The College of Visual and Performing Arts welcomes Visiting Scholar inquiries from our neighbors and friends around the globe.

The Visiting Scholar invitation for CVPA comes from our Dean, William Reeder, after our academic programs review the Visiting Scholar’s request to join the College for a semester or academic year. The process is as follows:

• Notification of all Visiting Scholar requests goes to Victoria Salmon, Associate Dean, and Qing Gao, Special Assistant to the Dean, China/Global Initiatives.
• After the invitation from Dean Reeder is sent, some government agencies may have to approve the Visiting Scholar’s attendance at Mason; this is especially true for any applications from China.
• Please note that Visiting Scholars attend Mason and live in the vicinity at their own expense; they are responsible for all costs, including language tutoring, if needed.
• The Office of International Programs and Services (OIPS) handle the processing of the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program, and all required federal paperwork. Salmon and Qing work closely with this office to ensure adherence to regulations and protocol.
• When a potential Visiting Scholar contacts CVPA or one of our programs or one of our faculty members, we request a video, website, or other type of digital communication to present artistic work and proficiency.
• If the applicant for the Visiting Scholar position has had previous interactions with one of our faculty members, we request a recommendation letter from the CVPA faculty; the letter should describe the potential scholarly exchanges and the level of the applicant's English communication skills.
• All requested items assist in determining if CVPA is a good fit for the scholar; at what level the scholar performs, or presents work; and how to plan a meaningful experience during the visit.
• CVPA will request an interview, either through Skype, or on the phone, to ask additional questions and to discover interests of study.

A CVPA Visiting Scholar should have a comprehensive experience in the academic, professional, and community activities of the College.

• Each Visiting Scholar needs a complete description of responsibilities, activities, or performances, which defines the benefits to both the Scholar and to CVPA.
• Individual CVPA programs may have additional Visiting Scholar participation requirements. After the Scholar arrives, the plan may be adjusted, but a final plan for each semester must be submitted to Salmon.
• If a Visiting Scholar would like to have private lessons in the arts, this request will be processed through the Potomae Academy, and the Scholar will pay for the lessons.
The internal Mason procedures take time and energy. Salmon and Qing serve as facilitators among the multiple steps in the process; therefore, they need to be notified about each Visiting Scholar request. Qing assists the Scholar in visa and housing matters; Salmon assists with Mason internal systems matters.

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Documents and Information Request for DS-2019 Processing

Documents:
1. Copy of identification page of your passport and passports of all dependents who will accompany you.
2. Copy of financial support documentation if you are not being supported by GMU (e.g., personal bank statement, letter from company or university or home country stating financial support for the Exchange Visitor). Current minimum maintenance figures needed to meet basic living expenses (excluding health insurance) at GMU are: $1700 per month for the Exchange Visitor; $600 per month for accompanying spouse; $400 per month for each accompanying child.
3. Copy of your updated Curriculum Vitae.
4. If applicable, documents required in item 11 of “Information” section below.

Information:
1. Complete mailing address. We will use this address to mail your DS-2019 packet when it is ready. It must be a street address and not a P.O. Box address. The packet will go out be Fed Ex or other express mail services.
2. Full name
3. Gender (Male or Female)
4. Date of birth
5. City of birth
6. Country of birth
7. Country of citizenship
8. Country of permanent residence
9. Occupation in home country (title, place of employment, type of employment)
10. Dependents accompanying you as Exchange Visitor, if any. For each dependent, please provide the following information: (a) Full Name, (b) relationship to you (e.g., spouse, child), (c) gender, (d) date of birth, (e) country of birth, (f) country of citizenship, (g) country of permanent residence.
11. If you are already in the United States, please provide a photocopy of the current immigration document and U.S. visa.
12. If you are currently on J-1 visa, please indicate the current J-1 program and the end date of the current J-1 program.
13. Whether you are a physician (Yes or No).
14. If you have been to George Mason University before this proposed visit, please indicate in what capacity and the visa type.
15. Copy of the Passport Picture Page of you and accompanying dependents
16. Copy of your CV, Resume, and Highest Diploma
17. Copy of your Research Proposal while at George Mason University