who have passed a course with a grade of B- or better are not permitted to repeat the course for credit. Students must obtain permission from the offering department to repeat a course in which a grade of C or below has been earned. Each department establishes procedures for granting such permission. Duplicate credit is not earned. When a course is repeated, all credits attempted are used to determine warning, termination, or dismissal; the transcript shows grades for all courses attempted; only one grade per course may be presented on the degree application. Some courses, such as special topics courses, are repeatable for a limited number of additional credits. As long as students do not exceed the maximum allowable credits for repeatable courses, all takings of the course count for credit and in the student's GPA. In cases where the student has exceeded allowable credits in a repeatable class, the transcript will exclude the grade and credits of the earliest taking of the class.

**Transfer of Credit**
A student must take more than half their credits in graduate status. This means that 18 credits toward the fulfillment of the 30-credit MA MEIS program must be taken at George Mason University.
Registration Readiness

It is very important that at the start of each semester you review the Academic Calendar for important dates and deadlines.

Note that not all courses are offered every semester and some may have prerequisite requirements that must be fulfilled or require an override registration. You will have to reach out to the program or the Professor teaching the course if you have any questions regarding this.

Each semester, email the Graduate Program Coordinator at meis@gmu.edu if you will be a full or part time student, and which classes you hope to complete the following semester.
**Academic Advising**

For questions related to logistical issues such as registration, course planning, and enrollment email the Graduate Program Coordinator at meis@gmu.edu.

The MEIS Director can assist you with suggestions for research and professional development.

**How to Check your Degree Evaluation**

Along with advisor consultation, all students must track their progress through the online degree evaluation, Degree Works, in Patriot Web. The degree evaluation is the audit maintained by the Registrar’s Office which tracks course completion. It should be checked each semester before and after registration to ensure that enrolled courses are meeting requirements. Students should contact the Graduate Program Coordinator at meis@gmu.edu with any questions related to how courses are displayed in Degree Works.
Accelerated Master’s Students

In order to transition from the Accelerated Master’s Pathway to the Master's in MEIS, you are required to submit a Bachelor's/Accelerated Master’s Transition form. The Graduate Program Coordinator will submit this form on your behalf to the Office of Graduate Admissions and Registrar’s Office and obtain the appropriate signatures. The form will be submitted during your final BA semester, after the last day to drop for the semester.

Once your form has been processed by the Office of Graduate Admissions, you will receive your final admissions offer to the Master’s in MEIS.

For any questions, please email the Graduate Program Coordinator at meis@gmu.edu.
**Important Dates**

The Academic Calendar can be found [here](https://meis.gmu.edu/).

*Reading days provide students with additional study time for final examinations. Faculty may schedule optional study sessions on Reading Days, but regular classes or exams may not be held.*
Financial Matters

Tuition and Payment Information

For complete information, visit the Student Accounts Office.

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

- Graduate New Student Fee: This is a mandatory, non-refundable, one-time fee. The fee is charged to the account of every newly admitted, degree-seeking student at the time of registration, regardless of orientation attendance or enrollment status.
- Mandatory Student Fee: This is a mandatory fee based on credit enrollment. The Mandatory Student Fee supports the maintenance of facilities and buildings, auxiliary services, intercollegiate athletics, campus shuttle, academic services, student activities, and health services. For more information, please refer to Mandatory Student Fees in the Student Accounts Office website.

Financial Aid and Scholarships

For complete information, visit the Office of Student Financial Aid.

Students who need additional financial support beyond tuition waivers, fellowships or assistantships should apply for financial aid by completing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) a minimum of 30 days prior to the start of your program.

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
  - Must be completed a minimum of 30 days prior to the start of your program.
- Federal financial aid programs
- Financial Aid for International Students

Scholarships, more information can be found here.
Fellowships, more information can be found here.
Assistantships, more information can be found here.

Assistantships are university employment positions held by graduate students who have full-time enrollment, a minimum 3.0 GPA, and are in good academic standing. Assistantships are available in the following three categories:

Graduate Teaching Assistantship: students will participate in the instruction, advising, and evaluation of undergraduates under faculty supervision. Note these are note generally available for MA students.

Graduate Professional Assistantship: a non-teaching, non-research assistantship during which students will perform work in which they primarily gain experience, practice and...
guidance in relation to their academic program and that is significantly connected to their fields of study and career preparation.

Assistantship opportunities are listed in a variety of places including: the Mason Jobs website, Career Services’ Handshake site, and in academic departments. Students may also contact their advisors for assistantship information and opportunities.

- Mason Jobs website
- Career Services, Handshake
Language Training Resources

Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area
George Mason is a member of the Consortium of Universities of the Washington D.C. metropolitan area entitling our students to enroll in courses at other DC metro area universities while paying home institution rates. This may be particularly helpful for students wishing to take language classes that are not offered or not offered at convenient times at George Mason.

