



L-Università ta' Malta
Centre for the Study &
Practice of Conflict Resolution



JIMMY AND ROSALYNN
CARTER SCHOOL FOR PEACE
AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION
George Mason University®

DUAL MASTER'S DEGREE IN

Conflict Resolution and Mediterranean Security

GETTING STARTED

2024/2025



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Welcome

The Centre for the Study and Practice of Conflict Resolution (CSPCR), University of Malta (UM), and the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution, George Mason University (GMU), welcome you to the Dual Master's Degree in Conflict Resolution and Mediterranean Security (CRAMS). This handbook is intended to support you in your move to Malta and during your studies with the program. We encourage you to familiarize yourself with its contents.

Section 1

MALTA, PARTNER INSTITUTIONS, AND THE DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM

Section 1 begins with an overview of the island of Malta, UM, CSPCR, Mason, Carter School, and CRAMS.

Section 1.1: Getting Started and Moving to Malta

Section 2 lists steps that you should complete prior to your arrival in Malta. Also provided is information related to health insurance, tips and resources to assist you in finding a place to live in Malta, and information about the e-Residence card for foreign students.

Section 1.2: Financial Affairs

Section 3 discusses key financial parameters of the CRAMS Program including tuition payments, information on financial aid for US students, and a breakdown of the estimated cost of attendance for the academic year 2024–2025.

Section 1.3: Academic Affairs

Section 4 contains information about the academic portion of the program. Content includes information on students' registration, the structure of classes, the Program's schedule (along with a list of classes and the names of the instructors), and the Program's thesis guidelines including important processes, dates, and deadlines. This section also introduces the Program's faculty by providing short bios and contact information.

Section 1.4: Student Services

Section 5 offers links to services offered to students by the two partner institutions, such as Writing Centres, Library Resources, IT services, and more.

Section 1.5: Additional Resources

Section 6 contains web links that provide information about living in Malta, including everyday issues like transportation, cost of living, attractions, and emergency numbers.

We hope that you will have a productive academic experience in the Dual Degree Program in Conflict Resolution and Mediterranean Security, and we look forward to working with you this year!

Section 1.6: Malta, Partner Institutions, and the Dual Degree Program

The Island Country of Malta

Malta and its sister island Gozo stand at the crossroads of the Mediterranean thoroughfares and have long been a dynamic open space for social and multi-cultural exchanges. Being an EU member since 2004, but also traditionally maintaining close relations with N. African countries, Malta serves as a natural bridge between the two regions and a hub for interregional political, educational, financial, and cultural initiatives. Its unique geographical position, its long colonial experience, and the composite nature of its history and character have all made Malta an ideal habitat not only for individuals interested in conflict resolution, but for anyone interested in following on-going discussions on issues of regional and global concern. Migration and population movements, questions of cultural and social integration of migrant populations, intercultural and interreligious dialogue, and responses to terrorism and regional security are issues that occupy a central place in the discourse and praxis of key actors in the country, ranging from the Maltese government and its agencies to a plethora of international and non-governmental organizations that are active in the country. Malta offers an ideal environment for educational institutions interested in generating and disseminating knowledge on issues pertaining to the above areas through systematic research and engagement with legal, regional, and international participants.

The University of Malta

The University of Malta is the highest academic institution in Malta. It is publicly funded and open to all who have the requisite qualifications. Conscious of its public role, the university strives to create courses that are relevant and timely in response to meet the infrastructural and industrial needs of the country. Some 11,500 students, including over 750 international students from 82 different countries, are following full-time or part-time degree and diploma courses. Approximately 3,000 students graduate annually, in various disciplines. The degree courses at the University are designed to produce highly qualified professionals, with research experience who will play key roles in industry, commerce, and public affairs.

The Dual Degree Program in CRAMS is hosted at the University of Malta's [Valletta Campus](#), at the Old University Building, which dates back to the founding of the Collegium Melitense in 1592.

The Centre for the Study and Practice of Conflict Resolution (CSPCR)

The CSPCR was established recently within the University of Malta with a view to engage in conflict resolution and practice. The establishment of the Centre built on the existing partnership between the University of Malta and George Mason University. Since its establishment it has engaged in research, practice, and teaching within the field of conflict resolution. The main areas of interest of the CSPCR are conflict resolution practice, human rights and conflict, justice, and conflict as well as migration.

The Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution (the Carter School)

The Carter School at George Mason University is a widely recognized pioneer and leader in the field of conflict analysis and resolution. At the Carter School our community of faculty, students, staff alumni, and partners is committed to providing a deeper understanding of deep-rooted social, political, and cultural conflicts so that more effective methods of resolving them can be developed and implemented. The Carter School is an innovative academic resource for people and institutions worldwide. The Carter School is a Virginia Commonwealth Center for Excellence, recognized for its leadership in the field and its world-renowned faculty.

The Carter School is committed to:

- ▶ Advancing the understanding of deeply rooted conflicts between individuals, groups, organizations, and communities in the United States and all over the world through research, teaching, practice, and outreach
- ▶ Carrying on a systematic and ongoing study of the nature, origins, and types of social conflicts
- ▶ Developing the requisite processes and conditions for productive resolution of conflicts

The Dual Degree in Conflict Resolution and Mediterranean Security

This dual degree program offers a comprehensive study of a wide variety of conflict types and prepares students for research and intervention that can mitigate, resolve, and potentially prevent destructive social conflicts. The Carter School and CSPCR provide the teaching faculty. The main objective of this program is to provide students with an array of theoretical and practical tools that will enable them to deal effectively with conflicts from the interpersonal to the international level. The program also emphasizes the Mediterranean context as an area where these skills are particularly useful. Finally, the program seeks to achieve a wider exchange of cultural viewpoints, networks, and experiences and at the same time provide students with global employment opportunities.

Section 2

GETTING STARTED AND MOVING TO MALTA

Section 2.1: What I need to Do/Know prior to my arrival in Malta

All students should complete these steps prior to your arrival in Malta.

