# Table of Contents

I. WELCOME TO FAIRFAX ......................................................................................................................... 2
   Welcome ........................................................................................................................................... 2
   Task Checklist and Due Dates ......................................................................................................... 3
   What to Pack .................................................................................................................................. 4
   First Week at Mason Fairfax ............................................................................................................ 4

II. ACADEMIC LIFE .......................................................................................................................... 6
   Student Responsibilities .................................................................................................................. 6
   Student Academic Standing ............................................................................................................ 7
   Student Progress Tools ................................................................................................................... 8
   Academic Advising ......................................................................................................................... 10

III. STUDENT LIFE AND SUPPORT .............................................................................................. 12
   Housing and Meal Plans ................................................................................................................ 12
   Tuition Payment Information ......................................................................................................... 13
   Money and Banking ....................................................................................................................... 14
   Student Employment ...................................................................................................................... 14
   Auto and Travel .............................................................................................................................. 15
   International Student Health ........................................................................................................ 16

IV. RESOURCES AT MASON FAIRFAX .......................................................................................... 17
   Mason Korea Contacts .................................................................................................................... 17
   Campus Resources A to Z ............................................................................................................... 17
   Maximizing Student Success ........................................................................................................ 21

V. COMMUNITY LIFE ..................................................................................................................... 22
   Fairfax County ............................................................................................................................... 22
   The Korean-American Association of Virginia .............................................................................. 23
   Local Transportation ..................................................................................................................... 23

VI. APPENDIX .................................................................................................................................. 25
   Appendix A. Upperclass Student Housing Options ..................................................................... 25
   Appendix B. Traditional Welcome Week Events ............................................................................ 26
I. WELCOME TO FAIRFAX

Welcome

Greetings and welcome to Fairfax! You are about to take the next step in your progress as an undergraduate at George Mason University—traveling to the Fairfax campus and continuing your academic progress in the United States! Although you will find many similarities between Mason Korea and Mason Fairfax, you will also experience transitions and adjustments, some of them exciting and others challenging. This Transition Resource Guide is designed to help you plan for these changes, because being ready is an important part of managing your progress and positioning yourself for success.

This guide is organized in several sections to provide you with the key information you will need. The initial section contains:

- Tasks and Due Dates
- What to Pack
- First Week at Mason Fairfax

Subsequent sections include:

- Academic Life
- Navigating Campus Life
- Important Resources
- Community Life

Many important resources are easy to find online. All of us at Mason Fairfax are eager to have you join us; we are committed to your continued success!

You will find below a checklist of tasks and due dates. If you are wise, you will not delay in completing all of the items on the list. If you begin each item as soon as possible, you will be able to manage any unexpected problems or complications. If you experience none, you will be ready to take your next steps well ahead of schedule.
### Task Checklist and Due Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Final Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confirm eligibility to study in Fairfax</td>
<td>MK Academic &amp; Student Affairs Staff</td>
<td>March 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend required information sessions on MK Campus</td>
<td>MK Academic &amp; Student Affairs Staff</td>
<td>March 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Complete I-20 request</td>
<td>MK Academic &amp; Student Affairs Staff</td>
<td>March 15 - June 1, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Complete online housing application to request a space in on-campus residence</td>
<td><a href="http://housing.gmu.edu">http://housing.gmu.edu</a></td>
<td>April 1 - 15, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Register for classes in Fairfax</td>
<td></td>
<td>April 15 – June 15, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Schedule F-1 Visa Interview at U.S. Embassy in Seoul</td>
<td>US Consular Post (US Embassy in Seoul is closest)</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earliest day MK students may arrive in the U.S.</td>
<td></td>
<td>August 1, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Move-in to campus housing</td>
<td></td>
<td>August 23, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunization records due</td>
<td></td>
<td>August 1, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First day of classes</td>
<td></td>
<td>August 31, 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* **I-20 & F-1 Visa Application**
  - Work with Jiye Chang at Academic & Student Affairs at Mason Korea to complete required paperwork.
  - I-20 requests may begin April 1, 2015 and should be completed before June 25, 2015.
  - When you receive your I-20, go to fmjfee.com and use your SEVIS ID number, located in the top right corner of the I-20, to pay the SEVIS Fee ($200). Then schedule a visa appointment to apply for an F-1 entry visa. (The closest consular post is at the U.S. Embassy in Seoul.) You must apply not more than 120 days but not less than 30 days before you plan to arrive in the U.S. The link to schedule a visa appointment and instructions about what to bring are located at: [http://www.ustraveldocs.com/kr/kr-niv-visaapply.asp](http://www.ustraveldocs.com/kr/kr-niv-visaapply.asp)
  - Once the F-1 visa is issued, the earliest day you may arrive in the U.S. is August 1, 2015 (30 days before your program start date)

* **Housing Application**
  - On-campus housing is guaranteed to those students who follow the required application process.
  - Consult Appendix A for room choices including cost. You will need to select a room type.
  - Complete the online application at [http://housing.gmu.edu](http://housing.gmu.edu) by April 15, 2015.
  - Please plan your travel so that you can move in on August 23, 2015.
  - You may send belongings to campus in care of the Office of Global Strategy:
    Office of Global Strategy
    4400 University Drive, MSN 6E6
    Fairfax, VA 22030
    Attn: Jim Burke for YOUR NAME HERE
* Course Registration
  o The Registrar’s Office will create a registration ticket for all students eligible to come to Fairfax.
  o Registration time tickets are based on classification.
  o You will be eligible to register on April 15, 2015.
  o Use Patriot Web to schedule your courses for fall 2015 in Fairfax.