Georgetown University, George Washington University, American University offers Arabic, Turkish, Persian, and Hebrew classes through advanced levels. Howard University also offers African languages, such as Swahili.

The Middle East Institute (Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Hebrew)

DC Internationals Middle East/South Asia Language Institute (Arabic, Turkish, Hebrew plus less commonly taught languages like Dari Persian, Urdu, Pashto, Armenian, Kurdish, Pashto, etc.)

Global Language Network (GLN)
Students should also be encouraged to check with embassies, who can direct students to language training options for less commonly studied languages such as Urdu, Indonesian, Tajiki, Azerbaijani, Hebrew, etc.

Critical Languages Scholarship (CLS) (Arabic, Turkish, Persian, Urdu, Azerbaijani, Punjabi, Bangla, Indonesian, plus several other non-Middle Eastern/Islamic languages.)

CLS awards students funding for overseas summer language programs. Arabic and Persian require at least one year prior study; most other languages accept beginners. Participants may not choose their own program or location – all programs are organized by CLS. Persian is taught in Tajikistan; instruction is in standard Persian/Farsi (with a bit of street Tajiki dialect for everyday life.) Urdu is taught in Lucknow, India.

Boren Fellowships
The Boren Fellowships offer students the opportunity to attend overseas language training for 6-12 months in a wide variety of critical needs languages. Many fellows combine language training with research, study, or internships while overseas, though proposals for full language study are also accepted. Please note that unlike the Critical Languages Scholarship this is not an organized program but provides only funding. Applicants must propose location and design their own program. Boren Fellows commit to one year of service (in the form of paid employment) in the U.S. Federal Government after completion of their graduate program. Beginning language students are eligible to apply.

Middlebury Language Schools (Arabic and Hebrew plus other, non-Middle Eastern Languages)
Middlebury language schools offer financial aid, in addition to some merit-based fellowship opportunities.

**Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA)** – Program is based in Amman, Jordan. Advanced level Arabic students may apply (3-4 years of prior study).

**Georgetown Qatar Scholarship** (Intermediate/Advanced Arabic, one academic year in Qatar)

**Institute of Turkish Studies**
The ITS offers grants to graduate students for summer language study in Turkey. Applicants propose a program they wish to attend.

**Website Resources**

[http://www.princeton.edu/~gjbell/SummerArabic](http://www.princeton.edu/~gjbell/SummerArabic)
This is a useful site put together and maintained by a professor in the Arabic program at Princeton listing many different summer programs for Arabic language study. Some programs offer financial aid and/or scholarships.

[http://cmes.fas.harvard.edu/funding/flas](http://cmes.fas.harvard.edu/funding/flas)
This list includes summer programs in Arabic and Turkish. Maintained by Harvard, which has FLAS grant funding, programs are identified as "FLAS-eligible." Mason does not have FLAS funding, so Mason students can use this list to get an overview of available high quality summer programs. Some programs may offer their own financial aid or scholarship awards.

[http://aatturkic.org/aatt/article/139264](http://aatturkic.org/aatt/article/139264)
The American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages (AATT). This association maintains lists of both US and overseas programs in Turkish (also Azeri, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Tatar, Turkmen, Uyghur, and Uzbek).

The Blakemore Foundation offers grants for the study of Indonesian.
Graduate Student Life

Mason’s Office of Graduate Student Life provides a wealth of information for new and continuing graduate students. They are dedicated to supporting the success of Mason graduate students by:

- Providing community-building, professional development, and personal development programs
- Connecting graduate students to campus resources
- Identifying and advocating for graduate student needs

Graduate Student Life operates the Graduate Student Center and lounge in the Johnson Center, rooms 310 and 311E. The Center offers a multi-purpose space for the exclusive use of graduate students. The Center features a quiet study room with individual desks, an open lounge, and wireless internet access. The lounge area offers couches, chairs, tables, and a campus phone.

Mason Graduate and Professional Student Association (GAPSA) seeks to unite graduate students and establish a forum through which graduate and professional students are able to address issues, advocate for the greater good, grow professionally, and socialize with one another.
Getting Started

Email
All students must activate and regularly check their GMU email account. Official email from university faculty, staff and administration will only be sent to your GMU account (username@masonlive.gmu.edu). The Global Affairs program regularly sends messages to the graduate student listserv and your membership to this list is tied to your GMU email account. For information about your MasonLive email account, including set up instructions, see here.

