



Smithsonian



Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation Student Resource Manual

About the Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation

The Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation is a unique partnership between the Smithsonian Institution and George Mason University and is located at the 3,200 acre Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute adjacent to Shenandoah National Park in Front Royal Virginia. The two semester-long programs of study provide students with an intensive immersion experience at one of the premier conservation research facilities in the world. Students live and learn among prominent research scientists, educators and conservation practitioners. This experience provides unparalleled access to the leading edge of conservation in practice. It is truly a unique gateway to conservation for the intrigued undergraduate student.

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SECTION 1: THINGS TO DO BEFORE THE SEMESTER BEGINS

A. Health insurance verification and immunization

You will be given the opportunity to fill out a voluntary health form that informs select personnel of any allergies (food allergies, etc.) or other conditions during your orientation. Please bring any relevant documentation you feel is necessary with you for your semester.

Important: Health insurance coverage is not supplied by Mason or the Smithsonian. It is very important that students maintain adequate health insurance coverage. Proof of coverage is required. Medical benefits must cover at least \$50,000 per accident or illness with an annual deductible that does not exceed \$500. See the Mason insurance web site: <http://shs.gmu.edu/insurance/>.

You must comply with immunization requirements of the Commonwealth of Virginia and George Mason University. Non-Mason students must complete the Immunization Record form by October 1, 2014. See <http://shs.gmu.edu/immunizations/>. Additionally:

- Tetanus shots should be up to date.
- Lyme Disease: Lyme Disease is a tick borne disease that can be quite serious. As of this writing, immunizations for Lyme disease are not available, so prevention is important. See: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/lyme/ld_prevent.htm.
- Optional - Vaccination requirements to work with mammals or birds: As part of the semester, students will participate in a supervised practical experience (part of CONS 320-Conservation in Practice). Practicum placements do not occur until the second week of the semester, and students cannot be guaranteed of any placement in advance. A few of these placements are working with mammals or birds. In order to protect the endangered species animal collection from human diseases as well as perpetuate the spread of animal viruses, students must provide documentation for negative TB skin test, current tetanus vaccinations, and current flu vaccination. Obtaining these vaccinations does not guarantee placement in an animal practicum.

B. Smithsonian forms and background check

Any person who is present on federal Smithsonian property for more than 30 days must submit background check forms. These forms are typically distributed about a month before the program begins. They are emailed electronically to the individual student before the semester begins. Students should complete these forms prior to their arrival and direct any questions to Lisa Des Jardins at ldesjard@gmu.edu. All forms and fingerprinting appointments MUST be completed prior to the start of the semester.

C. Important dates

Move-in day: The day BEFORE the official start of school
Move-out day: Please see your syllabus for each semester's move-out day.

Holidays (subject to change depending on weather and practicums):

Martin Luther King Day January 18th
Spring Break March 7th-March 13th
Thanksgiving Recess November 25th-29th

SECTION 2: PREPARE FOR MOVE-IN DAY

A. Move-in period:

Residents should plan to move-in to the facility between 10:00am-5:00pm. The dining hall will be open from 5:30-7:00pm for dinner, so students wishing to use their meal plan should plan to arrive before 5:30pm. Guests who help you move-in will be able to stay and join you for dinner for \$10.00 per person.

You will need to come to The Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute at 1500 Remount Road, Front Royal, VA 22630 and enter through Gate 2. The security guard at the gate will have your name on a list until you receive your official Smithsonian Institute ID. If Gate 2 is closed, the campus may be accessed by Gate 3. Check-in will take place in the SMSC Residence Hall. Follow the check-in signs that will lead you to the Residence Hall.

B. List of things to bring and NOT to bring:

Items to bring:

Residence Hall Room Items:

- Extra-long sheets and pillow for extra-long twin mattresses
- "Egg crate" or "memory foam" topper for extra-long twin (although regular size will work, too)
- Blankets
- Towels and washcloths
- Laundry hamper or basket and supplies (i.e. detergent, fabric softener sheets)
- Toilet paper for your own restroom facilities
- Green cleaning supplies for restroom facilities
- Television (you or your roommate may want to discuss this)
- Microwave (must not exceed 0.6 cubic feet and must not exceed 900 watts)
- Mini-fridge (must be less than 3 cubic feet)
- Non-marking wall tape for posters and other wall hangings (Command™ strips and hooks work well)
- Toiletries
- Hangers
- Robe
- Clothing for all conditions and clothing that is appropriate for field work
- Light and heavy weight jackets
- Rain gear
- Heavy and light socks
- Hiking boots
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Gloves
- "Business" and "business casual" attire for offsite visits to NGOs, dinners with VIPs...
- Warm sleepwear
- T-shirts
- Jeans
- Sweaters