What to Pack

Important documents (Carry these with you, and pack copies in your luggage.)
  • Passport
  • I-20
  • Financial documents
  • Mason admission letter
  • SEVIS fee receipt

Clothing
  • Northern Virginia has a four-season climate. Bring clothing to accommodate a wide range of temperatures and weather conditions. Typical temperatures range from 0 to 35 degrees Celsius. Winters are cold and occasionally snowy, while summers are usually very warm and humid. If you do not have appropriate seasonal clothing, you can buy it after you arrive.

  • Mason has a large and active international community. We encourage you to bring some traditional clothing to wear at cultural events when you wish to share your heritage.

  • Dress for class is casual; however, you may want to bring a few formal outfits for special events.

Personal items
  • Bring your favorite music, some photos, and books in your language to help you feel at home and to share with your new friends.

Bedding
  • Bring sheets, blankets, and a pillow; or plan to purchase them here.

For more information, visit OIPS iCenter website, [http://icenter.gmu.edu/travel-to-the-us/](http://icenter.gmu.edu/travel-to-the-us/)

First Week at Mason Fairfax

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Move-in</td>
<td>August 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIPS check-in (Mandatory)</td>
<td>August 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Student Orientation</td>
<td>August 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department Orientation (Academic Advising)</td>
<td>August 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*The Preamble</td>
<td>August 27-28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Welcome Week</td>
<td>August 29-September 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organized trip to Washington, DC</td>
<td>August 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Day of Classes</td>
<td>August 31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**The Preamble:** Thursday August 27th evening through Friday August 28th evening. The Preamble is a dynamic series of events and experiences for all new Mason undergraduate students. You will have the opportunity to meet fellow Patriots, learn more about the academic expectations of the university, and engage in the biggest pep rally and dance party in Mason history!

**Welcome Week:** Saturday August 29th through Monday September 7th. Welcome Week, which actually spans a two-week period, is a Mason tradition that is jam-packed with fun and informative programs and opportunities to make valuable connections on campus. Appendix B provides descriptions of the traditional Welcome Week events. Details including dates, times, and locations are available at [http://welcomeweek.gmu.edu](http://welcomeweek.gmu.edu).
II. ACADEMIC LIFE

Student Responsibilities

Student responsibility and intellectual integrity are fundamental aspects of US higher education.

- **Personal Responsibility**
  The University considers all matriculated students as adults, regardless of age. As such, we work directly with you (not your parents) in all official university business and activities. Mason must comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). We must have your written permission to release any information from your education record to a third party, even to your parents. More information about FERPA is here: [http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html](http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html)

- **Academic Integrity and Honor Code:** [http://oai.gmu.edu/](http://oai.gmu.edu/)
  The Office of Academic Integrity website outlines academic expectations, describes how violations of these expectations are handled, and explains consequences when students are found responsible.

  To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, trust, and fairness among all members of the Mason community, and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, the student members of the university community have set forth this honor code:

  “Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.”

  The Office of Academic Integrity (OAI) works with members of the faculty to inform members of the Mason community about the Honor Code and to oversee the hearing process when students are charged with Honor Code violations. Information about the Honor Code, hearing process, and consequences for students found responsible for violations can be found on the OAI website: [http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/](http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/)

- **Personal Independence**
  US college students are given autonomy in their day-to-day activities. You are responsible for attending classes, meeting deadlines, completing assignments, and seeking help when you need it. There is no curfew in the residence halls. You are expected to manage your time to ensure that you get enough sleep, eat well, and exercise.

- **Self-Advocacy**
  Seek assistance and ask questions. There are many resources available to you, but you need to take the initiative to find them. If you are confused about where to find help, a good place to start is with your residence hall advisor (RA) or in the Office of International Programs and Services (OIPS).

- **Student Code of Conduct**
  The Code of Conduct is not the same as the Honor Code. While the Honor Code governs academic matters, the Code of Conduct governs all conduct and behavior. You are responsible for knowing your rights and responsibilities as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. Please review this document. [http://studentconduct.gmu.edu/university-policies/code-of-student-conduct/](http://studentconduct.gmu.edu/university-policies/code-of-student-conduct/)
Student Academic Standing

- Academic expectations and policies.
  The university’s minimum standard for satisfactory academic achievement is 2.00 on a 4.00 scale. Students with at least 7 attempted credits and a cumulative GPA of less than 2.00 fall into one of three categories: warning, probation, and suspension. All notations of academic standing are included in a student’s permanent record.

- Full-time status. If you enter the US on a student visa (F-1) you must be full-time (take 12 credits) every fall and spring semester. You may not enroll in more than one online course in a semester; a course is defined as online if more than 50% of the classes are online. Always meet with an OIPS advisor before you drop a class.

- Academic Difficulty/Academic Probation/Failure
  If you experience academic difficulty, for example if you cannot understand the professor’s lectures, or if you receive a poor grade on an assignment or an exam, seek help right away, and continue to ask for help until the problem is resolved. Do not wait until the situation becomes increasingly difficult. You should consult with faculty members, with your academic advisor, and with the staff in Learning Services, who can assist you in making the changes you need to overcome your problems.

Any undergraduate student may be reviewed for possible termination by the dean of his or her school or college. Termination from a major—or from all majors in a college—may be imposed if a student has not been able to pass a class after several attempts or if there is other evidence that the student is not able to make adequate progress toward completion of the major.

