

**JAMES MADISON
UNIVERSITY**



GUIDEDOOK GRAD STUDENTS

Learn about grad student life at
James Madison University

Created by
The Graduate Student Association
Edition - June 2024

GSA GUIDE FOR GRAD STUDENTS

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INTRODUCTION

DEAR GRAD STUDENT,

Welcome to James Madison University! We are so excited that you have chosen to make **Harrisonburg** your home for the next few years.

As the Graduate Student Association, we wanted to be the first to share some “tips and tricks” on how to be successful within the graduate program.



The GSA is an organization made up of **representatives** from

each department and graduate program on campus including Art and Music, Business, Communication, Education, and Health and Behavioral Studies programs (**More on that later**).

We strive to improve the quality of graduate student life at JMU by acting as an advocate and liaison between the University and its graduate students in addition to organizing social activities and events that help bring us all together as a community.

We have provided you with this resource in order to introduce you to **James Madison University** and to briefly showcase some of places, and organizations that help make Harrisonburg a thriving, inclusive community for all of its residents.

See you around campus!

Graduate Student Association Executive Board

PART I

GETTING STARTED

1.

SETTING-UP: (ID, DUO, WIFI, EQUIPMENT LOANS....)

STUDENT ID:



Your student ID card, called “JACard” connects you to various aspects of

life at James Madison University. If you haven’t gotten one yet, head over to the [Card Services Office](#) on the **second floor** of the [Student Success Center](#) to get yours made.

You can also add money to it (called your FLEX account)

in order to pay for food, tickets, vending machines, equipment rentals, and more!

Your JACard also allows you free entry to the [University Recreation Center](#), and it's your library card too!

INTERNET – WIFI:

The JMU wireless network is available throughout campus in academic buildings and many gathering locations including the libraries and the dining facilities. You can connect to the network “JMU-Official-Wireless” from your device **using your JMU eid as Username and your JMU password as you password.**

More information and help [here](#).

DUO AUTHENTICATION



Duo is a two-factor authentication service that is used **instead of security questions to provide** a second layer of protection to your JMU account.

Detailed information about how to set it up can be found [here](#). If you are already on campus, you can directly go to the [IT Help Desk](#) located at the **fourth floor** of the [Student Success Center](#).

Once your Duo is set up, whenever you enter your password for a JMU-owned program (such as your email) Duo will request additional verification from a device that only you have access to, like your smartphone or landline.

OFFICE 365, GOOGLE SUITE & OTHER SOFTWARE

As a student at James Madison University, you can utilize both Office 365 and Google Suite.

Simply visit their respective pages and log in using your Student ID and password. Once logged in, you will have access to a variety of services such as email (Outlook), word processing, presentations, and spreadsheets.

You also have access for free to other software packages like SPSS, SAS, Nvivo... You can get more information [here](#).

NEED A COMPUTER, A CAMERA or other Accessories?

Students can check out a range of audio/visual and computing equipment, accessories, and peripherals. All equipment is available free-of-charge for both academic and personal use. You can find more information [here](#).

2.

JMU BASICS (VISION, QUICK FACTS, QUICK LINKS...)

JMU: BEING THE CHANGE

At JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY, we are a community committed to preparing students to be **educated** and **enlightened** citizens who lead productive and meaningful lives.



QUICK FACTS:

Founded: 1908 **Motto – BEING THE CHANGE**

Color – Purple and Gold

Nickname – Dukes ~ **21,000 undergrads** ~
1800 grads

Quick orientation links

Fall 2024 Grad Orientation **Thursday, August 15, 2024,**

8:30 am to noon: [Register here](#)

[New Graduate student checklist](#)

[360 degrees Videos of CAMPUS](#)

[JMU MAP](#)

3.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International Students

If you are an international student, we understand that traveling to a different country with a different culture can be stressful.

Adjusting to new surroundings, customs, and languages can be overwhelming. However, we are here to make your transition smoother and more comfortable.