Field Gear:

- Insect repellant for field work with ticks and mosquitos
- Backpack
- Flashlight/spare batteries
- Sunscreen
- Reusable water bottles
- Tent (optional)
- Heavy sleeping bag (optional)

Other items to consider:

- Computer/laptop
- Digital camera
- Alarm clock
- Binoculars
- Umbrella
- School supplies
- First aid kit
- Organizational containers
- Multiple outlet surge protector
- Ethernet cord
- Coffeemaker (only sealed unit coffeemakers are allowed, nothing with an exposed heating source is allowed)

Please **DO NOT** bring these items:

- ⊗ Pets
- ⊗ Incense
- ⊗ Candles
- ⊗ Extension Cords
- ⊗ Any multiplug adapter that is not a surge protector
- ⊗ Plug-in air fresheners
- ⊗ All cooking appliances (George Forman grills, toasters, toaster ovens)
- ⊗ Satellite dishes
- ⊗ Self-built lofts
- ⊗ Cinder blocks
- ⊗ Water guns, water balloons, paintball guns, Nerf or other foam based weaponry, airsoft guns
- ⊗ Weapons
- ⊗ Fireworks
- ⊗ Drug paraphernalia
- ⊗ Halogen lamps
- ⊗ Black or UV lights

If you have any questions about what you should and/or not should bring, please contact Erin Brandt at ebrandt@gmu.edu for further information.

C. Directions from Washington D.C. to Front Royal

Directions from Washington D.C. to Front Royal: Front Royal is approximately 60 miles from Washington D.C. Take I-495 (Washington Beltway) to I-66, then follow I-66 West. Take the Front Royal/Linden exit (Exit 13). At the stop light, make a left; go under the overpass (route 66) and at the stop light make a right. You will be on Route 55. Follow this road for 5.5 miles until you get to the intersection of Routes 55 and 522. Make a left onto Route 522. The entrance to SCBI is 1.9 miles ahead on the left side of the road. Enter Gate #2 (the Main Gate) and follow the signs for check-in, which will take place in the Residence Hall.

The Residence Hall address is 184 Farm Rd, Front Royal, Va. 22630. Please note this is a fairly new address and may not yet be GPS locatable.

If using a GPS please use the following address:

1500 Remount Road
Front Royal, VA. 22630

D. Logistics

Students will have access to parking close to the Residence Hall during move-in, as well as during the academic year. Please make sure you register your vehicle at the Residence Hall front desk when you arrive for move-in. You will receive an SCBI parking pass for your car during the semester.

Please plan on spending the first few days of the semester in mandatory orientation sessions. This will be important to your success as a SMSC student. Important information regarding SCBI/SMSC, your stay in the Residence Hall, and topics pertaining to academics will be discussed.

E. ID's, keys, and gate cards

Students should expect to carry their Mason ID cards with them at all times. These cards are your key to the Residence Hall main doors, the key to your room, as well as your meal plan card. Upon your arrival, you will also receive a gate access card and parking pass from NZP that you will need to carry with you to gain access to the main property.

Mason students should bring their Mason ID with them when they arrive to the Residence Hall to check-in.

If you are NOT a Mason student you will need to submit a headshot photo to the George Mason University Card Office to have your George Mason ID processed. Your Mason ID will be given to you upon your arrival to SMSC. Please make sure you submit a JPEG photo to Jerry Baugh at jbaugh@gmu.edu at the university Card Office that adheres to the following guidelines:

1. Applicant should know their G-Number and be in possession of another form of photo I.D. such as driver's license or passport.
2. Sunglasses or other articles which obscure the face are not acceptable unless required for medical reasons (an eye patch, for example). In cases of medical necessity, a note from a health care provider must be presented before the picture can be taken. A replacement I.D should be created as soon as the item is no longer required.
3. Hats or other head coverings are acceptable only when required by religious beliefs, tenants, traditions or customs, and may not cover any portion of the applicant's face. Another form of I. D. issued by a government or civil agency should be provided in support of the request. ***(Photographs of applicants wearing tribal, national costume, or other headgear not specifically religious in nature are not acceptable).***
4. The subject's expression should be natural, with both eyes open. Side or angled views are **NOT** acceptable.
5. Applicants must face forward with any distracting articles and objects out of view. The picture must be of the head and shoulders only.