For more information about termination from the major, academic suspension, and academic dismissal, visit http://catalog.gmu.edu/content.php?catoid=25&navoid=4846#academicstanding

- Maintaining Your F-1 Status in the US
  The Office of International Programs and Services manages the University’s compliance with immigration regulations, including SEVIS. You are responsible for maintaining your own legal status in the US, including learning about and understanding the regulations. Here are the important parts of maintaining F-1 status:

  - Keep your passport valid for at least six months into the future. If you lose your passport or if it will expire, consult with your embassy to renew it.
  - Make sure that your I-20 is accurate, and that it does not expire. If any information on your I-20 form is incorrect, consult with an OIPS advisor. This includes the personal information about you, your major, your degree level, your expected date of completion, and the financial information on the form. The I-20 expires on the expected date of completion in section 5, so if that is incorrect, see an OIPS advisor right away.
  - Register for a full course load (12 credits) each fall and spring semester.
  - Attend class, and keep up with your academic work. If your professor grades you “SA,” meaning “Stopped Attending,” you could be in violation of your F-1 status.
  - If you decide to accept employment (work), make sure you do so legally. For on-campus employment, this means no more than 20 hours per week while school is in session, and only after receiving an “On-Campus Employment Certification” from an OIPS advisor. Off-campus employment is rare, and it always requires authorization in writing.
Student Progress Tools

- The University catalog ([http://catalog.gmu.edu](http://catalog.gmu.edu)) includes information about policies, graduation requirements, and course descriptions. The catalog is updated annually. You must complete the degree requirements in effect during the catalog year that you matriculate.

- Review the academic calendar of important dates ([http://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars/](http://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars/)).

- Patriot Web account ([https://patriotweb.gmu.edu/](https://patriotweb.gmu.edu/)). Patriot Web is a portal to your academic record and personal profile information. You use Patriot Web to register for classes, view and request transcripts, view grades, view your student account, and monitor degree progress via DegreeWorks.

- The university will use your masonlive.gmu.edu email address for all official correspondence. Please check this email account regularly.

College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS)
(Economics and Global Affairs Majors)

**Overview**

- The College is composed of 11 departments, 10 major interdisciplinary programs, New Century College, and 16 research centers and has over 400 distinguished faculty.

- The College is the cornerstone of learning and research at George Mason University, offering many of the foundational courses for undergraduate students.

- The College is home to two university-wide programs for undergraduate students: Writing Across the Curriculum, and the University Writing Center.

- Our faculty are leaders in research at Mason, with over 14 million dollars in externally funded research for the most recent fiscal year.

- Our faculty have received numerous awards and prizes including the Nobel Memorial Prize, the Stockholm Prize, the Pulitzer Prize, the MacArthur fellowship, and the Guggenheim Fellowship, among others.

**CHSS Academic Requirements**

- Academic standing is based on a student’s cumulative GPA. The minimum cumulative GPA required for good academic standing is 2.0.

- All CHSS undergraduates must complete Mason Core requirements along with specific college requirements as indicated on our website: [http://chss.gmu.edu/general-education/all-requirements](http://chss.gmu.edu/general-education/all-requirements). You must complete at least 120 credits that count toward graduation and fulfill all of your degree requirements.
With your academic advisor, you will plan an academic program to meet the general university degree requirements and specific requirements within your major field. You can find specific program information on the page of each academic program.

- Department of Economics
  http://economics.gmu.edu/programs/la-bs-econ/requirements/
- Department of Global Affairs
  http://globalaffairs.gmu.edu/programs/la-ba-gloa/requirements/

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences strives to support our students by applying best practices to student services. Our office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (http://chssundergrad.gmu.edu/) is a resource for student information and guidance on academic policies and procedures. We welcome student questions and look forward to helping you succeed at Mason.

Getting Involved at Mason Fairfax
- CHSS students are involved in service and leadership across Mason’s Fairfax campus. Departments and Undergraduate Academic Affairs staff can help you identify opportunities for involvement at Mason. Other opportunities can be found on Mason’s student involvement site: https://si.gmu.edu/

Business School
(Management Major)

Overview
- Undergraduate program ranked in the top 100 Business Schools by the 2015 U.S. News & World Report.
- AACSB Accredited: Gold Standards for Business Schools Worldwide.
- Innovative and hands-on approach to learning in the classroom.
- More than 80 full-time faculty members from various academic and business backgrounds.
- Academic advisors and faculty are located in Enterprise Hall.

Business School Academic Requirements and Procedures
- You are required to access your DegreeWorks degree evaluation via Patriot Web before meeting with an academic advisor. Visit http://registrar.gmu.edu/students/degree-evaluation/degree-works/ for instructions on how to access your degree evaluation.
- We do not offer force-adds into closed classes, please review the Business School policy on wait listing a course http://business.gmu.edu/undergraduate/policiesproceduresforms/waitlist/
- Most Business courses are taught in person, not online.
- The Business School expects all students to be in good academic standing based upon Mason’s policy (2.0 on a 4.0) scale. For additional information regarding GPA and academic actions, please visit http://business.gmu.edu/undergraduate/understanding-your-academic-status/classifications-a-ramifications/
- All Business courses require a C or better (a C- does not qualify) to count towards your degree.
Students may repeat a Business course three times. Students who do not receive a C or better in a course on the third attempt will be terminated from the Business School.

