

Call for Applications Dean's Challenge Scholarship for Graduate Students

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences seeks applications for the Dean's Challenge Scholarships for 2021. The Dean's Challenge Scholarship is awarded to recognize exceptional students not only in their superior academic achievement but in their inspirational civic and community engagement.

Graduate applicants must have demonstrated academic excellence, a commitment to education as a powerful tool for change, and recognized commitment to leadership and community engagement.

One \$1,000 award for MA/MS/MFA/MPS students and one \$3,000 award for doctoral students will be granted.

Award recipients will be announced in early May. All nominees will be profiled on the CHSS website. The complete nomination application must be submitted **before 5 p.m. on Friday, April 23rd, 2021** via the George Mason University Academic Works system https://gmu.academicworks.com/users/sign_in

Students will access the online Mason Scholarship Application using their Patriot Pass login credentials (NetID username and password). Award recipients will be profiled with their bios and photos on CHSS website. Questions about the nomination process can be directed to chssgrad@gmu.edu.

To be eligible, students must:

- Be enrolled in a master's or doctoral program in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Master's applicants: must have at least 18 earned credit hours of coursework at George Mason at the end of the spring 2021 semester
- Doctoral applicants: must have advanced to candidacy and be enrolled in the current graduate degree program at George Mason during the fall 2021 semester
- Have a 3.7 GPA
- Have an exceptional record of intellectual engagement in the discipline and a record of leadership with the campus, community, and the profession.

The application should consist of:

- 1) A current copy of the student's unofficial George Mason transcript
- 2) A résumé, including descriptions and dates of employment, extracurricular activities, volunteer activities, and any other academically relevant experiences
- 3) A letter of reference from a faculty mentor
- 4) A written statement (no more than 3 single spaced pages in total) addressing how the applicant has excelled in the following areas. The questions are given to suggest the kinds of evidence the selection committee will be looking for and help you structure your answer.
 - Scholarship and commitment to learning (one paragraph)
 - In what ways have you challenged yourself through research or other academic opportunities?
 - How have you pursued academic challenges beyond the required curriculum?
 - How have you contributed to the intellectual community at George Mason?
 - How has the experience of advanced study changed you as a person or prepared you for your future?
 - Service to the campus and community (one paragraph)
 - In what ways have you enriched Mason and/or the surrounding community?
 - How have you served as an ambassador for the university to local, national, or international constituents?
 - Leadership (one paragraph)
 - In what ways have you been recognized or served as a future leader or scholar in your academic field or community?