MA in Middle East and Islamic Studies

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Program Overview

The Master of Arts in Middle East and Islamic Studies distinguishes itself from other programs with its globalized perspectives and interdisciplinary approach to studying the major debates in Islam, the Middle East, and Muslim societies.

With the continuing, diverted, and stalling uprisings in Arab countries, the transformation of social and political dynamics from North Africa to the Arab East, and our distinguished faculty's work in new media and political economic, this program represents "a new MA for a new Middle East." Students will study the region from multiple angles and explore emerging trends that shape current discourses in Middle East Studies.

Graduates of the program prepare themselves for a variety of career paths including academia, government, and non-governmental organizations where an increasing need for Middle East and Islamic-related expertise is in demand.

Curriculum Requirements

Core Courses (15 credits)
- MEIS 500: Critical Issues and Debates in Middle East and Islamic Studies
- HIST 575: Approaches to Middle East and Islamic History
- GOVT 632: Politics and Societies of the Middle East
- RELI 644: Islamic Text and Contexts
- Methods Course
- Language Proficiency (not part of credits)

Electives (15 credits)
Courses include those in anthropology, art history, conflict analysis and resolutions, geography, international politics, history, and religious studies, where the topic is on the Middle East or Muslim World. In addition, electives 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.

Students who choose to complete a research project (3 credits) take one less elective course. Student who choose to write a thesis (6 credits) take six fewer credits of electives.
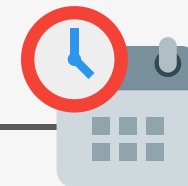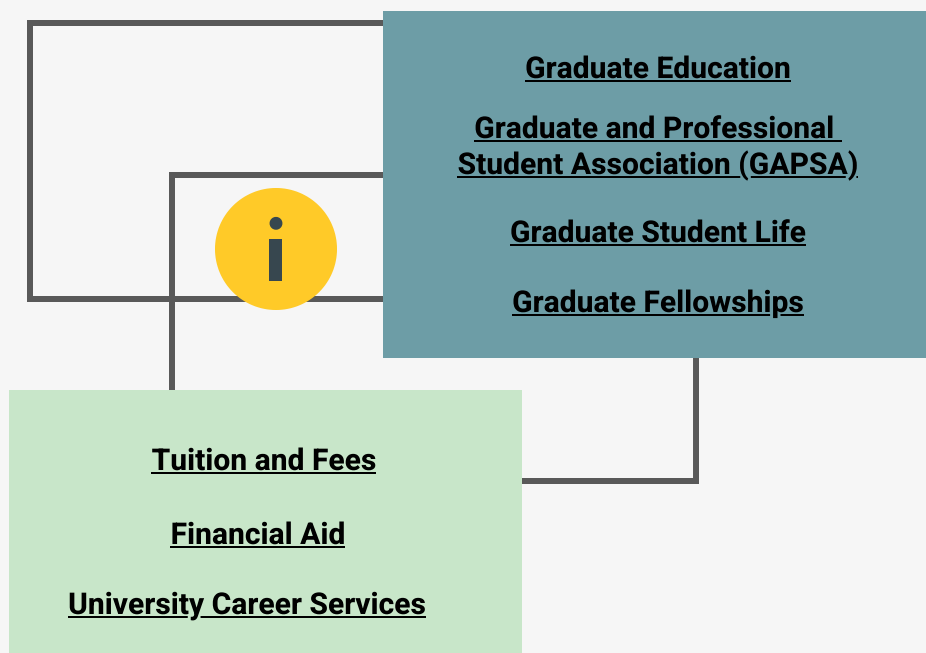
Degree Total: 30 credits

✅ Application Requirements

- Complete the online application for graduate study
- Application fee
- College Transcripts from all institutions attended
- Goals statement (two pages in length)
- Resume
- Two Letters of Recommendation
- Optional Writing Sample (five pages in length)

Application Deadlines
Fall admission: February 15
Spring admission: October 15

More Information

Graduate Education

Graduate and Professional Student Association (GAPSA)

Graduate Student Life

Graduate Fellowships

Tuition and Fees

Financial Aid

University Career Services

What types of courses can you expect each semester?
Click here to find out

Contact Us

✉ meis@gmu.edu

💻 You can schedule a virtual appointment by sending an email to meis@gmu.edu

We look forward to hearing from you!