Graduate Student Exit Survey
Summer and Fall 2016, Spring 2017
Office of Institutional Research and Assessment – George Mason University

The survey is administered online through Qualtrics. This instrument is not to be filled out.

I. Background Information

1. Among the graduate schools that you considered, was Mason your:
   - ☐ First choice
   - ☐ Second choice
   - ☐ Third choice or lower

2. Did you pursue your graduate degree at Mason primarily part-time or full-time?
   - ☐ Part-time
   - ☐ Full-time

II. Financial Support and Employment

3. While enrolled in your graduate studies, did you receive financial support from Mason?
   - ☐ Yes (check all that apply)
     - ☐ Teaching assistantship
     - ☐ Research assistantship
     - ☐ Graduate professional assistantship
     - ☐ Fellowship/scholarship
     - ☐ Mason employee tuition waiver benefit
   - ☐ No, I did NOT apply
   - ☐ No, I applied but did NOT obtain

4. While enrolled in graduate studies at Mason, did you **WORK FOR PAY** (other than an assistantship)**?**
   - ☐ Yes
   - ☐ No

4.1 If yes, how often did you **WORK FOR PAY**? (Mark all that apply)		**Most semesters**	**A few semesters**	**Not at all**
On-campus (other than an assistantship):	**Part-time**	☐	☐	☐
	Full-time	☐	☐	☐
Off-campus:	**Part-time**	☐	☐	☐
	Full-time	☐	☐	☐

5. What is your approximate level of indebtedness related to your graduate studies at Mason?
   - ☐ None
   - ☐ $10,000 or less
   - ☐ $10,001-20,000
   - ☐ $20,001-30,000
   - ☐ $30,001-40,000
   - ☐ $40,001-50,000
   - ☐ $50,001-60,000
   - ☐ $60,001-70,000
   - ☐ $70,001-80,000
   - ☐ $80,001-90,000
   - ☐ $90,001 or more

III. Academic Program

6. To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following statements about **faculty** in your graduate program:

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A or Don't Know
The courses I have taken were taught well.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
There is good communication between faculty and students regarding student needs, concerns, and suggestions.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
There have been many opportunities outside the classroom for interaction between students and faculty.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Faculty in my program are interested in the professional development of graduate students.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Faculty in my program are helpful and supportive in my search for professional employment.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Faculty in my program are well qualified to teach their courses.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Faculty in my program have been willing to meet with me to discuss my academic performance.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

7. To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following statements about your graduate **program**:

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A or Don't Know
My program has high academic standards.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My program integrates current developments in my field.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My program prepared me well for my profession.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My program was intellectually challenging and stimulating.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My program encourages student collaboration and teamwork.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I would recommend my graduate program to prospective students.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
If I were starting over, I would enroll in this program again.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
There were enough online courses to meet my needs.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The intellectual caliber of students in my program is high.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I developed knowledge and skills to conduct research in my field as a result of the program.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

IV. Thesis/Project/Dissertation Experiences

8. Using the list below, please tell us:

	Which of the following is the final culminating requirement for graduation? *(Select one)*
Thesis/Dissertation	☐
Culminating research paper (not part of a thesis/dissertation)	☐
Culminating research project (not part of a thesis/dissertation)	☐
Culminating/capstone project	☐
Portfolio	☐
Comprehensive/proficiency exam	☐
Internship/practicum, or field experiences	☐
International experiences	☐

9. To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following statements about your **principal advisor** for your final culminating requirement?	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A or Don't Know
Spent the time necessary to advise me on academic matters	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Was interested in my research/project goals	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Discussed my research/project with me on a regular basis	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Critiqued my work in ways that helped my work progress	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Returned my work in a timely manner	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

V. Library Services

10. To what extent did the following library services and resources enhance your learning at Mason?

	A great deal	A fair amount	A little	Not at all	NA/Never used
Print collections (e.g., collections in my field of study, Special Collections)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Online digital resources	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Library services (e.g., Interlibrary loan, Thesis/Dissertation Services, Data & GIS Services, Mason Publishing Services)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Technology/tools in support of research (e.g., InfoGuides)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Library staff assistance	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Space to study (e.g., Group Study Rooms, Mediascape, open area, quiet environment)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

VI. Time to Degree

11. Was the amount of time needed for you to graduate:

☐ **Less** than originally expected   ☐ **More** than originally expected (answer questions 11.1-11.3)

☐ **About the same** as originally expected   ☐ Unsure

*If you answered "**More** than originally expected" in question 11, answer questions 11.1-11.3. Otherwise, proceed to question 12.*

11.1 To what extent did the following **academic reasons** prevent you from progressing in your degree program as expected?	A great deal	A fair amount	A little	Not at all
a. Lack of course availability	☐	☐	☐	☐
b. Inadequate advising	☐	☐	☐	☐
c. Difficulty in completing comprehensive/qualifying exams	☐	☐	☐	☐
d. Difficulty in my project, thesis, or dissertation research	☐	☐	☐	☐
e. Difficulty in completing coursework	☐	☐	☐	☐
f. Difficulty in fulfilling other degree requirements	☐	☐	☐	☐