THE CARTER SCHOOL CHECKLIST

› Pre-Arrival Advising Appointment

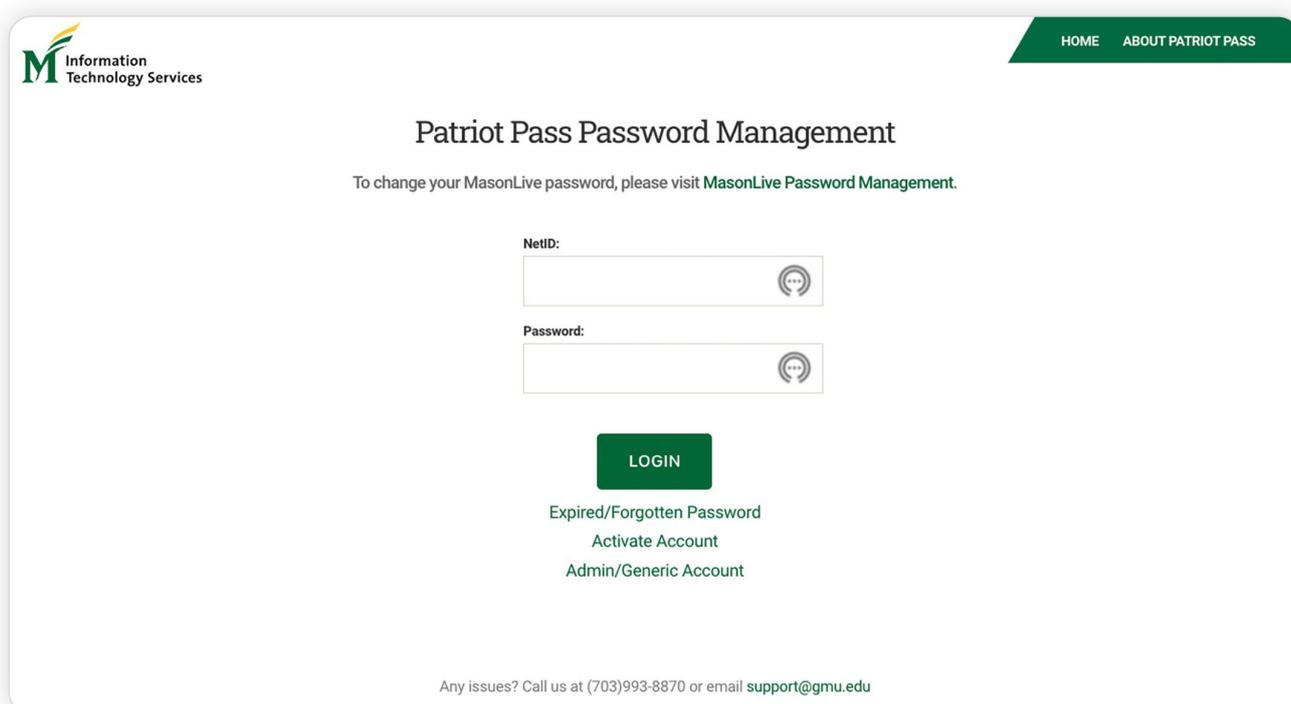
Prior to arrival in Malta, incoming students are encouraged to make an appointment with [Charisse Cardenas](#) (The Director of Student Services). Appointments may take place either in person, via Skype, or by telephone. Please, contact Charisse (tcsadvi@gmu.edu) at your earliest convenience.

› Set up your Patriot Pass Account

The Patriot Web is George Mason University's self-service platform that you can use to gain access to and manage personal information and academic records, order transcripts, and view your student account and financial aid information.

Setting Up Your Account: Access the Patriot Pass system to claim your username/NetID using the "[How To Set Up Your Patriot Pass](#)" instructions.

Select option #1 'Activate your Patriot Pass Account' (see pic. below). On the following page you will be asked to enter your G Number and a Claim Code. Your G number has been sent along with your admissions email. Your Claim Code is your birthdate in the following format: MMDDYY (Example: February 13, 1989 is 021389)



The screenshot shows the Patriot Pass Password Management page. At the top left is the logo for Information Technology Services. At the top right are links for HOME and ABOUT PATRIOT PASS. The main heading is "Patriot Pass Password Management". Below this is a sub-heading: "To change your MasonLive password, please visit [MasonLive Password Management](#)." There are two input fields: "NetID:" and "Password:". Each field has a small icon to its right. Below the input fields is a green "LOGIN" button. Underneath the button are three links: "Expired/Forgotten Password", "Activate Account", and "Admin/Generic Account". At the bottom of the page, there is a footer: "Any issues? Call us at (703)993-8870 or email support@gmu.edu".

➤ **Create your George Mason University (GMU) email address**

Once your Patriot Pass account is activated, you can create your Mason student email account. Please follow the 1st Login Instructions to get started.

IMPORTANT: Please note that once your Mason Student Email Account is created, all official communications from the university will be sent to you on this account. You will NOT be able to opt-out of receiving messages from the university through your Mason student email account. Your Mason student email will be your primary email account while you attend Mason to receive updates from the university, communicate with your professors, participate in student involvement activities, etc.