Any special requests must be submitted to the Mason Card Office in writing. Please include name, G Number, and address. Subject will be notified by mail of the University's decision. Retakes at a subject's request will be subject to the \$10.00 replacement fee. When submitting your photo ID to the Card Office, please advise them that you are a SMSC student who is new to George Mason and that you need a photo ID created.

F. Dinner

Dinner will be available on the first day of move-in from 5:30-7:00pm. Those who arrive prior to or after dinner hours are responsible for their own meals.

SECTION 3: INFORMATION ABOUT THE SEMESTER EXPERIENCE

A. Student demographics and the living and learning community

These unique programs are open to upper-level students from any college or university, who have a demonstrated commitment to the study of conservation biology or related disciplines. Like a “study abroad” program, students live in residence at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) in Front Royal, Virginia adjacent to Shenandoah National Park and learn from prominent research scientists, wildlife biologists, educators, and other leading conservation professionals. Through academically intense, hands-on curricula, students will emerge from their Semester experience prepared for conservation related internships, graduate study or professions.

Diversity statement

The Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation is an inclusive community that celebrates diversity and strives to have faculty, staff and students that reflect the diversity of our plural society. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, class, linguistic background, religion, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, or physical ability.

B. Core faculty and staff

Faculty:

- Jennifer Buff, Semester Undergraduate Faculty *Office number: 540-635-0075*
- Anneke DeLuycker, PhD, Semester Undergraduate Faculty *Office number: 540-635-0463*
- Stephanie Lessard-Pilon, PhD, Semester Undergraduate Faculty *Office number: 540-635-0471*
- Jim McNeil, PhD, Semester Undergraduate Faculty *Office number: 540-635-0462*

Staff:

- Jen Halpin, Director of Marketing, Communications & Conference Programs *Office Number: 540-635-0076*
- Monique Healy, Mason Operations Manager *Office number: 540-635-0074*
- Carol Hoskins, Administrative Assistant *Office number: 540-635-0076*
- Lisa Des Jardins, Admissions and Recruitment, Student Advising *SMSC Office number: 540-635-0460*
Fairfax Office number: 703-993-5336

Other faculty/staff for the Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation

- Kate Christen, PhD, CCES Graduate/Professional Training Specialist
- Joe Kolowski, PhD, CCES Graduate/Professional Training Specialist
- Sarah Putman, Lab Manager
- Erin Brandt, Housing/Univ. Life Director (PW Campus) *C/P number: 571-319-3543*

SECTION 4: STUDENT LIFE

A. Emergencies – DIAL 911

Emergency: Dial 911.

If the situation is not an emergency but you need police presence, notify National Zoo Police at 540-635-6592 (office) during business hours. After hours and on the weekends please call the Warren County Emergency Services Dispatcher (Sheriff's Office) at 540-635-4128.

Residence Life staff will be available 24 hours a day/seven days a week to assist with any questions, concerns or issues that may arise. There is a Residence Life staff member on-call at all times, if you are in need of assistance please contact them on the Residence Life staff duty phone at 571-305-0055. If you are in need of police presence, the Residence Life staff can also assist in helping to reach the proper personnel.

Two Resident Advisors (RA) will also live on the floor with the residents. These RAs are responsible for assisting in building community as well as providing a safe and welcoming place for all members. RAs are also trained in responding to emergencies and are able to access resources to assist with whatever a student may need.

In addition, National Zoo Police will be available on site to assist in responding to emergencies during business hours. They are Federal law enforcement officers who are responsible for the safety and welfare of the persons and property of the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute as well as the Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation. They maintain a close working relationship with George Mason University Police.

B. Housing

Students are required to reside in the Residence Hall at SMSC. Each double room has its own restroom facilities. Rooms include two extra-long twin beds, 2 dressers, 2 desks, 2 desk top units with lights, and chair. Students will need to provide their own bed linens, pillows and towels.