**Getting Involved with the Business School**

- Consider joining a student organization connected to the Business School. A list of student organizations and contact information can be found at [http://business.gmu.edu/undergraduate/student-organizations/](http://business.gmu.edu/undergraduate/student-organizations/).

- The Business School offers a limited number of scholarships for high performing students. If you are interested in learning more about Business School scholarships, please visit [http://business.gmu.edu/undergraduate/scholarships/](http://business.gmu.edu/undergraduate/scholarships/).

- All Business majors are expected to review the “Business Buzz Blog ([http://business.gmu.edu/blog/buzz/](http://business.gmu.edu/blog/buzz/))” as this is the ONLY way we stay in weekly contact with our students. The blog provides important information on courses, opportunities for involvement, career and academic events, and important deadlines or changes to curriculum.

- Tutoring services are provided for business students. If you are struggling with a course and require additional assistance please review [http://business.gmu.edu/undergraduate/new-students/tutors/](http://business.gmu.edu/undergraduate/new-students/tutors/) regarding tutoring.

**Academic Advising**

- Academic advisors can provide guidance in understanding your degree requirements, course selection, and academic progress. See the contact information below.

  Economics majors  
  Dr. Jason Dunick, Economics Undergraduate Program Director, j dunick@ gmu.edu  
  Enterprise Hall, room 346 ([http://economics.gmu.edu/programs/la-bs-econ](http://economics.gmu.edu/programs/la-bs-econ))

  Global Affairs majors  
  Dr. Lisa Breglia, Global Affairs Director, l breglia@ gmu.edu  
  Aquia Building, room 348 ([http://globalaffairs.gmu.edu/programs/la-ba-gloa](http://globalaffairs.gmu.edu/programs/la-ba-gloa))

  Management majors  
  Enterprise Hall room 008  
  For quick questions e-mail masonbus@ gmu.edu

The Business School has 5 full-time, professional academic advisors who meet with only Business majors. Academic advisors are not assigned. You are encouraged to meet with an academic advisor regularly while on the Fairfax campus.

Change of Academic Plans

If you would like to change your major within the Business School, see an academic advisor in room 008 Enterprise Hall. Other changes of major should be reviewed with Jon May, Assistant Director, Center for Academic Advising, Retention, and Transitions. Any exception or change to the two-semester enrollment in Fairfax should be discussed with Jon May or Dr. Min Park, Office of Global Strategy.

Jon May, Assistant Director, jmay3@gmu.edu
3500 Student Union Building I (http://advising.gmu.edu)

Dr. Min Park, Acting Assistant Vice President, mparka@gmu.edu
3618 Alan & Sally Merten Hall
III. STUDENT LIFE AND SUPPORT

Housing and Meal Plans

Your choice of housing will be one of the most important decisions you make as you prepare to travel to Fairfax. On-campus housing offers the greatest opportunity for making friends and becoming active on campus. The Office of Housing and Residence Life manages all on-campus housing and provides a number of important services and benefits designed to help you make the most of your Mason Fairfax experience.

**On-Campus Accommodations**

- Guaranteed: As a Mason Korea student, you are guaranteed a place in on-campus housing, as long as you follow the established procedure for reserving a space and paying the cost.

- Options and variety: Review the Student Housing Options sheet in Appendix A or visit the Student Housing website (www.housing.gmu.edu/halls/) to see the different types of housing options that are available. While single bedrooms may be an option during selection, they are not guaranteed and are available on a first come, first served basis.

- Roommates: The Office of Housing and Residence Life makes roommate assignments. You may share a room or suite/apt with a U.S. Mason student or with another international student from a different culture from your own. Many alumni (graduates) continue their friendships with roommates throughout their lives. Living on-campus is one of the best ways to meet friends and become active and knowledgeable at the University.

- Housing Costs and Charges: Housing cost is determined by location and type of room. All housing charges will be billed per semester to your George Mason University student account.

- Securing a Space (April 1st – 15th): If you wish to secure on-campus housing, complete an online process including a housing application, self-selecting a bed space, and completing an on-campus housing agreement for fall 2015 and spring 2016. No housing deposit is required. The housing application process is available online through the eLiving website (www.myhousing.gmu.edu/eLiving/login.asp).

- You must be enrolled as a full-time student to live in campus housing.

**Off-Campus Accommodations**

If you prefer to live off campus, you are responsible for your own accommodations and transportation. Here are some of the issues you should think about if you are considering off-campus housing:

- Locating safe and affordable housing:
  - It is difficult to evaluate a housing opportunity without meeting the landlord and seeing the place. Other international students have experienced unpleasant surprises upon arrival at a housing location that they reserved sight unseen.
  - Many off-campus landlords require a US Social Security Number and/or credit history in the US. Renters who are unable to provide these may be unable to find housing or may be charged higher rent and fees.
• Most off-campus housing requires payment of a deposit for first and last months rent, as well
  as the charges for utilities (electricity, cable, etc.) and other amenities. In addition, the rental
  period is often for twelve, rather than nine, months.
• Once you sign the lease, you are legally obligated to make the payments.
• Transportation: Public transportation is available in Fairfax, but it is much more limited than
  in most major cities, and severely limited at night and on weekends. In addition to the
  distance, consider the time; local traffic at certain times of day can double the time of your
  commute. Before you reserve housing off-campus, review carefully the transportation
  available to you. These include Mason Shuttle, Cue Bus, and Metro.
  http://shuttle.gmu.edu
  http://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/public-works/transportation-division/cue-bus
  http://www.wmata.com
• Meeting friends and being involved: On-campus housing is the best way to meet people and
  learn about activities and opportunities on campus. While living off-campus may seem
  exciting, students often tire of the many details involved in maintaining their housing,
  traveling to and from campus, and making the effort to learn about and participate in campus
  activities. Living in an on-campus residence hall makes it much easier to balance your
  academic obligations and your social life.
• Some students have friends and family in or near Fairfax, and they expect to commute to
  campus. As long as you have a reliable plan for transportation, this can work successfully.
  You will still need to think about making friends and participating in evening and weekend
  activities on campus.