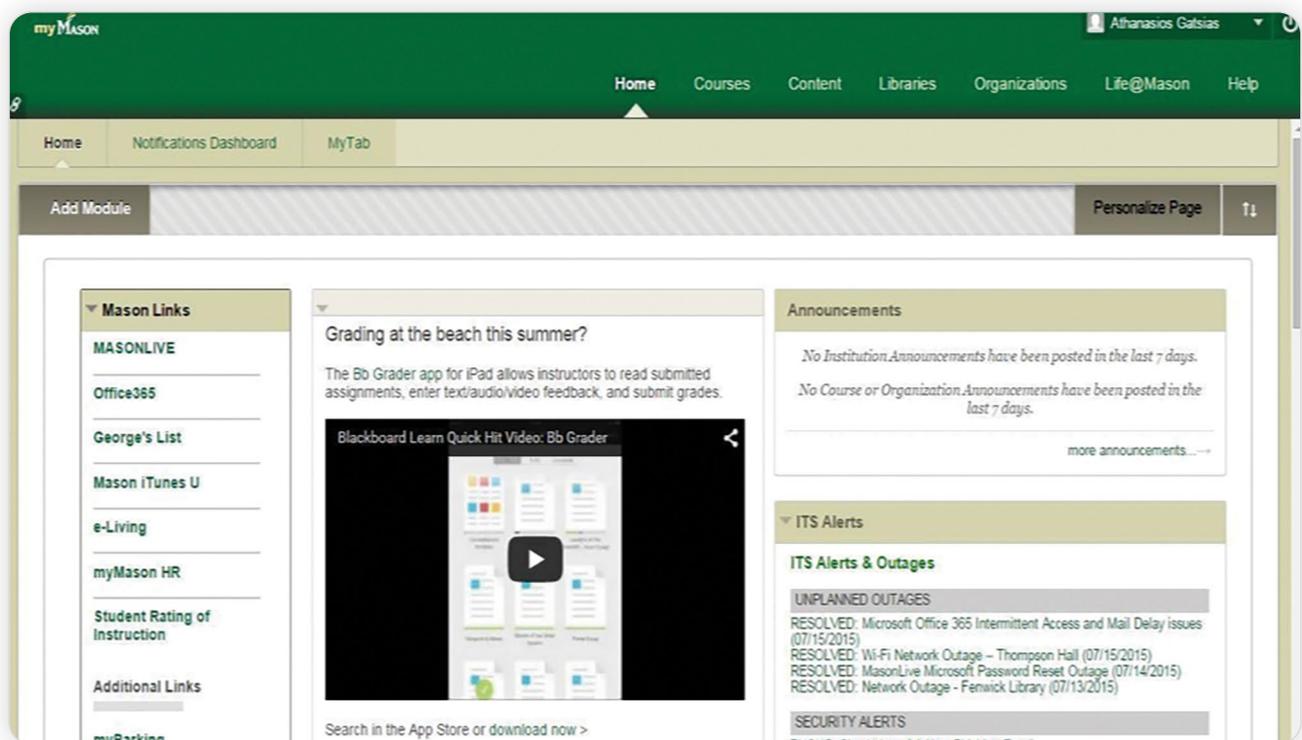
1st Login Instructions:

<https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/how-to-log-in-to-office-365-email-for-the-first-time/>

➤ **GMU My Mason Portal (Blackboard)**

This platform will be used to communicate key information about your classes with the Carter School professors (such as syllabi and course content/readings). Access Blackboard through the following weblink: mymasonportal.gmu.edu. Please familiarize yourself with the My Mason Portal; you will be using it for your Carter School courses.

My Mason Portal Home Page



THE UNIVERSITY OF MALTA CHECKLIST

› University of Malta IT Account

Upon receiving your acceptance letter from the University of Malta, activate your UM IT Account. Instructions on how to activate your account can be found at the [Activate UM IT Account](#) webpage or in this [step-by-step instruction video](#). Use your username and password to get access to the University of Malta's Wi-Fi. If you have not received your UM IT Account credentials together with your admission letter, kindly contact Zuzana Farrugia at zuzana.farrugia@um.edu.mt.

› University of Malta Email

Once you set up your University of Malta IT Account you will be able to access your UM email. You can find instructions on the [Sign in to UM IT Account](#) webpage.

› The eSIMS Platform

e-SIMS stands for electronic Student Information Management System. Use this portal to view information regarding your course of studies, academic records, and other related information. The e-SIMS platform performs similar functions as the Mason Patriot Web. More information on e-SIMS can be found at the [eSIMS Frequently Asked Questions](#) webpage.

› My UM App and Student Card

The official University of Malta app is available for Android and iOS devices and contains a lot of features that you may find useful throughout your studies such as access to eSIMS, Results notification or Key information about the University services. Through the app you can also access your UM Student Card and present it to benefit from discounts or special offers at the museums, private establishments or various service providers that offer student benefits. More information can be found at the [My UM app website](#).

PLEASE NOTE: *Your UM Username and Password are different from your GMU Username and Password. Your UM Student Number (reference number on your admission letter) is different from your GMU G Number.*

GENERAL CHECKLIST

The following are additional steps that will prepare you for the Dual Degree Program:

- › Look at general tourist information: <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/malta>
A brief history of Malta: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malta>
A more in depth history: <http://www.amazon.com/Concise-History-Malta-Carmel-Cassar/dp/1870579526>
- › Look through the Maltese newspapers and follow the news on the island: [Times of Malta](#); [The Malta Independent](#); [Malta Today](#) Interested in fiction about Malta: <http://www.amazon.com/The-Kappillan-Malta-Nicholas-Monsarrat/dp/0304358444>
- › Take a look at the following webpages and familiarize yourselves with key issues, concepts and discussions related to the field of Conflict Resolution: [Beyond Intractability](#) (especially the 'essays' section), [Mediate.com](#), and the [Peace and Collaborative Development Network](#). An introductory source for the field is [The Contemporary Conflict Resolution Reader](#) by Miall, Ramsbotham, Woodhouse and Mitchell.
- › Identify books and resources that will help you throughout the program in writing essays, final papers, and research projects. Suggested readings may include: [A Manual for Writers](#) by Kate Turabian, [Models for Writers](#) by Alfred Rosa and Paul Eschholz, and [Keys to Great Writing](#) by Stephen Wilbers.
- › Prior to the commencement of the course you are encouraged to read some of the following publications recommended by faculty:

Oliver Ramsbotham, et al: *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*. Polity, 4th Edition, 2016 (Chapters 1–10 (Part I of the book)) It is recommended that you start with this book.