The first principle to remember is: NEVER BE AFRAID TO ASK QUESTIONS. Whether you think your question is silly or if you need to ask multiple times, don't hesitate. Asking questions is a crucial part of learning and understanding your new environment.

If you don't understand something, feel free to tell the person,

“I'm sorry, but I didn't understand what you just said (or part of what you just said). Could you please repeat it slowly?” or something resembling that.



You might worry about bothering people, but most people are happy to help. People generally appreciate the opportunity to assist and connect with others, and your questions can be a great way to start a conversation.

So,

RULE 1: Always ask questions and don't be afraid to ask the person to repeat what they said slowly so you can understand.

RULE 2: Rule 1 applies everywhere and all the time—at the bank, the post office, in classrooms, on the bus, and in any other situation you find yourself.



Use the information in the [“Setting Up” chapter of this handbook](#) to get the basics settled, such as setting up your internet and obtaining your JAC Card.

You are probably already in contact with the [International Student and Scholar Service \(ISSS\) housed in the Center for Global Engagement \(CGE\)](#) located in HOLLAND YATES HALL. They should be able to answer any questions you have. They also [have a page specifically for graduate students](#) that you should check regularly for updates and helpful information.

For any concerns, feel free to email [Thomas Lavenir](#), who can guide you seamlessly through any issues you encounter.



Here are a list of things you might be want to do when you arrive (probably in that order):

- Connect to [JMU-Official Wireless](#). Log-in using your e-ID & MyMadison password
- Phone plan- Download the [Mint Mobile](#) app & follow the instructions + [video demo](#)– [Android](#) | [Apple](#)
- Open a [bank account](#)
- Obtain your [JACard](#)
- Attend the international sessions for F-1 students
- Login to MyMadison and complete your contact information section (mailing address & US phone #)
- Complete your [SEVIS Registration](#)
- Download your [health insurance card](#)
- Go to your academic department and stop by to see your

- GA supervisor. (1) Introduce yourself and find out what they need from you. (2) Get your GA supervisor to complete and sign the top section of your SSN Letter.
- Go to CGE (International office) to (1) sign the bottom portion of your SSN letter, complete the SSN Application, (2) complete the [I-9](#), and (3) go over the [SSN & Payroll Timeline](#).
 - 14 days after your entry in the US- [Go to the Social Security office](#) (301 N. Mason Street Suite 101 with your: I-20, passport, I-94, SSN application receipt & signed SSN letter

For any information related to transportation, parking, and how you'll move around, [please refer to the transportation section of this handbook](#).

It provides detailed guidance on public transportation options, campus shuttle services, parking regulations, and tips for getting around the city.



Remember, it's perfectly normal for things to feel a bit overwhelming when you first arrive.

Adjusting to a new country, culture, and environment can be challenging. After all, you are in a place that is likely very different from where you come from.

But don't worry—this is all part of the experience, and **you are not alone.**

One last thing, remember Rule 1 and Rule 2 😊 .

4.

GRADUATE STUDENT FORUMS

By virtue of being a graduate student at JMU, you are automatically a member of the Graduate Student Association (GSA). There are no fees associated with this membership.

The GSA organizes a variety of activities and events designed for graduate students and faculty to get involved, meet each other, and develop both professionally and personally.

These activities provide excellent opportunities for networking, learning new skills, and making lasting connections within the university community.

Instagram

You can follow us on Instagram by scanning the QR code below.



GRADS_OF_JMU

Facebook

You can also follow our facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/JMUGSA>

Group me

You can join the Group_me group of Grad Students by

scanning the QR_code below or clicking on this link:

https://groupme.com/join_group/101369604/AbwIggjQ



Listserv

Normally, as a grad Student, you are on the ListServ of GSA, which means that you regularly receive our emails. If not, please shoot us a mail at gsa@dukes.jmu.edu.

PART II

**TRANSPORTATION
& PARKING &
HOUSING**

5.

TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING

Transportation

JMU offers many transportation options for students, so it can be helpful to know which is best for you.