Meal Plans

On-campus students will be required to participate in Anytime Dining, with the exception of students
living in campus residences with full kitchens. Anytime Dining plans can be accessed 24 hours a
day on the Fairfax campus in three student dining locations. For more information visit the Meal
Plans tab on the Mason Card Office website: http://masonid.gmu.edu/mealplans/

Tuition Payment Information

Payment Deadline
  • Payments received at the Cashier’s Office http://cashiersoffice.gmu.edu/ by 4:30 PM on any
    business day will be considered as that day’s business. Payments may be made online using
    Bill+Payment https://secure.touchnet.com/C20788_tsa/web/login.jsp until 10:30 PM. Please see
    Patriot Web http://patriotweb.gmu.edu, to confirm receipt of payment and balance due. Payment
    is due the first day of the semester (see Important Dates for more information
    http://studentaccounts.gmu.edu/calendars/).

Methods of Payment
  • For payment instruction, visit http://studentaccounts.gmu.edu/wp-
    content/uploads/PaymentInstructions.pdf
  • Cash: At Cashier’s Office http://cashiersoffice.gmu.edu/ window only.
  • Check: Web, window, mail, or drop box. Make payable to GMU, student G# written on front.
    Third-party checks not accepted. Must be payable in US dollars. For each check returned by the
    bank unpaid, a $50 return check fee will be charged.
Online payments are made using Bill+Payment (https://secure.touchnet.com/C20788_tsa/web/login.jsp). This system allows students to manage their account activity online, view bills, make payments, and set up authorized users (parents, employers, etc). Authorized users have account management access only; academic information is not available through this system. Payment plans are also available to pay your balance in installments. Click the following link for additional information (http://studentaccounts.gmu.edu/bill-and-payment-system-information/).

Credit Card (subject to credit card approval): Web only. VISA, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover Card. There is a 2.75 percent convenience fee for credit card payments. This fee is nonrefundable.

International students may email the Student Accounts Office from their Mason email address and request wire payment information, which is only an option for students coming from overseas. Students should self identify as a student coming from Korea, and should allow extra time for processing (up to 14 days).

For more information, visit Student Accounts Office, http://studentaccounts.gmu.edu.

Money and Banking

Personal Bank Account
- You will open a personal checking account with Apple Federal Credit Union during the orientation week at Mason Fairfax. You will use personal funds for miscellaneous personal expenses, textbooks, and other fees. Please note that your Mason Fairfax ID card is NOT a bank card.

Mason Money
- Mason Money is a prepaid debit program that provides a fast, safe and convenient way to make dining and retail purchases on and off campus. For more information, visit Mason Money, http://masonid.gmu.edu/masonmoney/.

Student Employment

Work (Employment)
- As an F-1 student, you may work on campus up to 20 hours per week while school is in session and full time during winter, spring, and summer break. You can find opportunities for on campus employment by creating a Hire Mason Account on the Career Services website at https://gmu-csm.symplicity.com/

- If you are working for the first time in the United States you will have to complete forms with the employer and OIPS, apply for a Social Security Number, and schedule an appointment with an International Tax advisor. Once you have found an on campus job, you will visit OIPS with a completed On Campus Employment Certification and be given instructions and a checklist for applying for a Social Security Number and scheduling a tax appointment:
http://oips.gmu.edu/f-1-students/employment/on-campus-employment/
As a F-1 student, you may request Curricular Practical Training (CPT) after you have maintained full-time status for one academic year (fall and spring semesters). Curricular Practical Training is designed for Internship experiences and cooperative education that are part of the established curriculum in your major field of study. If you qualify, you may apply for written authorization from a Designated School Official in the Office of International Programs and Services. Details about CPT and other types of employment both on- and off-campus are provided during OIPS international student orientation.

**Auto and Travel**

**Auto (International Students)**
- As a full-time student, you are permitted to drive with your out-of-state (or international) driver’s license. You may also apply for a Virginia Driver’s License. If you have a car, even if it is owned by someone else, you must register it in Virginia.

- For more information, visit [http://www.dmv.state.va.us/drivers/#eligibility.asp](http://www.dmv.state.va.us/drivers/#eligibility.asp).

**Travel**
- **Local Transportation**
  George Mason University is located in Fairfax, Virginia, where there is easy access to shopping and entertainment within walking distance of campus. Public transportation is available from campus to nearby large shopping centers and into Washington, D.C.

  For more information about things to do and see in Fairfax, visit [http://www.fxva.com](http://www.fxva.com).

  Mason Shuttle Service: For Mason shuttle schedule, visit [http://shuttle.gmu.edu](http://shuttle.gmu.edu). More information on local transportation options is on p. 23 in the Community Resources section of this Guide.

- **International Travel**
  If you return to Korea or travel outside of the U.S. during school breaks you must have valid visa to re-enter the US. If your F-1 visa has expired, you must apply for a new one at a U.S. embassy or consulate outside of the United States. Never enter on a tourist visa if you plan to study.

