

# TURN YOUR IDEAS INTO ACTION...

Mercatus Master's  
Fellowship

George Mason  
University  
Economics Program



MERCATUS CENTER  
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY



[www.Mercatus.org/mercatusmasters](http://www.Mercatus.org/mercatusmasters)



## TURN YOUR IDEAS INTO ACTION...

In this complex and rapidly changing world, now more than ever ideas have consequences. Mercatus Master's Fellows know that ideas grounded in sound economics hold special promise.

Mercatus Master's Fellows gain valuable real world knowledge working alongside Mercatus scholars and applying economic thinking to a wide range of issues in business and policy. Mercatus Master's Fellows emerge from the program as competitive and innovative problem solvers in a world where new ideas matter.

In addition to gaining invaluable experience, Mercatus Master's Fellows are fully funded with an award that is valued at up to \$40,000 per academic year and includes:

- Monthly stipend
- Full tuition support (9 credits per semester)
- Practical experience—research assistant with the Mercatus Center
- Laptop computer

## TOTAL AWARD UP TO \$80,000

### ELIGIBILITY

- Enrollment or planned enrollment in George Mason University's MA economics program (thesis option)
- An interest in and an intent to pursue a career in the application of market-based ideas to real-world issues

If you want to gain the skills and experience to expand your career opportunities in public policy or business, no other fellowship offers such a stimulating environment or generous funding package.



## SAMPLE COURSE OF STUDY

### FIRST YEAR—FALL SEMESTER

Microeconomic Theory I  
Macroeconomic Theory  
Entrepreneurship and Public Policy or  
Regulation and the Market Process

### FIRST YEAR—SPRING SEMESTER

Microeconomic Theory II  
Econometrics I  
Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in  
Economic and Policy Studies

### FIRST YEAR—SUMMER SEMESTER

Comprehensive Exams  
One week IHS advanced graduate workshop  
Begin Master's thesis

### SECOND YEAR—FALL AND SPRING SEMESTERS

Master's thesis research  
Electives in Political Economy and Public Policy,  
Law and Economics, Public Choice, Austrian Theory  
of the Market Process, Experimental Economics, and  
Economic History



## ECONOMICS AND THE MERCATUS CENTER AT GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

For over 25 years, the Mercatus Center at George Mason University has promoted sound interdisciplinary research and application in the humane sciences that integrate theory and practice and advance, in a sustainable way, a freer, more prosperous, and civil society.

Mercatus enjoys a close working relationship with many George Mason faculty members, especially within the Department of Economics, School of Law, and School of Public Policy, as well as with a vast network of academics from around the world who are interested in connecting academic learning with real-world practice.

The Mercatus Center's unique suite of applied research and educational outreach programs, including the Global Prosperity Initiative, Regulatory Studies Program, Government Accountability Project, Capitol Hill Campus, and Capital Campus, are leading resources for innovative scholarship and policymaking.

George Mason University's Department of Economics' stature and reputation are exemplified by the presence of Dr. James M. Buchanan, Virginia's first Nobel Laureate; Mr. Gordon Tullock, originator, with Buchanan, of much of the work underlying the field of public choice; and Mercatus Board Member Dr. Vernon Smith, a pioneer in the development of Experimental Economics who was awarded the 2002 Nobel Prize in Economics.

Mason is on the cutting edge of economic research, analysis, and writing and hosts a top economic history program. The economics faculty economics blogs: [MarginalRevolution.com](http://MarginalRevolution.com) by Professors Tyler Cowen and Alex Tabarrok, [CafeHayek.com](http://CafeHayek.com) by Department Chair Don Boudreaux and Professor Russ Roberts, and [The Austrian Economists](http://The Austrian Economists) by Professor Peter Boettke and Mercatus Senior Research Fellow Frederic Sautet, are consistently ranked as top blogs on economics. Faculty are called upon to testify in hearings on Capitol Hill and comment on public policy and other issues by the media with scholars appearing frequently in the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and on NPR.

I felt George Mason University, more than any other institution of higher learning, would provide me the best opportunity to continue to study the connection between ideas about liberty, economics, and the real world. The same pursuit of these ideas also attracted me to the Mercatus Center. Mercatus is the perfect complement to Mason because it effectively takes academic ideas and puts them into action in practical ways, which, I believe, will lead to a better future. It is a unique, rare, and wonderful thing to see these two institutions in combination, and I could not imagine being anywhere else.

*Lewis Butler, Mercatus Master's Fellow*



## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Enroll full time in the GMU MA economics program.
- Write and defend a Master's thesis.
- Enroll in 9 credits each semester and maintain a 3.5 GPA.
- Attend the bi-weekly readings group in applied economics.
- Work approximately 20 hours each week with Mercatus Center staff and faculty mentors throughout the year.
- Work with a faculty mentor, and begin the Master's thesis during the summer following the second semester.
- Spend one week during the summer participating in an advanced graduate workshop administered by the Institute for Humane Studies.
- Participate in quarterly workshops during the year immediately following your graduation from the MA economics program.
- Take specialized applied coursework.



## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Complete the standard application form for admission to George Mason University's Department of Economics MA Program. Indicate on that form that you would like to be considered for the "Mercatus MA Fellowship."
  2. Submit an essay, writing sample, and a cover letter to [graduatefellowships@mercatus.org](mailto:graduatefellowships@mercatus.org).
- The essay should be 500–1,000 words on the topic, "Why do some societies prosper while others remain stagnant and poor?"
  - The writing sample should be a paper of ten pages in length on the topic of your choosing.

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

For more information about the Mercatus Master's Fellowship program, please contact:

Dr. Virgil Henry Storr  
Director of Graduate Student Programs  
Mercatus Center at George Mason University  
[www.Mercatus.org/mercatusmasters](http://www.Mercatus.org/mercatusmasters)