11.2 To what extent did the following **personal/family reasons** prevent you from progressing in your degree program as expected?	A great deal	A fair amount	A little	Not at all
g. Finances	☐	☐	☐	☐
h. Demands of my employment	☐	☐	☐	☐
i. Military deployment	☐	☐	☐	☐
j. Self/family responsibilities (health, birth, child or elderly care, etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐
k. Lack of motivation	☐	☐	☐	☐
l. **Other reasons**, please specify:	☐	☐	☐	☐

11.3 Of the reasons (a-l) selected in question 11.1 and/or question 11.2, what was the **most important reason** that prevented you from progressing in your degree program as expected: _____

VII. Satisfaction

12. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of your **graduate program:**	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	N/A or Don't Know
a. Academic advising (e.g., assistance with course planning and meeting degree requirements)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
b. Career counseling (e.g., assistance with career planning, job search, etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
c. Mentoring (e.g., support of professional growth)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
d. Financial support	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
e. Work/lab space on campus	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
f. Social space on campus	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
g. Discipline specific software and equipment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
h. Ease in finding information related to my study/program	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

VIII. School or College

13. Select your college: (If you received degrees from multiple colleges, select your primary college)
- ☐ College of Education & Human Development (go to CEHD section)
- ☐ School for Conflict Analysis & Resolution (go to S-CAR section)
- ☐ College of Science (go to COS section)
- ☐ College of Humanities & Social Sciences (go to CHSS section)
- ☐ Schar School of Policy and Government (formerly known as School of Policy, Government, and International Affairs, go to SSPG section)
- ☐ School of Business (go to section IX)
- ☐ College of Health and Human Services (go to section IX)
- ☐ College of Visual and Performing Arts (go to section IX)
- ☐ Volgenau School of Engineering (go to section IX)

College of Education and Human Development ONLY

14 How satisfied are you with the following:	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	N/A or Don't Know
a. Practicum/internship or other experience-based learning in your program	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
b. The supervision in that practicum/internship/experience-based learning	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
c. The relevance of your program for your intended field	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution ONLY

15. Have you been enrolled in a dual or joint degree program in the School for Conflict and Analysis Resolution?
- [ ] Yes, Dual Master's degrees in Conflict Resolution and Mediterranean Security
- [ ] Yes, Dual degree in Social Work and Conflict Analysis and Resolution
- [ ] Yes, Master's International, a joint program with the Peace Corps and George Mason University
- [ ] Yes, Accelerated BA or BS/MS
- [ ] Yes, other, please specify_____
- [ ] No

16. Which of the following field experiences have you had in the School for Conflict and Analysis Resolution? Check all that apply.
- [ ] Internship
- [ ] Independent study or research
- [ ] Study abroad
- [ ] Service-learning
- [ ] Travel courses
- [ ] Other, specify:_____

17. Which of the following best describes the delivery mode for most of the courses you have had in your program at Mason?
- [ ] Face-to-face only
- [ ] Mostly face-to-face
- [ ] About half face-to-face and half online
- [ ] Mostly online
- [ ] Online only

College of Science ONLY

18. Did your current employer (other than Mason) provide financial assistance for obtaining your degree?
- [ ] Yes (go to 19)
- [ ] No (go to 20)
- [ ] Not applicable – I was not working while at Mason (skip to end of COS section)
- [ ] Not applicable – I was working at Mason (skip to end of COS section)

19. In what form did your current employer provide financial assistance for obtaining your degree? Check all that apply.
- [ ] Tuition reimbursement
- [ ] Book purchases
- [ ] Other, please specify_____

20. Is your current employer in need of additional graduates with qualifications that can be provided by Mason?
- [ ] Yes (go to 21)   - [ ] No (skip to end of COS section)

21. Please specify the employer name and the qualifications the employer is looking for. _____

College of Humanities & Social Sciences ONLY

22. Were you enrolled in any of the following? (select all that apply)
- [ ] Dual Master's Degree
- [ ] Accelerated bachelor's/master's program
- [ ] Graduate certificate before or during your graduate degree study

23. Which of the following best describes the methods of course delivery you would have **preferred** for your graduate program at Mason (regardless of whether you actually took courses in that mode)?
- [ ] Face-to-face courses only
- [ ] Mostly face-to-face courses
- [ ] About half my courses face-to-face and the other half online
- [ ] Hybrid courses (single courses with half the class meetings face-to-face, and half online)
- [ ] Mostly online courses
- [ ] Online courses only

24. How likely are you to pursue further graduate-level education?
- [ ] Highly unlikely
- [ ] Somewhat unlikely
- [ ] Neutral
- [ ] Somewhat likely
- [ ] Highly likely

25. Which of the following sources of financial assistance did you use during your graduate studies at Mason? Check all that apply.
- [ ] Outside scholarships/fellowships
- [ ] Employer tuition reimbursement from Mason
- [ ] Tuition reimbursement for active-duty military members
- [ ] Employer tuition reimbursement from another employer
- [ ] Veterans' benefits
- [ ] Other, specify_____