  You must also have a valid I-20 with a travel endorsement on the third page. You can request a travel endorsement at OIPS, at least thirty days before you plan to leave the US. The date of the travel endorsement must be within one year of the date you re-enter the US.

  If you plan to travel outside of the U.S., please report to the Office of Global Strategy prior to your trip.
International Student Health

Health Insurance
- George Mason University requires J-1 and F-1 visa status students to have health insurance coverage under University Policy #6002. Therefore, the Insurance Office will automatically enroll F-1 visa students into the school selected health plan.

- Visit http://shs.gmu.edu/insurance/international/ for more information.

Immunization Records
- You must provide proof of compliance with immunization requirements mandated by the Commonwealth of Virginia and George Mason University. For more details, visit http://shs.gmu.edu/immunizations/immunization-requirements/
IV. RESOURCES AT MASON FAIRFAX

Mason Korea Contacts

Office of Global Strategy
- Jim Burke, Director of Outreach and Events
  Phone: 703-993-9381
  Email: jburke@gmu.edu

Campus Resources A to Z

Apple Federal Credit Union
Mason partners with Apple Federal Credit Union to provide you with on campus banking services. There are several ATMs across Mason’s campuses as well as a branch office in the Johnson Center.
http://ae.gmu.edu/creditunion/
703-993-3319

Blackboard
Many faculty members use Blackboard as a learning management system, but not all. The link below will take you to the MyMason Portal which is how you access Blackboard.
http://courses.gmu.edu

Bookstore
Our University Bookstore is run by Barnes & Noble. You can purchase textbooks, supplies, and Mason apparel here.
http://gmu.bncollege.com
703-993-2666

Campus Map
The campus map will help you learn campus buildings and locations. Before long, you will be able to navigate the campus with ease.
http://info.gmu.edu/Maps/FairfaxMap14lttrClr

Career Services
University Career Services is available to support Mason Korea Economics and Global Affairs majors in preparing for internships and careers. Career counselors can also help you explore interests and skills to identify possible career areas.
http://careers.gmu.edu
703-993-2361

Career Services – School of Business
Management majors are invited to meet with career advisors to prepare for internships and employment.
http://business.gmu.edu/undergraduate/career-services/
703-993-1880

Counseling and Psychological Services
Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers free services provided by a staff of professional clinical psychologists, social workers, counselors, learning specialists, and psychiatric providers. CAPS
provides individual and group counseling, workshops, and outreach programs that are designed to enhance students’ personal experience and academic performance.

http://caps.gmu.edu
703-993-2380

**Diversity, Inclusion, and Multicultural Education**
The Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Multicultural Education creates and sustains inclusive learning environments where all members of the Mason community are welcomed, valued, and supported.

http://odime.gmu.edu
703-993-2700

**Family Resources**
Families of Mason students are encouraged to stay connected to life at Mason. Orientation and Family Programs and Services provide informative resources. Your families are encouraged to join the Family Association. Members receive regular electronic newsletters about life at Mason.

http://masonfamily.gmu.edu

**GetConnected**
GetConnected is a platform to centralize, organize, and increase student involvement opportunities. The platform provides you with the tools for managing your student organizations and keeping track of your activities at Mason. Visit the Mason GetConnected site to log-in (using your email account information) and explore!

http://getconnected.gmu.edu

**Housing and Residence Life**
Housing and Residence Life manages all on-campus housing at Mason and provides a number of important services and amenities designed to help you think ahead, live smart and play it safe during your time in University Housing.

http://housing.gmu.edu
703-993-2720

**iCenter**
The Office of International Programs and Services has collected a lot of information relevant to international students. Visit the iCenter to learn more.

http://icenter.gmu.edu/

**Information Technology Services (ITS)**
Information Technology Services provides support with email accounts, computers and software, calendars, networks and telecommunications, research, and web services. Phone assistance is provided by the ITS support center, Monday through Friday 8am – 7pm. Live online chat support is available via the ITS website.

http://itservices.gmu.edu
703-993-8870

**International Programs and Services**
The Office of International Programs and Services advises non-immigrant students, scholars, faculty, and staff at George Mason University. If you have questions or concerns related to your immigration status, we are here to help.

http://oips.gmu.edu
703-993-2970

**Learning Services**
Learning Services offers academic counseling and workshops to help you develop the skills needed to be a successful college student.
http://caps.gmu.edu/learning-services/
Student Union Building (SUB) I, room 3129
703-993-2380

LGBTQ Resources
LGBTQ Resources provides resources and education to the campus community about lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning people and their allies.
http://lgbtq.gmu.edu
703-993-2702

Library Services
University Libraries provide access to course reserves, databases, study rooms, gateway services, reference services and more. The Fenwick Library and the Gateway Library in the Johnson Center are located on the Fairfax Campus.
http://library.gmu.edu
703-993-2223

Mason Alert
Register your email and cell phone with Mason Alert to receive urgent notifications related to campus safety and campus closings.
http://www.masonalert.gmu.edu

Mason ID
Your Mason photo identification card is a valuable item. Keep it with you at all times. Lost cards can be replaced for $10.00 by going to the Card Office in the lower level of SUB I. Note: This ID is NOT a bank card.
http://masonid.gmu.edu/photoid
703-993-1004

