

JMU Graduate Community News

From here, everything is possible!

October 5, 2015

Consider Study Abroad

Study abroad experiences challenge students and increase self-confidence. They can increase your appreciation of others and allow you to develop new perspectives regarding your home culture. Through international experiences you can increase your ability to interact effectively with people of other nationalities. International experiences can strengthen your resume, broaden your horizons, enrich your life, and open doors to future opportunities. Study abroad opportunities available at JMU are described on the Office of International Programs website. [More information](#)

Many faculty leading short-term study abroad experiences during Summer 2016 welcome graduate students with appropriate background and interests to apply to participate in their programs, regardless of their program. The deadline for applying to participate in most summer programs is November 1. Examples of programs that are offering courses for graduate students are listed below. Follow the links for additional information.

Istanbul, the Global City: Religion, Society, and Art History. This program explores the visual and material culture of Istanbul and the religious traditions that shaped the city from antiquity into the 21st century. Students will explore the art and architecture of Istanbul and discover how forms of Christianity and Islam shaped a vibrant modern and multicultural city. [More information](#)

Education in Costa Rica: Literacy and Curriculum in a Global Community. Students will strengthen their skills working with English Language Learners. Students will experience teaching and learning with local Costa Rican students. Host families will provide a rich cultural experience as students live and share meals with local families. [More information](#)

Intercultural Practicum in Northern Ireland. Each student will work in a public school in Newry, Northern Ireland and surrounding communities. This experience is designed to help prepare JMU students for teaching in any subject area and serving children of any age. [More information](#)

Rome Intercultural Teaching Program. This practicum is a partnership with Marymount International School-Rome involving 4 days per week dedicated to aiding teachers and students at the school. Weekend excursions will feature rail and bus travel to other Italian cities, as well as explorations of contemporary and ancient Rome. [More information](#)

Education in Costa Rica: Literacy and Curriculum in a Global Community. Students will develop a deeper understanding of language learning and cross-cultural interactions at the community, school, and family levels. Learning experiences on this trip include engaging with teachers in a public school, living with host families, and participating in various excursions. [More information](#)

Many programs that are primarily offered for undergraduate students will consider offering a special experience to interested graduate students. Contact the program director of any experience to learn more and inquire about possible graduate-level experiences through that program. [Comprehensive list of study-abroad experiences](#)

Graduate Student Researcher. The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) seeks a qualified graduate student to serve as a researcher. This is a half-time, 49-week position, beginning on January 11, 2016, for a stipend of \$20,000. Application deadline: October 30. [More information](#)

Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) applications are being accepted through October 13. The PMF Program is a flagship leadership development program designed to develop a cadre of potential government leaders. [More information](#)

Personal Statement Workshops. The University Writing Center is hosting Personal Statement Workshops October 16 and November 6, 2:30-4 p.m. Bring your personal statement, and see what other students are writing about, get some

tips from writing experts, and make improvements to your draft. Space is limited! To reserve your spot, contact UWC Outreach Coordinator Lucy Malenke at malenklb@jmu.edu. Can't attend? Need help getting started? [Book an appointment with a tutor](#) or [view online resources](#).

A Veterans Center has opened in Wilson Hall. Students who are veterans can get access by joining the Student Veterans Association ([join through BeInvolved](#), search for "veterans"). [More information about JMU Veterans](#)

Need a Job? New student positions and wage positions are posted on JMU's [Joblink](#).

Keep up with Graduate Student Association (GSA) Events. The GSA is a student-led and student-run organization that provides professional and social opportunities to all JMU graduate students and alumni. [Like them on Facebook](#). [Find them on Twitter](#). (gsa@jmu.edu; 568-7088) [More information](#)

