

Dual Degree Master's Program: Malta – Mason (S-CAR) Financial Aid Assistance for U.S. Students

Citizens of the U.S. and permanent residents may be eligible for US Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). To determine eligibility, please complete the process outlined below:

- Detailed information and instructions this process can be found at financialaid.gmu.edu.
- To apply for financial aid, U.S. citizens and permanent residents should do the following:
- Complete the current year FAFSA application at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>
- First time applicants will need to create a pin at <https://pin.ed.gov>
- Students will need to provide their tax information to complete the FAFSA
- Check your email regularly for any requests from the Office of Student Financial Aid for additional documentation; failure to submit requested documents in a timely matter will delay processing of federal aid awards.

If your are offered a financial aid award, please follow the process below:

- Check your email for a notification directing you to view and accept your financial aid offer at patriotweb.gmu.edu
- If this is your first time borrowing federal loans at Mason, you will need to complete the Master Promissory Note and Entrance Loan Counseling for the unsubsidized Stafford loan at <http://www.studentloans.gov>
- Students who select to borrow the PLUS loan in addition to the unsubsidized Stafford loan will also need to complete a PLUS request, entrance counseling session, and, MPN at <http://www.studentloans.gov>

In order for the university to request your loan funding, students must satisfy all requirements on the disbursement checklist:

- Registered full-time, or, have notified the OSFA of enrollment less than full-time but more than 4.5 credits (student registered for less than 4.5 credits are not eligible for federal aid).
- Completed all necessary requirements at www.studentloans.gov for both loans, if accepted
- Accepted award offer on Patriotweb (you must select “accept” or “decline” for each loan- if any award is left in an offered status it will delay processing)

Disbursement of funds:

- Your loan funding will go directly to your account at George Mason.
- Tuition is charged through the University of Malta and the student accounts office will automatically refund the entire loan amount to you

- It is strongly suggested that you authorizing a direct deposit, so that your refund will be sent directly to your bank account, which will make accessing the funds easier and faster
- You can sign up for direct deposit by providing this authorization to the student accounts office: <http://studentaccounts.gmu.edu/wp-content/uploads/DirectDepositAuthorization.pdf>
- If you do not authorize direct deposit, the student accounts office will mail a check to the permanent address on file with the university
- For further financial aid information, please contact the financial aid counselor that corresponds with your last name: <http://financialaid.gmu.edu/contact-us/>

US Federal Veteran Education Benefits

- Students who wish to use their Federal Veteran Education Benefits for the Malta program should visit the [Office of Military Services](#) to begin the process of determining eligibility for military benefits.
- The University of Malta must certify students eligible for federal veteran education benefits in order to receive benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Students eligible for Virginia MSDEP benefits cannot receive tuition waiver benefits at the University of Malta since it is not a state-supported institution and not located in Virginia.

More information will be added to this section as information is clarified via the Veteran's administration and University of Malta.

Financial Aid For Summer Sessions

Due to the unique scheduling of the Malta program the [Office of Student Financial Aid](#) will use a three semester (one academic year) budget to maintain compliance with federal regulations governing student loans

- Students who apply for financial aid by submitting the FAFSA application, or, securing a private loan, will receive loan funds up to their maximum Cost of Attendance for the year in which they intend to enroll in the Dual Degree Program.
- In order to receive an additional loan for the summer term (June-completion of the program) students will need to submit another loan application. This can be done according to the following instructions:
 - Students can expect to receive a summer aid request form via email the Office of Student Financial Aid towards the end of the spring semester (mid-April). The form can be completed and emailed to your financial aid counselor (<http://financialaid.gmu.edu/contact-us/>) indicating the

number of credits the student intends to enroll in during the summer session.

- **If you have not received this information by mid-April, please contact your financial aid counselor.**
- Any student who has exhausted their unsubsidized loan eligibility for the year may apply for a Graduate PLUS loan via <http://www.studentloans.gov>, or, a private loan from their lender of choice
- Once the [Office of Student Financial Aid](#) has received both summer request form and your loan application we will process your final loan payment for summer. Assuming all paperwork is submitted within a timely manner, the estimated disbursement date for summer loans is approximately the beginning of June.