Parking Services
If you plan to drive a car to campus, you need a parking pass. Learn how to register your car and where you can park via the Parking Services website. Mason shuttle schedules are also available on this site. If you have a bicycle on campus, register it by visiting http://transportation.gmu.edu/BikeToMason.html and receive a free bike lock.
http://parking.gmu.edu
703-993-2710

Patriot Computers
Located in the Johnson Center, this store sells and services computers, software, and accessories.
http://compstore.gmu.edu
703-993-4100

Police and Public Safety
The George Mason University Police and Public Safety Department is a full service law enforcement agency with a force of over 50 sworn officers. The mission of the department is to provide a safe and secure environment for all university employees, students and guests.
http://police.gmu.edu
703-993-2810 (Emergency: 011)

Recreation
With your Mason student ID, you may access any of our recreation facilities. Consider joining an exercise class, going for a swim, or participating in a Rec Sport.

http://recreation.gmu.edu
Aquatic & Fitness Center: 703-993-3939
RAC: 703-993-5323
Skyline Fitness: 703-993-5055
West Campus Park: 703-993-3190

Registrar
The Registrar’s Office assists students with academic records, certifications, registration and transcripts.
http://registrar.gmu.edu
703-993-2441

Student Accounts
Billing and payments are handled through the Student Accounts office.
http://studentaccounts.gmu.edu
703-993-2484

Student Health Services
Student Health Services provides high quality health care to all students. There is no charge to be seen by one of our healthcare providers. There are minimal fees for lab tests, medications, procedures, treatments, supplies, and some office visits.
http://shs.gmu.edu
703-993-2831

Student Involvement
Through leadership experiences, dynamic events and opportunities, Student Involvement ignites the spirit of campus. Student involvement offers many ways for students to get involved, get connected and take on leadership opportunities.
http://si.gmu.edu
703-993-2909

Student Technology Assistance and Resource (STAR) Lab
Visit this creative lab space when you are working on any media-related project. This multimedia computer lab has helpful tutors to help you solve any problems. Reserve equipment via the website. STAR Lab is in room 229 Johnson Center.
http://itservices.gmu.edu/services/view-service.cfm?customel_dataPageID_4609=5693
703-993-8990

Today at Mason
Stay up to date on campus events.
http://today.gmu.edu/

Virtual Computing Lab
Access the website below if you need to use specialized software such as Matlab, SAS, and SPSS. All Mason faculty, staff, and students may use these resources.
http://itservices.gmu.edu/services/view-service.cfm?customel_dataPageID_4609=5385

WAVES (Wellness, Alcohol, and Violence Education and Services)
Visit WAVES if you have any questions about healthy relationships, sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, sexual health, stress management, healthy eating, and drug and alcohol use.

http://waves.gmu.edu
703-993-9999

**Writing Center**
The Writing Center offers a range of free services to help you with all phases of writing from brainstorming to revising.

http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/

**Maximizing Student Success**

We are committed to supporting your academic success, engagement, and well-being. The following tips are designed to remind you of your responsibility for setting and achieving your academic and career goals. We guide, but you must decide to make the most of your Mason education. Successful students:

- Attend all classes.
- Meet with professors during office hours.
- Manage time well; attend a workshop sponsored by Learning Services if this skill needs work.
- Study 2 – 3 hours outside of class for every hour in class.
- Join at least one student organization.
- Plan ahead to complete long-term (and multiple) projects.
- Learn how to ask for help – faculty, Resident Advisors (RAs), Academic Advisors, Learning Services, Counseling and Psychological Services, Librarians – and more.
- Find a good place to study.
- Learn to prioritize.
- Get sleep.
- Eat healthy foods and get some exercise.
- Expect to feel overwhelmed and a bit out of place at times.
- Focus on learning, not just finishing.
- Meet someone in each class and exchange contact information.
- Budget and manage money wisely.
- Make use of campus resources.
V. COMMUNITY LIFE

Fairfax County

Situated in Northern Virginia, Fairfax is part of the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MK-WV Metropolitan area. It is just 20 minutes from Washington DC, with a blend of commercial, office, retail and residential properties. It combines the charm of a small town with the opportunities of a thriving urban area.

- **Demographic Profile**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic Demographic Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population (2014 estimate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Attainment, age 25+ (2011 estimate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduate or higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree or higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate or Professional degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employees Working in City (2013 annual)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employers in City (2013 annual)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Diversity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Race/Ethnicity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others/Mixed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Restaurants in Fairfax**

- **Korean Supermarkets in Fairfax**
  - Lotte Plaza: [http://www.lotteplaza.com](http://www.lotteplaza.com)

- **Things to do in Fairfax**

- **Korea-town in Annandale**
  Annandale is a small city in Fairfax County. It is also known as a small Korea-town with large number of Korean restaurants and shops in the area. It is 7 miles from Mason’s Fairfax Campus where the city is full of Korean/Asian dining options.

- **Korean Restaurants in Fairfax**
The Korean-American Association of Virginia

The Korean-American Association of Virginia is the representative organization for 100,000 living Koreans in Northern Virginia for service and bridge maker with major society. For more information, visit http://www.vakorea.org

Local Transportation

CUE Bus
The City of Fairfax City-University Energysaver (CUE) bus system provides regularly scheduled, low-cost transportation services to Mason, shopping centers and other locations within the City of Fairfax, as well as the Vienna/Fairfax-GMU Metrorail Station.