Bernard Mayer: *Dynamics of Conflict*. Jossey-Bass, 2nd Edition, 2012 (the first half of the book)

Sandra Cheldelin et al: *Conflict: From Analysis to Intervention*. Continuum, 2nd Edition, 2008

Peace Oriented Books:

John Paul Lederach: *The Little Book of Conflict Transformation*. Good Books, 2003

Johan Galtung: *Peace by Peaceful Means*. SAGE Publications Ltd, 1996

Richard E. Rubenstein: *Resolving Structural Conflicts: How Violent Systems Can Be Transformed*. Routledge, 2017

Susan F. Hirsch: *In the Moment of Greatest Calamity: Terrorism, Grief, and a Victim's Quest for Justice*. Princeton, 2006

Section 2.2: Health Insurance

Malta enjoys a high standard of living and its health care facilities are excellent. Costs for private medical treatment are significantly lower than in other European countries and the US. International students from non-EU member states who are registered with the University are entitled to free treatment at Malta's state hospitals and health centers only in case of emergency. Students are required to purchase a personal health insurance for the duration of their stay in Malta*. The University's International & EU Office can provide information on insurance providers in Malta. You are advised to contact the Office prior to your arrival.

PLEASE NOTE: If you suffer from any chronic health condition that requires regular medication, be sure to bring sufficient supplies of your prescribed medicines with you. Bring your doctor's prescription with you just in case you are asked to show proof as to why you are in possession of your medicines. You should consult with your physician to identify the European equivalent of your medicine so that they may be prescribed locally. Mailing prescription drugs to Malta is difficult and not advised. In Malta most medicines require a physician's authorization in order to be purchased from pharmacies or drug stores. If you wear glasses or contact lenses, bring your optician's prescription with you.

Private Health Care

Students seeking medical services at Private hospitals & clinics will be charged and expected to pay for services rendered.

* As part of your application for e-Residence card you will be asked to provide proof of Health Insurance coverage for the total duration of your stay in Malta (for more info on the e-Residence card, please see section 2.4).

Section 2.3: Housing

You have several options when looking for a place to live during your stay in Malta. Students often share private apartments with 2-3 roommates, either from the CRAMS program or from the UM's international programs in general. In your search for an apartment, you can consult with local real estate agents or get in touch with the owners directly. There are a number of webpages to use when searching for an apartment. Examples include Maltapark (under Property Tab, Long Lets) and Just Landed. Facebook groups might be also very helpful when searching for accommodation or new flat mates (for instance Direct From Owner (Properties in Malta)).

Depending on the location and a type of property, prices for a private room in a sharing flat vary between 500 and 600€ per month whereas to rent a whole apartment one needs a budget of 900 – 1400€ monthly.

If you prefer staying in a student housing complex, you may wish to check options at a newly built Campus Hub situated just outside the main University Campus in Msida. Besides accommodation, Campus Hub also offers student community amenities, food and retails outlets, etc. Please be reminded, that **your lectures will be held on another campus located in Valletta**. However, in front of the complex there are several bus stops from where you can take one of the buses going to Valletta (the trip takes up to 15 minutes). More information about Campus Hub including prices can be viewed at <http://campushubmalta.com/> or <https://maltauniversityaccommodation.com/>.

Apartments may not look the same as the pictures posted online. For this reason, students are encouraged to rent an apartment AFTER their arrival in Malta. This will allow you to check in person the apartment you are interested in, prior to making any commitments. Our advice would be to spend your first 3-4 days in Malta in a hotel, or at the University Residence, while you look for an apartment. Some useful information for tenants are available on the following website:

<http://www.maltatenantsupport.com/blog/checklist-of-things-to-know-before-renting-in-malta>.

In case you have accommodation-related questions, feel free to contact International Office (international@um.edu.mt) or Zuzana Farrugia (zuzana.farrugia@um.edu.mt).

Section 2.4: Visa and Residency in Malta

This section answers a number of questions you may have in regards to entry requirements and residency in Malta

Do I need a visa prior to coming to Malta?

As from March 2024, all non-EU nationals, including those hailing from countries that normally enjoy a 90-day visa waiver, are required to apply for a Long-Stay Visa if their study period in Malta is longer than 3 months.

Please familiarize yourself with the necessary procedures for studying abroad through the International Office website which provides comprehensive guidance on the Long-Stay Student Visa (D-Visa) application procedure and the Visa Extended Service application process. You can access this valuable resource at um.edu.mt/international/students/visas/

It is advised that you get in touch with the UM International Office (international@um.edu.mt) to start off your visa process as soon as you receive your unconditional letter of acceptance.

What is a residence permit and why do I need it?

This permit is an e-Residence card and serves the dual purpose of a residence permit and an identification document. All international students who stay in Malta for more than 90 days are required to have it.

When should I apply for the residence permit?

After your arrival in Malta and your registration at the University you can apply for an e-Residence card. This will be explained during the orientation session.

What does the application process look like and what documents do I need to submit with my application?

Detailed instruction and access to the e-Residence Documents from the University of Malta International and EU Office can be found at the following website:
<https://www.um.edu.mt/international/students/visas/>.

› STEP 1: Medical Test (if applicable)

Students who are nationals of the following World Health Organization (WHO) list of countries have to present a health test conducted in Malta within 15 days of their arrival. The list will be revised again by WHO in 2025. US/Canadian students and other nationals of countries that are not on the WHO list are currently (2024) exempted from taking the Chest X-Ray. Students who are in possession of a European residence permit are also exempted from taking this test.