I do not plan driving



If you don't plan on driving a personal car around campus, JMU offers many alternative transportation options for students: [bikes, buses, and break shuttles](#). Typically, most students without a car use the buses operated by the Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation.

These buses can be categorized into two groups: those that operate within JMU and its immediate surroundings.

You can recognize these buses by their color-coded names, such as the Yellow Line, Red Line, and Green Line. These buses have stops at every apartment complex, ensuring easy transportation from your apartment to the university.



Then you have buses that operate in city of Harrisonburg as a whole. Those tend to have names with numbers. Line 1, 3, 6...

Each line follows a specific route, which you can view here or in the PassioGo app ([AppleStore](#), [GooglePlay](#))

We recommend carefully reviewing the lines that pass through your apartment and noting their operational patterns. For example, some buses complete their routes in one hour, while others take two hours. By familiarizing yourself with these patterns, you won't need to constantly check the app or a map for arrival times at your complex or other specific points.

If you want to travel outside of Harrisonburg check [this page](#).

I have a bike / I want to bike



To bike around campus, you'll need a bicycle (unless you're a magician!). You can either buy or rent one. JMU offers a

semester-long bike rental program for \$100 per semester, with a \$300 refundable deposit. More information can be found [here](#).

If you prefer to buy a bike, check out [Facebook Marketplace for affordable options](#) in Harrisonburg. Just make sure to take the bike to a [bike shop](#) for an evaluation before making your purchase. You can also buy a new bike if you prefer [here for example](#).

Note that you can [put your bike in front of any bus](#) and take the bus anytime you want to use the bus instead.

I have a car / I plan Driving



If you plan on driving a personal car around campus, JMU offers multiple parking lots and parking garages that are accessible to students. View more information about parking permits below.

Parking Permit

If you're planning on driving to campus, it can be helpful to purchase a student parking permit. Parking permits at JMU are done virtually, meaning you won't need a sticker or hang-tag for your car.

The 2023-2024 Student Parking Rates are as follows:

- Full-Time Annual – \$300
- Full-Time Semester – \$160
- Part-Time Semester – \$80
- Evening Semester – \$50
- Remote Semester – \$50

You may purchase your parking permit beginning August 1st. You can order a parking permit [here](#), and step-by-step instructions in ordering your permit can be found [here](#).

Once you have your parking permit, use [this map](#) to determine where you can park. You can also download the [JMU Parking App](#) to receive real-time information on parking space availability.

6.

HOUSING

On-Campus Housing

Generally, JMU does not offer on-campus housing for graduate students. However, first-year grad students have the option to live within Graduate Student Housing in [735 Main](#).



Off-Campus Housing

The majority of graduate students at JMU live off campus.

There are multiple sites and places to search for housing, but here is a condensed list of resources to find housing catered to grad students:

- [JMU Graduate Student Housing Forum](#): Facebook group run by GSA to help graduate students find roommates and/or housing with other grad students.
- [JMU Off-Campus Housing Site](#): JMU website that lists current off-campus apartments for rent near JMU's campus.
- [OCL Housing Directory](#): PDF of common off-campus rentals near JMU.

If you have specific questions about housing, leasing, or living off-campus, you can check out the [Off-Campus Life website](#) and contact OCL through emailing ocl@jmu.edu, calling (540) 568-6071, or visiting their office in The Union Room 205.

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PART III
FOOD

7.

FOOD AND DINING PLACES ON CAMPUS

Food & Dining places

There are over 30 dining locations open on campus. You can have a self-guided tour [here](#). Although there are specific meal plans for [graduate students](#), most tend to cook at home and pack it up, supplementing that with what's provided in the dining locations on and off campus.



The Pantry

The pantry is a really helpful resource for graduate students in that regard given that we often run on a tight budget. It provides, for free and no questions asked, a variety of groceries and essential items to support students in need.