26. What was your primary reason for choosing Mason?
- [ ] Faculty
- [ ] Reputation of the program
- [ ] Reputation of the university
- [ ] Cost
- [ ] Course offerings
- [ ] Location
- [ ] Other

Schar School of Policy and Government ONLY
(Items 27-31 are for **SSPG master's students**)
27**.** Have you met with your academic advisor while you were in the program?
- [ ] Yes (go to 27.1)
- [ ] No (go to 28)

    27.1. If yes, how many times per semester?_____

28. Have you sought career advising while you were in the program?
- [ ] Yes (go to 28.1)
- [ ] No (go to 29)

    28.1. If yes, how many times did you consult with Career Services? _____

29. Have you attended a SPGIA career workshop or event (examples include: Career Fair, Resume Clinic, Salary Negotiation, How to obtain a Security Clearance, etc.)
- [ ] Yes (go to 30)
- [ ] No (go to 29.1)

    29.1. **If** no, which of the following describes your primary reason for not attending SPGIA career workshops or events?
    - [ ] I was not aware of event offering
    - [ ] The evening events conflicted with my work schedule
    - [ ] I was not interested in the event topics
    - [ ] Other, please specify**: _____**

30. Have you had the opportunity to deliver presentations in your coursework?
- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

31. Please indicate your level of Agreement with the following Statements:

Compared to when I started my program, I feel more confident in the following:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Presentation skills	☐	☐	☐	☐
Writing skills	☐	☐	☐	☐
Research & analytic skills	☐	☐	☐	☐

 (Items 32 – 34 are for **SSPG PHD students**)

32. Which of the following best describes your participation in SSPG PhD Student Services or Career Services activities (examples include: Research Morning, Academic Careers Panel, Teaching Workshop, Graduate Student Research Conference, etc.)

☐ **I** frequently participated in activities (go to 32.1)
☐ **I** occasionally participated in activities (go to 32.1)
☐ **I** rarely participated in activities (go to 32.2)
☐ My participation fluctuated throughout the program (go to 32.2)

32.1. (If Frequently participated or Occasionally participated in activities) Which workshops did you find helpful? Select all that apply.

☐ Research Morning
☐ Academic Careers Panel
☐ CV Development for PhD Students
☐ Teaching Skills & Student-Centered Learning
☐ Graduate Student Research Conference
☐ Publishing and Journal Evaluation
☐ Academic funding Workshop
☐ Other, Please specify:_____

32.2. **(**If rarely participated or participation fluctuated throughout the program) Which of the following describe your primary reasons for rare or fluctuating participation in SPGIA PhD student services or career activities? Select up to two.

☐ I was not aware of event offerings
☐ The activities conflicted with my work or class schedule
☐ I lived out of the area and could not attend
☐ I was unable to determine which activities were important
☐ I was not interested in the topics
☐ Other, Please specify:_____

33. Please provide suggestions for workshop topics or delivery method that would benefit future SSPG PhD students.
_____

34. What advice would you like to have received yourself as a first -year student at the beginning of the PHD program?
_____

IX. Institutional Support

35. *To what extent did the following services contribute to your success at Mason?*	A great deal	A fair amount	A little	Not at all	NA/Did not use the service
a. University career services (e.g., job search resources, interview practice, application for graduate school)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
b. Graduate student life seminars and workshops (e.g., Thriving in Graduate School, Preparing for Careers in the Academy)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
c. Graduate Student Write-Ins or Writing Center Grad Write-Ins	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
d. Support for graduate student teaching and research from the Center for Teaching and Faculty Excellence	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

X. Final Comments

36. What were your career goals when you first arrived at Mason? _____

37. To what extent did you feel supported to pursue your career goals while you were at Mason?
    ☐ A great deal   ☐ A fair amount   ☐ A little   ☐ Not at all

38. Upon graduation, how do you expect to stay connected with Mason? Mark all that apply.
    ☐ Return to Mason for University Alumni events
    ☐ Participate in events sponsored by your department or school/college
    ☐ Read the Mason Spirit (magazine)
    ☐ Read the Mason Scroll (monthly e-newsletter)
    ☐ Contribute financially to the University
    ☐ Connect through social media
    ☐ Attend sporting events
    ☐ Talk with current students
    ☐ Talk with prospective students
    ☐ Not interested

39. Are you willing to let us share your responses to Q24 with the Office of Alumni Relations for future contact?
    ☐ Yes   ☐ No

40. Overall, how satisfied are you with your Mason experience? Please elaborate in the comment section below.
    ☐ Very satisfied   ☐ Satisfied   ☐ Dissatisfied   ☐ Very dissatisfied

41. Please comment regarding your Mason experiences in the space provided.

Comments:_____
_____
_____
_____

Preferred email address after graduation: _____
Your preferred email address will be shared with the Office of Alumni Relations.