› STEP 2: Preparing the needed documents

You will need to prepare the following documents:

- a) Letter from the educational establishment. This is the 'Endorsement Letter', which will be issued from the International & EU Office at the University of Malta. Upon your arrival and registration you will need to fill in and submit to the University of Malta an 'Application for Endorsement Letter for e-Residence Document'.
- b) Original and copy of passport (all passport pages are to be photocopied)
- c) Original and copy declaring proof of sufficient financial means of subsistence. Currently, 'sufficient financial means of subsistence' have been estimated at 854€/month. Students receiving financial aid can use their financial aid documents to prove that they have sufficient funds. **Please note: statements need to be official (not downloaded from internet). Bank statements must be signed by the Bank Director.** When foreign bank statements are presented, the applicant must provide at least a withdrawal chit to show that the bank account is actually accessible. A copy of the credit/debit card showing the corresponding bank account on the bank statement, is also required. If the bank account is held in another currency, the applicant must show the equivalent amount in Euro. (An Internet currency conversion in English will do)
- d) Original and copy of the rental agreement, showing the name of the applicant, date of expiry and a copy of the Rental Declaration Form completed by the applicant and the owner of the property.
- e) A Housing Authority approval letter. The tenant must request this letter from the landlord when signing the rental agreement. If you decide to reside at the Campus Hub, the Housing Authority approval letter is waved.
- f) Proof of date of arrival in Malta (e-ticket, in the absence of the Malta Police Immigration Stamp on the passport)
- g) Original and copy of comprehensive health insurance (the policy should cover in-patient and day care hospital expenses, and also medical evacuation and repatriation) **showing name and surname of policy holder and coverage period.**
- h) Chest X-Ray Report (if applicable)
- i) Application Fee € 27.50 (to be paid online)

› **STEP 3: Online Submission of Documents**

- 1) Submit your application through this link: [Identity Malta Online Application](#). Instructions on how to fill in the 'Educational Establishment Details' section can be found at <https://www.um.edu.mt/international/students/visas/>.
- 2) Once Identity Malta has accepted your submission, you will then be asked to call in person for an appointment by the [Expatriates Unit at Identity Malta](#) to submit your original documents.

PLEASE NOTE: If a family member (spouse or child) will be accompanying you during your stay in Malta, please contact the respective [Malta Embassy or Consulate in your country](#) and the [UM International Office](#) beforehand so that they provide you with further details concerning eligibility and required additional documentation.

Section 3

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Section 3.1: Tuition Payments

University of Malta Tuition Payments

Tuition fees for the course are established in Euros (€) and amount to €14,500. Please, note that payment due dates are as follows:

€1,000	Deposit upon receipt of the acceptance letter
€5,150	Within 3 weeks of the commencement of the Program (by 14 October, 2024)
€5,450	By 15 January, 2025
€2,900	By 15 June, 2025

Payments of tuition fees due in October, January and June are to be effected by bank transfer through on of the bank accounts details of which can be found in your admission letter.

More information on UM's fee payment policy may be found in the University Fees Policy Guidelines at the following link:

https://www.um.edu.mt/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/431545/FeesPolicyGuidelinesJun24.pdf

Section 3.2: Financial Aid for US Students

Citizens of the US and permanent residents may be eligible for US Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

To determine eligibility, please complete the process outlined below:

- › Detailed information and instructions of this process can be found at <https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/financial-aid>
- › To apply for financial aid, US citizens and permanent residents should do the following:
 - › Complete the current year FAFSA application at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>
 - › First time applicants will need to create a pin at <https://pin.ed.gov>
 - › Students will need to provide their tax information to complete the FAFSA
 - › Check your email regularly for any requests from the Office of Student Financial Aid for additional documentation; failure to submit requested documents in a timely manner will delay processing of federal aid awards.

If you are offered a financial aid award, please follow the process below:

- › Check your email for a notification directing you to view and accept your financial aid offer at patriotweb.gmu.edu
- › If this is your first time borrowing federal loans at Mason, you will need to complete the Master Promissory Note and Entrance Loan Counseling for the unsubsidized Stafford loan at <http://www.studentloans.gov>
- › Students who select to borrow the PLUS loan in addition to the unsubsidized Stafford loan will also need to complete a PLUS request, entrance counseling session, and MPN at <http://www.studentloans.gov>

In order for the university to request your loan funding, students must satisfy all requirements on the disbursement checklist:

- › Registered full-time, or, have notified the OSFA of enrollment less than full-time but more than 4.5 credits (student registered for less than 4.5 credits are not eligible for federal aid).
- › Completed all necessary requirements at www.studentloans.gov for both loans, if accepted.
- › Accepted award offer on Patriotweb (you must select "accept" or "decline" for each loan- if any award is left in an offered status, it will delay processing).

Disbursement of funds:

- › Your loan(s) will be dispersed approximately 10 days prior to the beginning of each semester.
- › Your loan funding will go directly to your George Mason University student account.
- › Tuition is charged through the University of Malta and the Mason student accounts office will automatically refund the entire loan amount to you.
- › It is strongly suggested that you authorize a direct deposit, so that your refund will be sent directly to your bank account, which will make accessing the funds easier and faster.
- › You can sign up for direct deposit by completing the Direct Deposit Authorization Form found at the following link: <https://studentaccounts.gmu.edu/wp-content/uploads/DirectDeposit.pdf>
- › If you do not authorize direct deposit, the student accounts office will mail a check to the permanent address on file with the university.
- › For further financial aid information, please contact the financial aid counselor that corresponds with your last name: <https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/contact-us>

Financial Aid for Summer Sessions

Due to the unique scheduling of the Malta program the [Office of Student Financial Aid](#) will use a three-semester (one academic year) budget to maintain compliance with federal regulations governing student loans:

- › Students, who apply for financial aid by submitting the FAFSA application, or, securing a private loan, will receive loan funds up to their maximum Cost of Attendance for the year in which they intend to enroll in the Dual Degree Program.

US Federal Veteran Education Benefits

Students using US Federal Veteran Education Benefits should contact [the Office of Military Services](#) for information regarding the payment process.