Most rooms are double occupancy (segregated by gender), although a student may be assigned a single for health reasons or if we have an odd number of students of one gender. Single rooms are only available to students who qualify for one per their accommodations allotted by the Office of Disability Services. Students must follow both Smithsonian and George Mason Resident Student Handbook policies and procedures.

Smoking is not permitted indoors and must be done outside. Smoking is only allowed outside of the Residence Hall, a minimum of 25 feet from any of the entrances. Please discard cigarette butts in the proper disposal receptacles.

Pets of any kind are strictly forbidden on the SCBI/SMSC property. For the safety of our students, guests, staff members, and animal collection please ensure that pets are not brought onto the property, this also includes for short periods of time, for example, during student move-in day. Guests are also not permitted to bring pets onto the SCBI/SMSC property.

No candles, open flames, or devices to heat food, other than small microwaves are permitted. Please see section 2.B above for a list of approved and prohibited items that students and guests can bring with them.

Part of the living and learning community experience is learning to work well in a group and as part of a team. This will involve adopting a proactive and thoughtful approach to your group interactions. Quiet hours are between 10 pm to 8:00 am on Sunday – Thursday and Midnight until 10:00 am on Friday and Saturday. The study room on the second floor of the Residence Hall can be used for after-hours socializing and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to students.

Housekeeping: Mason will provide cleaning services for the common use areas (Dining Hall, classrooms, lounges, public restrooms, etc.). Students are expected to maintain common areas in a clean and orderly manner for all to enjoy.

Note: Student rooms are cleaned prior to move-in, however during the semester each student is responsible for the cleaning of their own room and restroom and is required to place trash and recyclable materials in the proper receptacles in the trash rooms. A trash room is located on the first and second floor for your convenience. Students must supply their own toiletries.

Guests: Visitors are permitted. Please advise a Residence Life staff member (Resident Advisor, Desk Assistant, or Community Director) of any guests and have them sign-in at the Residence Hall front desk with their contact information. This information is important in case of an emergency. Gates to the property will be closed at all times and you will either need to let the Guard at the gate know you are expecting a visitor or they will have to be let through by a Resident Advisor. (More about guest policy to come). You will need to escort your visitors from the gate onto the property. Guests are welcome to use the food services in the Dining Hall, but they will be expected to pay for their meals. Students are responsible for their guests at all times while they are on the SCBI/SMSC property and guests are expected to abide by the policies and procedures set forth by the Smithsonian and George Mason.

C. Meals

The dining hall will be open 7 days a week for 21 meals per week. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be served seven days a week. Box lunches will be provided for some field trips. Students may bring a refrigerator with a capacity of less than 3 cubic feet. Small microwaves are also permitted in student rooms (must not exceed 0.6 cubic feet and must not exceed 900 watts). A communal microwave is available in the laundry room on the second floor of the Residence Hall for student and guest use. Please advise the Dining staff of any dietary restrictions/preferences during orientation, and the kitchen staff will do their best to accommodate requests.

The Smithsonian-Mason meal plans can only be used at the Smithsonian-Mason Dining Hall, and not on the other Mason campuses and your meal plan cannot be used to purchase meals for guests.

D. Keys

Students must use their Mason ID as their main key. Your Mason ID will grant you access into the Residence Hall from the outside doors as well as grant you access into your assigned room. Your meals will also be loaded onto your Mason ID card prior to your arrival and your card should be swiped at the Dining Hall cash register prior to each meal. You must keep your Mason ID with you at all times. If your Mason ID card is lost, stolen, or broken, please notify Residence Life staff immediately so your card can be shut off and you can be issued a temporary identification card. Students are responsible for contact the Mason ID Card office to obtain a new student ID within one week of losing their ID.

You will also be issued a Smithsonian ID following the processing of your federal background paperwork, once your Smithsonian ID arrives, please ensure that you keep this with you at all times while you are on the property. Your Smithsonian ID will allow you access to the property past the front gates.

E. Laundry

Four washers and four dryers are available for student use free of charge. Students need to provide their own laundry detergent. *Please check pockets before starting a load and avoid wasting water. Also, please ensure that washer doors are left open after each use.*

F. Mail

Incoming mail will be sorted in the Residence Hall and students will be assigned a mail box. Outgoing mail can be dropped off at the Residence Hall front desk. Also, a Post Office is conveniently located just down the road from the property in Front Royal at 120 East 3rd Street Front Royal, just off Commerce Ave.