Mason Identification Card (Mason ID)
All students must obtain a Mason ID card. In addition to serving as your library card, your Mason ID can be used for:
- Meal Plan and Mason Money
- Copying and computer lab printing
- Discounts/priority seating at specified Patriot Center events
- Free Cue Bus rides
- Accessing the Field House (athletics complex)
- Free entry to the Aquatic and Fitness Center (full-time students)
- Free entry to specified Concert Hall performances (full-time students)
- Free entry to Johnson Center Cinema (full-time students)

To obtain your ID, bring a form of picture ID and your Gnumber to the Mason Card Office: Student Union Building I (SUB I), room 1203 (ground floor near the Cashier’s Office).

Parking and Transportation
All vehicles parked on property owned or operated by GMU must display a valid parking permit. Parking options include general and reserved surface lots and parking garages, and permits range in cost. For current rates, visit the Office of Parking and Transportation Services. Parking at the Arlington campus requires a different permit than that used at the Fairfax campus. More student spaces are available at the Arlington campus after 6:00pm. For complete information on parking at the Arlington campus, see here. Both the Mason and Arlington campuses are accessible via public transportation. Information on transportation options such as the Mason Shuttle, Cue Bus, Fairfax Connector and Metro can be found on the website of the Mason’s Transportation Department.

Textbooks
Textbooks for courses held at the Fairfax campus may be found on the Fairfax bookstore website. Textbooks for courses held at the Arlington campus may be located through the Arlington bookstore website.
If textbooks for your course are not listed on the bookstore websites, you will likely receive an email (to your GMU email account) from your professor, prior to the start of classes, with the book list. If you do not receive an email your professor, you will receive the booklist on the first day of class with your syllabus.
University Libraries

Visit the University Libraries.

Mason has a total of five libraries between the three distributed campuses – Fairfax, Arlington, and Prince William:

Arlington Campus Library
Founders Hall - Room 201, MS 1D1
3351 Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22201
Circulation Desk: 703-993-8188 / Reference Desk: 703-993-8230
Fax: 703-993-8142
TTY: 703-993-4970
Email: aclref@gmu.edu
http://library.gmu.edu/libinfo/acl.html

Fenwick Library
4400 University Dr., MSN 2FL
Fairfax, VA 22030
General Information Line: 703-993-2250
Circulation Desk: 703-993-2240 / Reference Desk: 703-993-2210
http://library.gmu.edu/libinfo/fenwick.html

Gateway Library
4400 University Dr., MSN 1A6
Fairfax, VA 22030
Circulation desk: (703) 993-9060 / Reference desk: (703) 993-9070
TTY: (703) 993-3992
http://library.gmu.edu/locations/gateway

Mercer Library, SciTech Campus
10900 University Blvd., Occoquan Bldg., Room 104
MSN 4E6
Manassas, VA 20110-2203
Fax: 703-993-8349
Circulation Desk: 703-993-8340 / Reference Desk: 703-993-8342
TTY: 703-993-8365
http://library.gmu.edu/locations/mercer

George Mason University Law Library
3301 N. Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22201-4426
Phone: 703-993-8120
Fax: 703-993-8113
http://www.law.gmu.edu/library
Students are highly encouraged to attend a library tour or workshop (in-person or online) to familiarize themselves with the available resources. The schedule can be found here.

**Consortium Loan Service**
Students may also utilize the Consortium Loan Service, a feature of Mason's participation in the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area.

Mason students, faculty, and staff may borrow books and have articles sent directly from other WRLC (Washington Research Library Consortium) libraries rather than using the standard **interlibrary loan** procedures. This direct borrowing service allows students and faculty to receive books and articles from other WRLC libraries more quickly (generally within 2 business days). Note: students and faculty requesting items to be sent to the Prince William campus need to allow somewhat more time for delivery of the item(s).
Career Services

Mason has an outstanding Career Services office that is ready to assist you with your internship and job search needs as well as networking and mentorship. Industry Advisors and general career counselors are available by appointment, and the office holds regular events that are open to all students.

To use their resources for searching for jobs and internships, apply for a Handshake account.

Please check the careers.gmu.edu website often for great events and other opportunities for your professional development.

Career Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), room 3400. Phone: (703) 993-2370 / Email: careers@gmu.edu / Web: http://careers.gmu.edu/
MEIS Resources

MEIS MA Facebook Group and MEIS Twitter

- Connect with other MEIS MA Current Students and Alumni
- Find out about important updates

MEIS MA Digest – sent monthly
1) Find out about updates from MEIS and Mason
2) Upcoming MEIS and Mason Events
3) Resources for students

Fairfax Campus Resources

Office of the University Registrar, 703-993-2441, registrar@gmu.edu, registrar.gmu.edu
Student Accounts, 703-993-2484, saccount@gmu.edu, studentaccounts.gmu.edu
University Life, 703-993-1000, https://ulife.gmu.edu/

Arlington Campus Resources

University Life, 703-993-1000, ularl@gmu.edu, https://ularlington.gmu.edu
George Mason University
4400 University Drive,
Fairfax, VA 22030
meis@gmu.edu
https://meis.gmu.edu/