Section 3.3: Dual Degree Program Cost of Attendance for the Academic Year 2024–2025

The Cost of Attendance is an estimate of the average costs of participating in the program for one year. The Cost of Attendance is also the maximum amount of financial aid that a student may receive.

Tuition and expenses will be paid in Euro's, the calculations here reflect an exchange rate of 1.07 Dollars per Euro.

	FALL 2024 OCT – JAN	SPRING 2025 FEB – JUNE	SUMMER 2025 JULY – OCT	13 MONTHS TOTALS
Tuition Fee	\$5,172	\$5,172	\$5,172	\$15,516
Housing	\$4,960	\$4,960	\$4,960	\$14,880
Meals	\$2,200	\$2,200	\$2,200	\$6,600
Books and Supplies	\$696	\$696	\$696	\$2,088
Transportation	\$192	\$192	\$192	\$576
Personal Expenses	\$1,638	\$1,638	\$1,638	\$4,914
Loan fees	\$314	\$314	\$314	\$942
Airfare	\$1,200	0	\$1,200	\$2,400
Total Per Semester	\$16,372	\$15,172	\$16,372	\$47,916

Tuition

According to the welcome letter you received from the University of Malta the tuition costs are assessed in multiple payments throughout the year for a total of €14,500 (\$15,516) A deposit is due to confirm enrollment and then payment dates are 14 October, 15 January, and 15 June.

Books and Supplies

Students buy books and supplies each month at an estimated cost of €150 for 13 months for a total of €1,950 or \$2,088.

Personal Expenses

Costs students typically incur are €60 for phone/wifi access, €190 for leisure activities, and €95 for clothes and laundry per month. Total of €4,485 or \$4,914 over 13 months.

Room and Board

Lodging is estimated at €1,158/\$1,240 per month. Meal costs are estimated at €514/\$550 per month for a total of €20,000 over 13 months, or, \$21,400.

Airfare

Airfare is estimated at \$1,200 one-way.

Transportation

Local transportation costs are estimated at \$576 which is about €40 per month.

Section 4

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Section 4.1: Registration

Students will register separately for courses taught by Mason and UM faculty. US students requesting financial aid will receive the 'Course Enrollment Forms' via email from Charisse Cardenas to register for the Mason courses prior to your arrival in Malta to ensure disbursement of your funds. Students will be notified by email with detailed instructions to register for the UM classes. Please be reminded, that as it is detailed in your admission letter, registration on the course will subject to verification of your qualifications. Therefore, **you are required to present original certificates/academic transcripts in Malta.**

Section 4.2: Draft Schedule & Academic Calendar

The Program Orientation will take place in the week of September 16, 2024.

Please note that Orientation is mandatory for all students.

Structure of classes

Classes are delivered in two-week blocks (Monday through Thursday) for 4 to 5 hours per day. Typical coursework and assignments include in-class presentations, short papers, group projects, final papers, take-home final exams, and in some cases exams in-class. Detailed information on readings, structure and assessment for each module including its schedule will be provided in a course syllabus that will be posted and circulated before the commencement of the class.

Below you will find a table with the tentative academic schedule for the year. Please note that there may be changes in the exact sequence of the study-units and the instructors teaching each study-unit.

Master of Arts in Conflict Resolution and Mediterranean Security

DRAFT TIMETABLE 2024/2025

SEMESTER 1

Students are expected to be in Malta by 16 September 2024 – orientation sessions will be held during that week.

WEEK	WEEK STARTING	COURSE	TENTATIVE FACULTY
Week 1	23 September 2024	DST5201/CONF600 Foundations of Conflict Analysis and Resolution I	Karina Korostelina
Week 2	30 September 2024	DST5202/CONF600 Foundations of Conflict Analysis and Resolution I	Karina Korostelina
Week 3	7 October 2024	DST5202/CONF600 Foundations of Conflict Analysis and Resolution II	Jeffrey Helsing
Week 4	14 October 2024	DST5202/CONF600 Foundations of Conflict Analysis and Resolution II	Jeffrey Helsing
Week 5	21 October 2024	DST5205 Negotiation	Constantinos Adamides
Week 6	28 October 2024	DST5205 Negotiation	Constantinos Adamides
Week 7	4 November 2024	DST5213 Human Rights and Conflict	Omar Grech
Week 8	11 November 2024	DST5213 Human Rights and Conflict	Omar Grech
Week 9	18 November 2024	DST5204/CONF657 Facilitation Skills	Margarita Tadevosyan
Week 10	25 November 2024	DST5204/CONF657 Facilitation Skills	Margarita Tadevosyan
Week 11	2 December 2024	DST5209 Economic Issues and Conflict	Derek Lutterbeck
Week 12	9 December 2024	DST5209 Economic Issues and Conflict	Derek Lutterbeck
Week 13	6 January 2025	DST5207 Euro-Mediterranean Dialogue	Stephen Calleya Lourdes Pullicino
Week 14	13 January 2025	DST5207 Euro-Mediterranean Dialogue	Stephen Calleya Lourdes Pullicino