Mail should be addressed to: STUDENT NAME
 Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation
 184 Farm Road
 Front Royal, VA 22630

G. Maintenance

Please report maintenance needs (i.e. leaky toilets, heater malfunction, etc.) to the RA or Operations Manager. A facilities staff person will be able to address facilities concerns.

H. Recreation

Students are welcome to walk and hike at SCBI (in designated areas, as instructed). Students are also welcome to bring bicycles/skateboards and use them with discretion on designated paved surfaces and jeep roads. Helmets and protective gear should be worn when utilizing these recreational items.

Special care must be taken when walking or riding adjacent to animal program areas. Please follow the map that will be provided to you at Orientation. Students are not allowed to walk in areas not covered by the map and must take direction from SCBI staff at any given time. There is a sand-volleyball on site adjacent to the Dining Hall. Front Royal and the surrounding area also offer many recreational opportunities including hiking, canoeing, mountain biking, horseback riding, and many other activities. Residence life staff will provide various activities and field trips throughout the semester for community building outside the formal classroom setting.

I. Smithsonian Opportunities

A Smithsonian ID provides you with the opportunity to attend special events, including ice cream socials, networking receptions, and lectures. You can attend one free Smithsonian IMAX movie per week and get free tickets for different exhibits, tours of the capital, Library of Congress and the Pentagon. You can also visit the Smithsonian website to see more than 100 educational and cultural activities offered to you each month.

You also are awarded a 20% discount in Smithsonian stores, a 10% discount when dining at public food facilities in the Museums, and access to enter the staff dining areas.

J. Telecommunications

Telecommunications:

Students may bring their own TV's, however cable service is not provided in the dorm rooms. There is limited cable available in the lobby area and study lounge.

Cell phone coverage is intermittent and works best outside the buildings. Verizon seems to be the carrier that works the best.

All rooms come equipped with Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) phones that will be used for campus and Smithsonian-wide emergency announcements as well as for normal local phone calls and calls to Mason. Students are able to receive calls on the VOIP phones and they can also make calls from the phones, please ensure that you press 9 on the keypad first (to dial out) and then the number that you intend to call. Please note that for local calls to the 540 and 703 area codes you only need to dial 9 and then the area code, for other area codes please dial 9, 11

then 1, then the area code, followed by the number that you intend to call. Students may want to consider calling cards in order to call long distance.

K. Vehicles

You are welcome to bring your own vehicle to Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation. Parking will be provided on site. If you bring your own vehicle, you must provide a copy of your vehicle registration and valid drivers' license that will be on file with the Zoo police. You will be issued a SCBI vehicle parking decal and a copy of the SCBI driving rules and regulations. The decal must be returned at the end of the semester.

The vehicle must also be registered with the Residence Hall front desk and can be done during move-in. Guests' vehicles should also be registered at the Residence Hall front desk.

SECTION 5: POLICIES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE SEMESTER

Outside commitments

Because of the intensive, "study-away" nature of the semester programs, students are discouraged from taking employment outside of SCBI/SMSC. In our experience this allows adequate time for study, networking, volunteer work and experiencing the living and learning community to its fullest potential.

IMPORTANT: The Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation is located on Federal property. Therefore, the National Zoo Police are agents of the Federal government. Please note that violations of the law on this property are considered a federal offense and could be handled at the Federal level with involvement from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the U.S. Federal Marshall's Office.

*Please note the letter of acknowledgment on page 20. This letter is to ensure that those residing at SCBI/SMSC are aware and understand that the site is located on federal property and thus falls under the jurisdiction of the federal government. Upon your arrival to SMSC for move-in please ensure that a copy of the acknowledgment letter is signed and turned into the Residence Hall staff.

A. Alcohol and drugs

No hard liquor or illegal drugs are allowed within the complex. Drunkenness or underage drinking is grounds for dismissal. It is expected that you will conduct yourselves professionally while in residence at the Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation (SMSC). Keep in mind that you may want a letter of recommendation from SMSC staff or faculty following this program. Wine and beer are permitted in moderation for those of legal age. Alcohol is only allowed in student and guest rooms, no alcohol is permitted in public spaces, i.e. lounges, lobby, etc.