Stocked with non-perishable foods, fresh produce the pantry ensures that every student has access to nutritious meals. You can find canned goods, pasta, rice, fresh vegetables, or hygiene products; the pantry is a reliable and welcoming place to get the necessities.

You can also use the pantry app to order online (for free). The app is available for download in the [Apple](#) and [Android](#) stores. You can find them by searching “JMU Pantry” or clicking the links above. You can elect a curbside pickup option or a rapid pickup option in The Pantry itself. Details on order pickups can be found in the FAQ section of the app.

8.

GROCERY STORES

Grocery Stores and Supermarkets

Grocery stores are almost everywhere here in harrisonburg. You can use the neighborhood grocery stores supermarkets or those concentrated in a particular marketplace in the city.

We compiled a list of grocery stores that you might start with but keep in mind that the list is not exhaustive. You'll likely find the closest stores to where you live or develop preferences for specific places as you get accustomed to living here.

Sharp Shopper, Grocery Store, Supermarket 2475 S Main
St · (540) 434-8848

Red Front Supermarket Grocery Store · 677 Chicago Ave ·
(540) 434-0850

Martin's Supermarket, Grocery Store , 2035 E Market St ·
(540) 442-7576

Food Lion Supermarket, Grocery Store, 1021 Port
Republic Rd · (540) 433-4056

Doña Fer Grocery Store Specialty Food Store (Latino) ·
1060 Virginia Ave · (540) 433-1332

Food Lion Supermarket, Grocery Store · 1751 S High St ·
(540) 433-8099

El Chaparro Grocery Grocery Store, Supermarket · 206
Charles St · (540) 438-5609

International Foods

Food Wholesaler, Specialty Food Store · 30 Baxter Dr · (540)
433-8811

Foodmaxx Supermarket · 924 W Market St · (540)
568-1811

Buena Vista Grocery Store 774 E Market St · (540)
433-3333

Kroger Supermarket · 1790 E Market St · (540) 432-1830

OTHER MARKET PLACES

Harrisonburg Farmers Market Farmers' Market, Meats 228 S
Liberty St · (540) 476-3377

Young Jupiter Market Garden Farmers' Market (740)
325-2008

Oriental Food Market Farmers' Market, Specialty Food
Store 921 S High St · (540) 432-6157

The Shops at Dayton Farmers Market Farmers' Market,
Shopping Center & Mall 3105 John Wayland Hwy · (540)
879-3801

Dayton Farmers Market Shopowner Farmers' Market (540)
879-9682

Ryans Fruit Market Produce Retailer 19520 Hepner Ln ·
(540) 896-2181

New Market Flea Market Flea Market 9202 N Congress St ·
(540) 740-2915

9.

RESTAURANTS & BARS & ICE-CREAM

The link below serves as a comprehensive guide to dining options in Harrisonburg, offering extensive details on off-campus restaurants.

You can filter the list by specific meals, drinks, treats, or cuisine from various world regions.

<https://www.visitharrisonburgva.com/dining-2/>

PART IV

PLACES & SPACES

10.

ON-CAMPUS COOL SPACES & PLACES

The Graduate Lounge

The Graduate Student Lounge is a dedicated space for graduate students to relax, study, and connect with peers.

Equipped with comfortable seating, workstations, and a quiet atmosphere, the lounge provides a perfect environment for focussed study sessions or casual meet-ups. There is a also a small pantry inside the lounge.



The graduate student lounge is located in Room 4000 (4th floor) of Holland Yates Hall (formerly Madison Hall) at 100 E. Grace Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22807.

You must be an active graduate student and have a valid JACard to enter.

SSC – JMU Success Center



The Student Success Center at James Madison University is a comprehensive hub designed to support students in **achieving their academic, personal, and professional goals.**

Located at the heart of campus, the center offers a wide array of services, including [learning support](#) in [learning centers](#),



[career services \(career fairs, Networking event...\)](#)



[wellness and counseling resources....](#)



The University Student Success Center is a 5 story building. You can see the what's on [each floor here](#).