Fares and Schedules
- The CUE Bus Fare is $1.75 cash or SmartTrip Card. However, CUE bus system provides free services to Mason students with a valid Mason ID.
- SmartTrip Card. CUE Bus passengers may use SmarTrip® cards to pay for CUE Bus fares. The plastic cards, sold by Metro for Metrorail and Metro Bus fares and Metrorail parking lot payments, can be used for paying for CUE Bus rides. Fares are automatically deducted from the card, with no need for tickets or change. For information, call 888-SMARTRIP or visit Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority website (http://www.wmata.com/fares/smartrip/).
- CUE Bus Map & Schedule http://www.fairfaxva.gov/home/showdocument?id=3669

Fairfax Yellow Cab
- Phone reservation: 703-534-1111
- Smartphone application http://www.yellowcaboffairfax.com/apps.aspx

Uber (Transportation Network)
- Online trip request http://get.uber.com

Metro
- Mason’s shuttle services provide free transportation to Vienna/Fairfax-GMU station (Orange Line)
- Opens 5:00am Weekdays/ 7:00am Weekends
- Closes 12:00am Sundays-Thursdays/ 3:00am Friday-Saturday
- Vienna Metro Station http://www.wmata.com/tripplanner
Appendix A. Upperclass Student Housing Options

**Level 1 Apartments**

- Liberty Square
- Northern Neck
- Potomac Heights
- Rogers

**Single:**
- 4,880/semester

**Double:**
- 4,370/semester

These fully furnished units each come with a full kitchen, a dining area, a living room, and a bathroom. The number of bedrooms range from two singles to three doubles. While most units have four-person occupancy, some contain two- or six-person occupancy. Residents who live in apartment-style buildings may choose a voluntary meal plan, but are not required to have one.

Common areas, such as lounges and laundry, are distributed throughout the community. Most residents who live in these buildings are juniors or seniors, although some sophomores reside there as well.

**Level 2 Apartments**

- Student Apartments
- Townhouses

**Single:**
- 4,095/semester

**Double:**
- 3,715/semester

These fully furnished units each come with a full kitchen, a dining area, a living room, and a bathroom. The number of bedrooms range from two singles to three doubles. While most units have four-person occupancy, some contain two- or six-person occupancy. Residents who live in apartment-style buildings may choose a voluntary meal plan, but are not required to have one.

Common areas, such as lounges and laundry, are distributed throughout the community. Most residents who live in these buildings are juniors or seniors, although some sophomores reside there as well.

**Suites**

- Hampton Roads
- Blue Ridge
- Sandbridge
- Tidewater
- Whitetop

**Single:**
- 4,095/semester

**Double:**
- 3,715/semester

Suite-style buildings do not have kitchens in each room, but instead house communal kitchens within the buildings. Because no suites contain kitchens, students who live in these buildings are required to have a meal plan. Some suites do contain kitchenettes (microwave).

Depending on the number of bedrooms per suite, some suites have bedroom entry from the main hallway and share a bathroom with one other room. Other suites have hallway entrances into the unit, where two to four bedrooms share a bathroom.

Common areas, such as lounges and laundry, are distributed throughout the community. Most bedrooms in these buildings are double occupancy.
Appendix B. Traditional Welcome Week Events

Details including dates, times, and locations are available at http://welcomeweek.gmu.edu

**Mason Mayhem:** Big things are happening – so much so that there is sure to be something for everyone with cool things sprawling throughout and around the Johnson Center.

**Dude, Where’s My Class?** Nervous you don’t know where your classes are for this year? Don’t know exactly where Krug Hall is -OR- how to get to the Engineering building the fastest way? Come join some of your campus student leaders for personalized tours around campus! All you have to do is bring your class schedule, and we’ll do the rest!

**Welcome Week Fair:** See what Mason Student Organizations, Academic Divisions, Rec Sports, and Volunteer opportunities are out there for you! With over 300 student organizations represented on our campus, there are opportunities for everyone to get involved. You can check out each of the student organizations by visiting http://getconnected.gmu.edu

**Sexual Chocolate:** One of the most popular events of the week, you’ll have to arrive early for a taste of chocolate so you can stay late to learn about safer sex. Get the facts on how to stay healthy in this informative session from Mason’s Health Educator. A good mix of fun and valuable information is in this presentation while you enjoy some chocolaty delights. Don’t be shy about your health!

**Annual Dodge ball Event:** Join your fellow Patriots as we attempt to break the Mason Record for the largest game of dodge ball on our campus. You’ll be placed on one of two teams, Green or Gold and battle it out for campus domination!

**Part-Time Job Fair:** Join us for this great part-time Job Fair hosted by University Career Services and the Welcome Week Committee! This event will allow students seeking employment to connect with on-campus employers and other local businesses looking to hire Mason students. Employers will also have the ability to schedule interviews with students at the fair. All interested students are welcome to attend. Please note that business casual dress is strongly encouraged for all students.

**IV Night:** Come join in on this sweet experience filled with fun and excitement! There will be rides, games, and competitive activities. Receive tickets for your participation and have the opportunity to win various raffle prizes! Not to mention, the delicious candy buffet and live DJ. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Step Expo:** Step shows have an over sixty-year history starting at predominately Black Colleges and have spread to nearly every major university in the United States including some Ivy League Schools. This annual Mason event is always a crowd pleaser as members of our Black Greek Community showcase an art form that has a significant history tracing back to Africa.

**Choose your own Adventure:** Extend your summer vacation one more day with free bus rides to several DC, Virginia and Maryland locations on Labor Day, Monday August 31.