B. Conduct and academic honor code

Conduct: The Mason Judicial code can be found here: <http://studentconduct.onmason.com/university-policies/code-of-student-conduct/>. The handbook for residential student living can be found at <http://housing.gmu.edu>. In addition, you will be briefed on appropriate conduct for living and working on a Smithsonian campus. There will be areas where students are not permitted access without authorization, so please ask if you are ever unsure.

Honor Code: The Mason Honor Code can be found here: <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>

Students will be held to the highest standards of academic integrity. Please ask if you are ever unsure about standards.

C. Dress code

Closed toe shoes are required during field/lab work. While casual dress is fine most of the time, you will need to bring “business casual” clothes for special events.

D. Firearms

Firearms: Firearms of any kind are not permitted anywhere at SCBI. This includes paint ball guns, pellet guns, and other devices that fire a projectile.

E. IDs

IDs: Students will be required to have both a Smithsonian and Mason ID. The Mason ID is necessary for meals and access to the Residence Hall and individual rooms. The Smithsonian ID must be carried with you at SCBI whenever you are on site at the Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation and will be your pass to get onto the property through the gatehouse. The Smithsonian ID must be returned at the end of the semester, this is a federal requirement.

F. Pets

Pets: No pets of *any kind* are permitted in the Residence Hall at the Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation. Additionally, guests are not permitted to bring pets onto the grounds of the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute for the safety of the rare species at SCBI. This also includes brief periods like student move-in.

G. Photographs

Photographs: Any pictures of animals that you take in the context of your Practicum, especially those that are individually identifiable or where a Smithsonian employee is in the picture, must be approved by your supervisor before they are published online (e.g. Facebook.)

H. Smoking

The Smithsonian Institution has a no-smoking policy. However, since SCBI is a residential facility, special accommodations have been made. Smoking is not permitted in and around ANY animal facility. Smoke only in areas that are designated, and have official receptacles for cigarette butts. Cigarette butts go in designated containers, not on the ground. Designated smoking areas are located in only a few locations. Within the main SMSC buildings, smoking is only allowed around the Residence Hall and must be at least 25 feet from the building.

I. Transportation and vehicles

University vans will be provided for field trips and transporting students to official activities on and off-campus. Drivers of University vehicles must pass the Mason Van Driver safety course. Seatbelts must be worn at all times. Please observe all posted speed limits and signs.

Bus service (Front Royal Area Transit-FRAT) is limited to the Town of Front Royal. The FRAT schedule is available at: http://www.frontroyalva.com/2008/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=96&Itemid=115

Taxi service is available from: Yellow Cab of Shenandoah (540) 622-6060.

J. Weather Cancellations

Students should come prepared for all weather conditions. Note that weather related cancellations at other Mason campuses do not necessarily impact Front Royal. Should inclement weather have an impact on academic related events, students will be notified in a timely manner of class cancellations by SMSC faculty and staff. Any questions or concerns should be addressed with the faculty and the Community Director. Please sign-up for Mason Alerts at <https://ready.gmu.edu/masonalert/> to receive emergency and weather related warnings sent to your email account and cell phone.

SECTION 6: STUDENT RESOURCES

A. Disability Student Services

Students with disabilities should register with Mason's Office of Disability Services in SUB I at the Fairfax Campus (703-993-2474, ods@gmu.edu) in order to assist with accommodations and other services. Please advise the faculty/staff of any accommodation(s) you require. We are committed to principles of accessibility!

B. Health Care and Psychological Services

Health Care and Psychological Services:

Students can take advantage of student health services, counseling and psychological services at Mason's Fairfax Campus or Prince William Campus. (Health services are available Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday at Prince William during the fall and spring semester.) There is no charge for the visit, although there are minimal fees for lab tests, medications and supplies. See <http://shs.gmu.edu/insurance/>. The Student Health Services website is as follows: <http://shs.gmu.edu/>.

C. Internet

Students have access to high speed internet in individual rooms. Both wired and wireless access is available. Wireless access is available in all areas of the Residence Hall. When accessing the wireless internet use the *masonresnet* network. Please use your George Mason credentials when logging onto the internet in the Residence Hall. A different wireless username and password is needed to access the internet in the Academic Building, this information will be given to you upon your arrival. Students will also have access to a computer lab with printer in the Academic Building as well as access to a color printer in the Multipurpose Room located just off the Residence Hall lobby.

D. Safety equipment and training

Lab Safety: Students will be provided with protective gear for lab work, including gloves, approved mask, lab coat, and will receive training in emergency procedures. Please, no food or drink in any of the lab spaces.