UREC

UREC at James Madison University (JMU) is a dynamic and versatile facility designed to enhance the well-being and recreation of students. It serves as a central hub for a wide range of activities, making it a favorite spot for students to hang out, stay active, and unwind.



At UREC, students can engage in various physical activities, including working out in the [state-of-the-art fitness center](#),



climbing the [impressive indoor climbing walls](#),



[swimming](#) in the Olympic-sized pool,



and playing games like [basketball](#), [racquetball](#), and [soccer](#).



For those looking to relax and rejuvenate, UREC offers spaces for [meditation, massages,](#)



and even cooking classes to [learn new culinary skills.](#)



In addition to these offerings, UREC hosts numerous programs and events aimed at promoting a healthy and balanced lifestyle. UREC provides the perfect environment to challenge yourself with a new workout routine, learn a new hobby, or simply find a place to relax and socialize, .

For a more detailed look at all the facilities and services available at UREC, we invite you to explore further [here.](#)

Libraries

[Rose Library](#)

Rose Library at James Madison University (JMU) is located on the east side of campus. It offers an extensive collection of academic resources, including books, journals, and digital media, supporting a wide range of disciplines.



There are study spaces available, group study rooms ([you'll need to reserve](#)), and individual workstations, catering to various study preferences.

Students can also [check out a range of audio/visual and computing equipment, accessories, and peripherals](#).

There are other libraries at Jmu. You can find info about them [here](#).

Other Places

[Edith J. Carrier Arboretum](#)

The arboretum's winding woodland trails are beautifully landscaped with Virginia native plants, including rare and unusual species like puttyroot and lady's slipper, both native orchids.

Habitat-specific plants also thrive here, such as those in the shale barren rich with white-haired leather flower, spike moss, hairy-lipped fern, shining sumac, and the rare Kate's-mountain clover.



In spring, the trails boast a stunning display of wild phlox, Virginia bluebell, pinxter flower, and flame azalea. Visitors

should take the time to breathe deeply while climbing the terraced herb garden and enjoy the serenity of a wooded swale carpeted with New York, hay-scented, ostrich, marginal shield, and Christmas ferns.



The Arboretum's forested slopes and lowland swales are a haven for many tree species native to the mid-Appalachians, including the rare and endangered round-leaf birch (*Betula uber*).

Address: 780 University Blvd, Harrisonburg, VA 22807

Hours: 7 AM – 8 PM

11.

OFF-CAMPUS COOL PLACES & SPACES

Harrisonburg Farmers Market

The Harrisonburg Farmers Market offers the community convenient access to high-quality, fresh, and nutritious agricultural products and crafts produced locally. It aims to support local and regional farmers and producers by providing a direct market to the local customer base.

At the market, you'll find a wide array of seasonal produce ranging from asparagus to zucchini, artisan breads, and a variety of delectable baked goods.

Additionally, the market offers free-range meats and eggs, cheeses, prepared foods, fresh-cut flowers, bedding and nursery plants, select local crafts, and more.

While you shop, you can enjoy freshly roasted organic coffee and a variety of ready-to-eat treats.



Address: 228 South Liberty Street, Harrisonburg, VA
22801

Hours: Tuesday 8 AM – 1 PM
Saturday 8 AM – 1 PM

Arts & Crafts

[You Made It! Creative Arts Studio](#) – Paint Your Own Pottery
and Fused Glass Studio

*“No reservations required, just walk-in (except Birthday Parties), come in to paint, do a fused glass project, or even play with clay!” – Source: **You Made it** Website*



Address: 1019 Port Republic Rd, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Hours: Tuesday 12 PM – 5 PM

Wednesday 12 PM – 5 PM

Friday 12 PM – 5 PM

Saturday 12 PM – 5 PM

[Friendly City Clay & Art Center](#) – Art Classes,
Workshops, and Memberships

Explore your creativity with a wide range of art classes, including clay sculpting, painting, drawing, fiber arts, jewelry-making, and more. These multi-week courses are designed to immerse you deeply into each art form, allowing you to develop and refine your skills over time.