CHRISTMAS BREAK commences on 16 December 2024

CLASSES resume on 6 January 2025

SEMESTER 2

WEEK	WEEK STARTING	COURSE	TENTATIVE FACULTY
Week 1	20 January 2025	SCR5219 Politics, Conflict and Violence	Alexandra Schaerrer
Week 2	27 January 2025	SCR5219 Politics, Conflict and Violence	Alexandra Schaerrer
Week 3	3 February 2025	SCR5218 Conflict, Representation and Cultural Politics	Karsten Xuereb
Week 4	10 February 2025	SCR5218 Conflict, Representation and Cultural Politics	Valentina Cassar
Week 5	17 February 2025	DST5217 Engaging Conflict	Gordon Sammut
Week 6	24 February 2025	DST5217 Engaging Conflict	Gordon Sammut
Week 7	3 March 2025	DST5212/CONF733 Legal and Political Systems and Conflict	Solon Simmons
Week 8	10 March 2025	DST5212/CONF733 Legal and Political Systems and Conflict	Solon Simmons
Week 9	17 March 2025	DST5215/CONF610 Conflict Inquiry	Mara Schoeny
Week 10	24 March 2025	DST5215/CONF610 Conflict Inquiry	Mara Schoeny
Week 11	31 March 2025	DST5208 Security Issues and Conflict	Lucy Paterson
Week 12	7 April 2025	DST5208 Security Issues and Conflict	Lucy Paterson
Week 13	28 April 2025	DST5214/CONF708 Ethnic and Cultural Factors in Conflict Resolution	Richard Rubenstein
Week 14	5 May 2025	DST5214/CONF708 Ethnic and Cultural Factors in Conflict Resolution	Richard Rubenstein
Week 15	12 May 2025	CONF653 World Religions, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution	Marc Gopin
Week 16	19 May 2025	CONF653 World Religions, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution	Marc Gopin

EASTER BREAK is in the two weeks starting 14 April 2025 until 27 April 2025

The University is closed on public holidays list of which can be retrieved from the following website:

<https://www.gov.mt/en/About%20Malta/Pages/Public%20Holidays.aspx>.

SEMESTER 3 (Summer 2025)

Semester 3 runs from 9 June through 26 September 2025. During this Semester, students are expected to work on and complete their thesis/independent study. Of course, the thesis writing process begins earlier in the program. For a detailed description of the process and a list of dates that apply, please see the following section (Section 4.3).

Section 4.3: Dissertation/Independent Study Guidelines

The dissertation carries 30 ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) credits according to the University of Malta credit system (this represents 1/3 of your entire credit value for the Master's program) and 6 credits of Independent Study for the George Mason University degree.

The length of the dissertation/IS should be in the range of 25,000 to 40,000 words. The word count includes footnotes but excludes appendices and bibliography. The dissertation/IS should be written in a scholarly manner and should be properly proof-read before submission for typographical and grammatical mistakes. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will be penalized accordingly. All sources used, whether directly or indirectly, should be acknowledged.

The dissertation/IS should examine a question related to one of your course modules. The Conflict Inquiry module shall familiarize you with research design and research methods.

After submitting your research question and title you will be assigned a supervisor who shall guide you in the preparation of your dissertation/IS. It is your responsibility to ensure you have regular interaction with your supervisor via meetings, e-mail communication or other electronic means. Before submitting your title, you may communicate with any faculty member for guidance, and you may also indicate your preferred supervisor when submitting the title. However, the final decision regarding the assignment of supervisors will be made jointly, by CSPCR and Carter School faculty.

The following dissertation/IS deadlines apply:

31 January 2025	Research question and tentative title
4 April 2025 <i>(approximate – may be revised)</i>	Submit full proposal and final dissertation title
8 August 2025	Submit first draft of the dissertation/IS to your supervisor
7 September 2025	Final dissertation/IS submission

Before submitting the work for examination, students shall upload the thesis on [VLE/Turnitin](#) to check for plagiarism and keep the digital receipt. All material (including Turnitin receipt) should finally be submitted electronically to this email address cspcr@um.edu.mt. The first draft of your dissertation/IS due on 8 August should also be submitted electronically to your supervisor.

Your **research question and tentative title** and **full proposal** are to be sent by email to cspcr@um.edu.mt.

The first draft of your dissertation/IS due on 8 August should also be submitted electronically to your supervisor.

Before submitting the **work for examination**, you shall upload the thesis on VLE/Turnitin to check for plagiarism and keep the digital receipt. All materials (including Turnitin receipt) should finally be submitted electronically to cspcr@um.edu.mt.

If there are any changes to the above dates, you will be informed via email by Ms Zuzana Farrugia. In the absence of any such communication these are the dates you need to abide by.

The **FINAL** deadline for dissertation/IS submission is 7 September 2025. Extensions will only be granted for health problems (verified by appropriate medical certification) or other emergency situations (verified by appropriate documentation). Requests for extensions must be submitted to the Board of Studies through Ms Zuzana Farrugia, at least 2 weeks prior to the submission deadline. You should consult with your supervisor prior to requesting an extension.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

University of Malta

As soon as the title of thesis and supervisor are approved, students are required to fill in the Research Ethics and Data Protection online form available at <https://www.um.edu.mt/research/ethics/redp-form/frontEnd/>. This form must be completed by all University of Malta researchers, students or anyone else planning to carry out research under the auspices of the UM, regardless the nature of such research. It enables users to assess ethical and data protection aspects of their research through a series of structured questions, helping them to self-assess as to whether the form should be submitted to the Faculty Research Ethics Committee (FREC) for *records* or for *review*. The committee that carries out ethics review of applications from students registered with the Centre is the **Faculty of Laws Research Ethics Committee**. Students are advised to familiarise themselves with the [UM Research Code of Practice](#) and the [UM Research Ethics Review Procedures](#) prior to completing the form. Upon submission your supervisor will be given access to the system to assess and endorse the submitted document.

Further information and forms relating to research ethics are available on the UM Research Ethics Committee website at <https://www.um.edu.mt/research/ethics/resources/instructionalvideos/>.

George Mason University

Students who intend to obtain information from research subjects, such as interviews, surveys or focus groups as part of their research should contact Dr Karina Korostelina and Dr Marc Gopin to seek guidance on the George Mason University Human Subjects Review Board requirements.

Dissertation Examination

Your dissertation/IS shall be examined by a dissertation/IS committee (or in University of Malta terminology a Board of Examiners), which is composed of three members. Each Board shall consist of at least one member from each University.

Once your dissertation/IS is assessed and approved by the Board of Examiners you will formally submit the document to the University of Malta. Only an electronic version of the dissertation/IS is required.

For more details about formal aspects of dissertation, please refer to the Dissertation Style Guide available on the Centre website.