Upcoming Events & Deadlines

- **Care, Communication, & Compassion: Lola's Story** is the title of a presentation by Cathy Motley-Fitch and her husband Alan Fitch, sponsored by the JMU Physician Assistant Program. Sadly, Cathy and Alan had a daughter pass away just a few days after her birth. The condition she had could have been treated if not for a series of medical errors and poor communication among the health care team. October 5, 6:30 pm, Madison Union Ballroom. For more information contact Jerry Wenger (wenigejr@jmu.edu)
- **Karenne Wood Poetry Reading.** October 6, 4 PM in Grafton Stovall. [More information](#)
- **Unlocking the Gilded Cage: Economic Rights in American Woman's History.** October 6, 5 PM, Zane Showker G005. [More information](#)
- **Re-Presenting Our History: Virginia Indians Today and Yesterday.** October 7, 1 PM, Madison Union 404. [More information](#)
- **Ending Campus Sexual Violence: How Research on Men Can Help Inform Best Practices and Policies.** Visiting Scholar Presentation by Dr. Walter DeKeseredy. October 7, 6:30 PM in Harrison 2105. [More information](#)
- **Entrepreneurship at the Intersection of the Arts, Technology, and Experience Design.** Visiting Scholar Presentation by Dr. S. Alex Ruthmann, October 7, 7:30 PM, HHS 1301. [More information](#)
- **Madison Vision Presentation: Dr. George Kuh.** Madison Union Ballroom, October 8, 3:30 PM, Madison Union Ballroom. [More information](#)
- **An Introduction to Structural Equation Modeling.** This workshop will provide a general overview of structural equation modeling (SEM) by introducing path analysis, confirmatory factor analysis (CFA), and full structural equation modeling. This workshop requires no prior experience with SEM. Open to graduate students and faculty. October 9, 12:30-3:30 PM, Student Success Center, 1075. [Registration required](#)
- **Flu Vaccine Clinic.** October 14, 8 am – 5 pm, Festival Highlands Room. [More information](#)
- **Cultivating the Just and Peaceable Self.** Annual conference of the Peace and Justice Studies Association. This conference is open to all JMU participants free of charge. October 15 – 17. Workshops, panels, and scholarly talks will feature topics such as nonviolent social change, restorative justice, conflict resolution, peace education, peace ecology, sustainability, and transformative learning. [Registration required](#)
- **Madison Vision Presentation: Mr. Russ Reeder.** October 22, 3:30 PM, Madison Union Ballroom.
- **Last day to submit an application for Masters, Ed.S. or Doctoral degree** if graduation requirements are to be met in May 2016, or for summer graduates walking in May. Monday, November 16.
- **Thesis/Dissertation Deadline for December 2015 Commencement.** November 20.

For additional events of possible interest, regularly check <http://www.jmu.edu/events>

Tips from TGS (The Graduate School)

Graduate Policies. You are responsible to read and follow the graduate policies set forth in the [Graduate Catalog](#). Important information regarding degree progress, including rules for successful progression and continuous enrollment are also on the [Graduate School website](#)

Approval of a Thesis or Dissertation Committee. Students who are completing these sorts of project must submit a signed approval form to The Graduate School by the second week of the semester in which the student first registers for thesis or dissertation credits. [Approval form](#)

Monitor your Dukes E-Mail account! Official information is sent to each student’s official [Dukes e-mail account](#). Check your @dukes.jmu.edu e-mail account on a regular basis.

Monitor MyMadison! The *Student Center* in [MyMadison](#) is where you will find advising information, register for classes, and where you can view “*To Do Items*” that will keep you on track towards graduation. Use the Student Center to update your mailing address and cell phone number. It is ***your responsibility*** to maintain accurate contact information. Check your account regularly. Don’t miss important information!

Essential Links:

- [Graduate School Website](#)
- [Graduate Policies](#)
- [JMU Student Handbook](#)
- [Forms for Graduate Students](#)
- [Thesis Guidelines](#)
- [Financial Aid Policies](#)

Have Questions? Please contact the following person if you have questions regarding:

Assistantships/Scholarships/Thesis/Dissertations	Laura Ryman (rymanle@jmu.edu)
Graduation/Commencement/Transfer of Credit	Debbie Juhasz (juhaszdj@jmu.edu)
Continuous Enrollment	Tracie Esmaili (esmailtb@jmu.edu)
General Questions	Linda Wandless (grad@jmu.edu)

We welcome suggestions for this newsletter, including events and opportunities. Please send your submission to grad@jmu.edu .

The Graduate School (TGS)
[17 West Grace Street](#), MSC 6702 James
Madison University Harrisonburg, VA 22807
(540) 568-7860
<http://www.jmu.edu/grad>
grad@jmu.edu [Like us on Facebook](#).
[Follow us on Twitter](#).