Address: 1157 S High St, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Hours: Monday through Friday 8:30 AM – 5:30 PM

Sunday 2 – 6 PM

Group Exercise & Sports

[Harrisonburg Dance Cooperative](#) – Dance Classes for Adults of All Levels

Discover the joy of movement with the Harrisonburg Dance Cooperative. Offering a diverse array of dance classes, including ballet, contemporary, hip-hop, jazz, and more, this cooperative provides multi-week sessions that cater to all skill levels.

Address: 2 N Main St, Harrisonburg, VA 22802

Hours: Dependent on Class Schedule



[Horizon's Edge Sports Campus](#) – Adult Sports Leagues for All Levels (Basketball, Indoor Soccer, Outdoor Soccer, Volleyball, and Dodgeball)

Address: 325 Cornerstone Ln, Harrisonburg, VA 22802

Hours: Dependent on Game Schedule

[Pink Ambition Pole Fitness](#)

Address: 31-C East Market St. Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Hours: Monday 6:30 PM – 9 PM

Tuesday 8:30 AM – 11 AM & 5:30 PM – 9 PM

Wednesday 5:30 – 9 PM

Thursday 4 PM – 9 PM Friday 4 PM – 7 PM Saturday

9:30 AM – 11 AM

Sunday 3 PM – 8 PM

Cinema & Arcades & Games

[Regal Movie Theatre](#)



Address: 381 University Blvd, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Hours: 11 AM – 11:30 PM

[Ruby's Arcade](#)



Address: 100B, 165 S Main St, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Hours: Tuesday 4 PM – 10 PM

Wednesday 4 PM – 10 PM

Thursday 4 PM – 12 AM

Friday 4 PM – 1 AM

Saturday 12 PM – 1 AM

Sunday 12 PM – 8 PM

[Blue Ridge AXEcade](#)



Address: 1820 Evelyn Byrd Ave Ste 140, Harrisonburg, VA
22801

Hours: Monday through Thursday 4 PM – 10 PM
Friday & Saturday 12 PM – 12 AM
Sunday 12 PM – 10 PM

[Escapism Escape Room](#)

Escapism is an exciting, interactive escape room experience that is locally owned in Downtown. Enjoy with friends and family as you team up and use your critical thinking skills to make your great escape from these unique, interactive rooms.



Address: 29 W Water St Suite 103, Harrisonburg, VA
22801

Hours: Tuesday through Thursday 11:30 AM – 8 PM
Friday 11:30 AM – 9:20 PM
Saturday 10:45 AM – 9:20 PM
Sunday 11:30 AM – 6:20 PM

Trivia Nights

[Pale Fire Brewing](#)

Address: 217 S Liberty St #105, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Hours: Every Wednesday at 8 PM

Clementine

Address: 153 S Main St, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Hours: Team Trivia Every Tuesday 8 – 10 PM, Karaoke 10
PM – Late

Sage Bird Ciderworks

Address: Harrisonburg, 325 N Liberty St, Harrisonburg, VA
22802

Hours: Every Thursday at 8 PM

Other Activities

Funky's Skate Center

Address: 100 Miller Cir, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Hours: Wednesday 6 PM – 8:30 PM

Friday 1 – 3:30 PM, 7:30 – 11 PM

Saturday 1 – 3:30 PM, 8 – 11 PM

If you want to discover other activities and attractions that match your interests, you can check out the Visit Harrisonburg VA! app on the [Apple App Store](#) or on [Google Play](#).

12.

HAIR SALONS & BARBERS & LAUNDROMATS

Hair Salons, Barbershops in Harrisonburg

Finding reliable hair salons, barbershops, and laundromats can make your life much easier as a student in Harrisonburg.

Below, we've compiled a list of some popular and reasonably priced establishments where you can get a haircut.