Safety: Student safety and welfare is our highest priority. Students will be briefed on safety procedures prior to laboratory activities.

E. Library

Articles will be placed on “e-reserves” through the Mason Library. Additionally, students will have access to full text journals through the Mason and Smithsonian Library Systems.

F. Photocopy machine/scanner

A photocopy/scanner machine will be available for use in the Residence Hall front desk area.

G. Writing Center

Writing Center: <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>

SECTION 7: OUT AND ABOUT IN OUR COMMUNITY

Front Royal, VA is a small town at the northern entrance of the Shenandoah National Park. In addition to the park, attractions include several restaurants, Skyline Caverns, access to the Shenandoah River, a small movie theatre, bowling alley, and a historic Main Street.

The climate in Front Royal has four defined seasons. There is a pleasant and cool spring with lots of rain; summer is known for being hot and humid with frequent thunderstorms; the fall is spectacular with cool, colorful days and intermittent rain; and the winter does see some snow which often melts between events. Winter temperatures range from the 20s to 40s Fahrenheit, while summer high temperatures are in the 80s and 90s.

A. Community information

For visitor Information: <http://discoverfrontroyal.com/>

The Town of Front Royal: <http://www.frontroyalva.com/>

The Front Royal Chamber of Commerce: <http://www.frontroyalchamber.com>

B. Grocery Stores

Food Lion: 260 Remount Road, turn right out of SCBI, go 1.9 miles, it's on the right.

Martin's: 409 South St. turn right out of SCBI, go 1.9 miles, turn left at the light, it's in the shopping center on left. (Includes a pharmacy.)

Farmer's market: Saturdays: 9am - 1pm, Warren County Government Center at 220 N Commerce Ave # 900 Front Royal, VA 22630 next to the Front Royal Post Office.

Better Thymes: 417 South Street (same shopping center as Martin's)

C. Pharmacies

CVS, 352 Remount Road, Front Royal

Martin's, 409 South Street, Front Royal

Rite Aid, 800 John Marshall Highway, Front Royal

D. Public Transportation

For public transit (Front Royal Area Transit):

http://www.frontroyalva.com/2008/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=95&Itemid=114

E. Recreation Opportunities in the Front Royal Area

There is an excellent visitor center located in the historic main street district of Front Royal (414 East Main Street, Front Royal – 540-635-5788, <http://www.discoverfrontroyal.com/>). Students wishing to explore the region may want to make this a first stop for information on local recreation, shopping, restaurants, music, library, etc.

Bowling: <http://www.royalfamilybowl.com/> 430 Remount Rd. Front Royal, VA 22630

Skiing: <http://www.massresort.com/>

Caverns: <http://www.skylinecaverns.com/> <http://www.luraycaverns.com>

Horseback riding (trail): Marriott Ranch Stables, 5305 Marriott Ln., [Hume](http://www.hume.com), VA 22639 (540) 364-3741

Canoeing: <http://www.frontroyalcanoe.com> (540) 635-5440

Hiking and Biking Trails: <http://www.trails.com/city-trails.aspx?keyword=Front+Royal&state=VA>

Shenandoah National Park: <http://www.visitshenandoah.com/>

George Washington National Forest: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj/>

Shenandoah River State Park: <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/shenandoah-river.shtml>

Visitors Guide: <http://www.discoverfrontroyal.com/>

F. Restaurants in Front Royal - (For more, visit: <http://www.discoverfrontroyal.com>)

Listed are a few of the restaurants available in Front Royal, but more are arriving all the time.

Element

206 South Royal Avenue (540)636-9293

Café for lunch; Bistro for dinner

“The endless creativity of Chefs David & Stacy Gedney of Apartment 2G produced Element, a menu of delicious dishes enveloped by a comfortable and modern atmosphere. Sandwiches, salads, and soups brand the lunch menu (served 11-3pm Monday-Saturday), with an ever-changing Bistro menu for dinner (5-9pm Tuesday-Saturday). Element also includes a full bar, with four beers on tap, and an extensive wine list.”