Section 4.4: Academic Policies, Integrity and Plagiarism

The University of Malta and George Mason University have strict regulations regarding plagiarism, cheating, lying, and stealing. These are deemed serious offenses and acts of fraud, and disciplinary action will be taken against students who have violated these Policies. Disciplinary action may lead to dismissal from the course, while minor cases, are investigated by Faculty and disciplinary boards.

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

The GMU University Catalog

The GMU [University Catalog](#) is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conducting university academic affairs. All members of the university community are responsible for knowing and following established policies.

GMU Academic Integrity Policies

George Mason is an Honor Code university. All George Mason University students have agreed to abide by the letter and the spirit of the Honor Code, a copy of which can be found [here](#). All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee for review. All written work for this Program should include recognized, standard citation formats (MLA, APA, etc.). If you are unsure about how to treat with the contributions of others, cite a direct quotation, or concept from course or additional readings, consult Faculty. Copies of common style manuals are available at the GMU library reference desk or online <https://library.gmu.edu/ask/citing>

The Carter School requires that all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services to which the School subscribes. Faculty may at any time submit a student's work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require that written work be submitted in electronic, as well as printed form. The Carter School's policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Code; it is not intended to replace or substitute for it.

University of Malta Policy on Plagiarism

Below is an extract from University of Malta Assessment Regulations.

In any form of assessment students shall not:

- i. Engage in plagiarism – defined as the unacknowledged use, as one's own, of work of another person, whether or not such work has been published, and as may be further elaborated in Faculty or University guidelines;*
- ii. Submit work or part thereof that has been submitted by the student himself or by any other student, for the Assessment of another Study-Unit, unless, when submitting part of one's own work that had previously been submitted, prior permission is obtained from the examiner and the insertion is clearly indicated;*
- iii. Allow another student to submit one's own work for Assessment as the other student's own work;*
- iv. Make false declarations in connection with any work submitted for Assessment;*

If you are in doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism or how to avoid it, we suggest you consult the following documents:

University of Malta Guidelines on Plagiarism

https://www.um.edu.mt/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/436651/UniversityGuidelinesonPlagiarism.pdf

University of Malta Assessment Regulations

<https://www.um.edu.mt/media/um/docs/about/governance/regulations/general/UniversityAssessmentRegulations.pdf>

Section 5

STUDENT SERVICES

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA SERVICES

University of Malta Library

The Library's mission is to support the university teaching and research programs by providing adequate scholarly information resources, emerging technologies and user support services.

By activating your UM IT account you will gain access to its own collection, which you can explore through search tool HyDi, as well as various databases across the fields of study that the University is subscribed to. For more information, please visit the library's webpage: <https://www.um.edu.mt/library>

UM IT Services

The IT Services manages the UM's IT infrastructure and supports the teaching, learning and research activities of the University. The IT Helpdesk is the primary point of contact for you to report IT related issues, find tutorials, self-help guides or book one of the training sessions organized for students. Through their website you can also chat online with a support agent. For further details or access to a self-service portal visit <https://www.um.edu.mt/itservices/>

Counseling Services

The University Counseling Unit is an integral part of the University of Malta and it offers counseling for its staff and students confidentially and free of charge. For more information, please visit: <https://www.um.edu.mt/counselling>

Help Hub

The UM Help Hub is the place that will provide you with all the up-to-date information that you may require and bring close to you the full range of support services offered at UM. Find more details at <https://www.um.edu.mt/services/helphub/>

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY SERVICES

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

CAPS provides in-person and virtual, free and confidential, mental health services for enrolled students. <https://caps.gmu.edu/>

George Mason University Library

The GMU Library platform can be accessed here: <http://library.gmu.edu/>

An online guide has been created for students in the Dual Degree program that provides access points to databases, e-books, and e-reference databases. The guide provides hints for conducting searches, outlines interlibrary loan policies, and highlights online datasets, toolkits and other media resources in conflict studies. If you need to speak to a librarian, this guide also provides a virtual reference chat box and the contact information of the Carter School librarian.

Resources for CR Students Abroad: <http://infoguides.gmu.edu/content.php?pid=358909>

If you have any questions, please contact Christopher Magee, our Conflict and Peace Studies Librarian, at: cmagee@gmu.edu

The Writing Center

The Writing Center offers free writing support to Mason students, faculty, and staff. Accomplished graduate and undergraduate students provide face-to-face tutoring, online tutoring, and workshops. The Center works with writers through all stages of the writing process from brainstorming and organizing to revising and polishing. For more information, please visit the Center's webpage: <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>

Section 6

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Transportation

Buses are the most common form of public transportation for students in Malta. Public transport is free of charge in Malta for the [Tallinja Card](#) holders and it is therefore recommended to apply for the card [online](#). Please, review the [Malta Public Transport](#) page to familiarize yourself with the bus system in Malta. You may also find it useful to download the [Tallinja app](#) that gives real-time information about the bus service and the closest bus stops. Although at a small fee, [Valletta Ferries](#) are also an option for students commuting between Valletta and Sliema.

General Information about Malta and the Latest Travel Information	Visit Malta <i>(official tourism portal)</i>
Public Health	The Ministry for Health
General Information and History	Malta Lonely Planet
Cost of Living in Malta	Numbeo, UM Estimates
A Guide for Foreigners/Visitors	Guide Me Malta
Tips for Walks and Treks	Maltatina
Malta Attractions	Top Things to Do in Malta
Malta Weather Forecast and Recommended Beaches	Maltese Islands Weather

EMERGENCY NUMBERS IN MALTA AND GOZO

EMERGENCY	112
POLICE	191
AMBULANCE	196
FIRE BRIGADE	199
LOST PROPERTY	+356 2122 4781

CONTACTS

For academic inquires please contact one of the Program's Board of Studies Members:

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📞 +356 2340 2821

Prof. Karina Korostelina

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Dr Marc Gopin

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For any administrative inquiries or questions on logistic issues, please contact:

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