Hair Salons and Barbershops

Harrisonburg offers a variety of hair salons and barbershops that cater to different styles and preferences. Here are some

recommended spots:

[Omar's Hair Salon & Barber Shop](#)

130 University Blvd, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

(540) 282-2575

Carmen's Beauty Salon and Barber Shop

48 Suite A, S Carlton St, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

(540) 560-9777

Brown & Co. Hair Design

333 S Liberty St, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

(540) 432-0250

Maestro Barber Shop

563 University Blvd Suite 128, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

(540) 615-5471

The Studio Beauty and Wellness

353 Neff Ave, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

(540) 434-8188

House of Cut Barbershop

1310 Hillside Ave, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

(540) 615-5388

Sport Clips Haircuts of Harrisonburg

1645 Reservoir St Suite 180, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

(540) 434-2226

Laundromats

For your laundry needs, here are some convenient
laundromats in Harrisonburg:

Friendly City Laundry

446 N Mason St, Harrisonburg, VA 22802

(540) 677-0148

Emerald Wash Coin Laundry

127 S Carlton St, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

(540) 433-3376

These establishments are known for their services and convenience, making them great options for students looking to maintain their grooming and laundry routines.

13.

SCHOOLS

Childcare and Education Resources for Graduate Students with Children in Harrisonburg

For graduate students who have children, especially international students, the following resources can assist with childcare and education in Harrisonburg.

The International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) has compiled a list of resources to help international students and scholars find childcare in Harrisonburg. If you are a member of JMU's larger faculty and staff community and are looking for childcare, you may want to refer to the [Young Children's Program](#).

For Children Aged 0-5 Years

There are several options for finding someone to watch your young child. These options include:

- **Home-based daycare**
- **Center-based daycare**
- **Preschool**
- **Private nanny/babysitter**

The hours and schedules of childcare providers vary. Most offer full-time care, and some provide care during weekends or holidays.

Prices in Harrisonburg typically range from \$150/week to \$250/week.

Home-based child care is often less expensive than center-based care. However, availability is very limited, and many families find themselves on a waitlist for several months before a space becomes available for their child or children.

For more detailed information on available childcare options, the ISSS provides specific recommendations and resources that can help you navigate the childcare system in Harrisonburg.

By exploring these options and planning ahead, you can find a suitable childcare arrangement that meets your needs and helps ensure a smooth experience for both you and your child.

The following resources are a good place to start your search for child care in Harrisonburg:

- Google “Childcare in Harrisonburg/Rockingham” to see current childcare facilities
- Begin your search for local nannies and babysitters at [Care.com](https://www.care.com) and at [SitterCity.com](https://www.sittercity.com)

For Children 5-18 Years Old

- **Public Education in the United States**

Public schools are funded by the state government, which means students in grades K- 12 do not pay tuition. Generally, schools are divided into elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools.

Elementary schools are composed of students in kindergarten and grades 1-5. Most children attend kindergarten when they are five-years-old. Middle school is composed of students in grades 6-8 and high school contains grades 9-12.

The public school your child will attend is determined by where you live.

[Harrisonburg City Schools](#)

[Rockingham County Schools](#)

- **After School Programs**

School days end between 3-3:30 p.m. If you need care for your child after these hours, there are different programs available that may help.

[Boys and Girls Club of Harrisonburg](#) has different activities including fitness programs and tutoring/homework help.

[Second Home Learning Center](#) offers before and after school care, including tutoring and enrichment activities.

[Harrisonburg City Public Schools](#) has several after school programs.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions, please reach out to the Graduate Student Association (gsa@dukes.jmu.edu) or follow us on Facebook (...), Instagram (...). You can also join the Graduate Student Group-me groupe with this *link* .

We are here to help you navigate life as a JMU graduate student!

Even if we don't have the answers right away, we can help connect you to the people on campus that do.

2024-2025 GSA Executive Board

President – Juste Mehou

Vice President – Emily Plowright

Secretary –

Treasurer – Olorunsayo Tolulope Ijeluola

Social Chair –

Program representative Liaison – Folajimi Emmanuel
Kalejaye