Directions:

* Start at **1500 REMOUNT RD, FRONT ROYAL** turn right onto 522. Go **1.9m**

* Turn Left on **SOUTH ST (VA-55)**. Go **0.5** mi

* Turn Right on **S ROYAL AVE (US-340)**. Go **0.3** mi

* Arrive at **206 S ROYAL AVE, FRONT ROYAL**, on the Right

The Apple House

4675 John Marshall Highway, Linden

Since 1963. Offering breakfast, lunch and dinner. Open 7 days a week.

Directions:

* Start at **1500 REMOUNT RD, FRONT ROYAL** turn right onto 522. Go **1.9** mi

* Turn Right on **JOHN MARSHALL HWY (VA-55)**. Go **4.7** mi

* Arrive at **4675 JOHN MARSHALL HWY, LINDEN**, on the Left

Lucky Star Lounge

205 East Main Street

Open 7 days a week offering the tastiest lunches and daily lunch specials created by our culinary team. Entertainment nightly

540-636-6329

800-462-1867

540-635-5297

Directions:

- * Start at **1500 REMOUNT RD, FRONT ROYAL** turn right onto 522. Go **1.9** mi
- * Turn Left on **SOUTH ST (VA-55)**. Go **0.30.5** mi
- * Turn Right on **CLOUD ST**. Go **0.40.7** mi
- * Turn Left on **E MAIN ST**. Go **< 0.1 < 0.1** mi
- * Arrive at **205 E MAIN ST, FRONT ROYAL**, on the Left

[Spelunker's Frozen Custard and Cavern Burgers](#)

540-631-0300

116 South Street

Offering specialized cooking while you wait. Dine in, carry out or drive thru. Open 7 days a week. Please visit the website for an extensive menu

Directions:

- * Start at **1500 REMOUNT RD, FRONT ROYAL**. Turn right onto 522. Go **1.9** mi
- * Turn Left on **SOUTH ST (VA-55)**. Go **0.40.7** mi
- * Arrive at **116 SOUTH ST, FRONT ROYAL**, on the Right

Section 8: Other Resources

A. Emergency Contact Information

In the event of a true emergency, call 911.

Give your address as 1500 Remount Road, Front Royal and name the closest building to you. If possible, notify Smithsonian's National Zoological Police (information below), a Residence Life staff member and faculty.

The National Zoological Police station is across from the Administration Building. For non-emergency related issues you can contact a residence life staff member. A staff member from the residence life team is always on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, the contact number for the Residence Life staff duty phone is 571-305-0055. Students will be provided with an emergency call list upon their arrival to the facility.

The Resident Advisors can assist in some emergencies until first responders arrive.

B. Security

The National Zoo Police (NZP) is located here on site and they do regular patrols of the property. In the event that you need to contact someone from NZP please call 540-635-6585 or 540-635-6592. There are also Security Officers who are on site 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. On Monday-Friday from 8am-4pm they are stationed at the NZP police station, outside of these hours they are stationed at the Residence Hall front desk.

C. First Aid

First Aid: First aid boxes are located in the vans and at the front desk area in the Residence Hall. Please see the front desk staff or call the Residence Life staff member on duty. A defibrillator is located in several areas on the site, and will be identified upon move-in.

D. Local Hospital and Urgent Care Center

Valley Health has two facilities in Front Royal that can provide care for more serious illnesses and offers psychological support services.

Hospital:

Warren Memorial Hospital
1000 N Shenandoah Ave Front Royal, VA 22630; 540.636.0300

Urgent Care:

Valley Health Urgent Care (<http://www.valleyhealthlink.com>)
120 N. Commerce Ave, suite 102. (WMH Outpatient Services)
Front Royal, AV 22630
(540) 635-0700

There are other hospitals and urgent care facilities available in Winchester and Warrenton.

E. Student Health Services

Student Health Services: <http://shs.gmu.edu/>

Fairfax: 703-993-2831, 214 SUB I
Prince William Campus: 703-993-8374, 226 Occoquan

F. Counseling and Psychological Services

Counseling and Psychological Services: 703-993-2380, Room 3129 SUB I, Fairfax Campus

G. Office of Disability services

Office of Disability Services: 703-993-2474, Room 4205 SUB I, Fairfax Campus (ods@gmu.edu).



Letter of Acknowledgement

I, _____ have received and read the Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation (SMSC) Student Resource Manual. I understand its contents and I have been given the opportunity to ask any questions and address any concerns that I may have. I understand that SMSC resides on Federal property and that I will be held to the standards set by the Federal government.

Name

Signature

Date