

CURRENT STUDENTS

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND COLLEGE PARK

HESI PREVIEW 2022

HIGHER EDUCATION CONCENTRATION



Jillian Cordial

Higher Ed, Master's

Email: jcordial@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a Chinese American transracial adoptee, cisgender woman. I was born in China but grew up in Lexington, Ohio. I attended the University of Cincinnati where I studied political science, legal studies, and women, gender, and sexuality studies. I am currently a graduate assistant for the Higher Education program and the Smith School of Business diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. Feel free to reach out to jcordial@umd.edu!

Talk to me about... Research, Internships, Family responsibilities, Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Housing, Socializing



Adriana Feijoo

Higher Ed, Master's

Email: afeijoo1@umd.edu

Bio: Hi everyone! My name is Adriana Feijoo and I am a first year masters student in the higher education program! I am a resident director through the department of fraternity and sorority life and am an adviser for the Panhellenic association. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions you have :)

Talk to me about... Research, Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Housing, Socializing



Alex Franklin

Higher Ed, Master's

Email: afrankli@umd.edu

Bio: I'm a white trans man from South Jersey. I love music, my cat Ollie, and bagels. I'll be graduating in May and am writing my seminar paper on the effectiveness of campus DEI strategic plans. I am a student affairs practitioner at heart and am passionate about student engagement and education through communications. My graduate assistantship is in the Office of Student Conduct doing outreach: follow us on Instagram and TikTok @ConductUMD. I also work part-time for Bias Incident Support Services and am interning with the Student Affairs Diversity Initiative. Feel free to reach out to me via social media @alexfranklin24

Talk to me about... Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Housing



Christine Licata-Hoang

Higher Ed, PhD

Email: calicata@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a white, cis-gender, heterosexual, able-bodied woman. I am in my final year of my doctoral program, working on completing and defending the dissertation in the spring 2022 semester! My research is focused on campus sexual assault prevention, especially in the policy space. I have worked in student affairs and higher education for 10+ years in fraternity/sorority life, student activities, strategic enrollment and corporate partnerships. Feel free to reach out to be about working full-time while working on your degree, helping you or your partner transition into the DMV area, or general questions! Contact me at calicata@umd.edu.

Talk to me about... Research, Working full-time, Family responsibilities, Coursework, Housing, Socializing



Lauren Norris

Higher Ed, PhD

Email: lnorris1@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a white, cis-gender, heterosexual, able-bodied woman. I am a triple Terp having completed my bachelor's in biology and master's in higher education, both at UMD. I have worked full time on campus since graduating from undergrad in Admissions, New Student Orientation, the Alumni Association, and University Advancement where I currently serve as the Senior Director for Board Operations and Volunteer Engagement working specifically with our UMCP Foundation Board of Trustees. As a fifth year doctoral student I am currently working on my dissertation and researching the experiences of non-academic women administrators in higher education. You can reach me by email.

Talk to me about... Research, Internships, Working full-time, Coursework



Anli Peng

Higher Ed, PhD

Email: anli1996@umd.edu

Talk to me about... Research, Coursework, Housing, Socializing

HIGHER EDUCATION CONCENTRATION



Bea Randolph

Higher Ed, Master's

Email: brandol@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a white, cisgender, heterosexual woman. I'm from Toledo, Ohio, and am a 2020 graduate of the University of Kentucky where I studied STEM Education. I currently serve as the Graduate Assistant for the Guided Study Sessions program at the UMD Teaching and Learning Transformation Center and the UMD College of Education Center for Educational Innovation and Improvement. I was a summer intern at the American Institutes for Research, where I worked on a BMGF-funded project evaluating institutional student success initiatives. I currently live in Northeast DC. Please feel free to reach out!

Talk to me about...Research, Internships, Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Socializing



Satra Taylor

Higher Ed, PhD

Email: satraty@gmail.com

Bio: Satra Taylor is an organizer, convener, and higher education policy wonk. Satra is the Lead of Organizational Effectiveness & Impact at Operation Restoration, where she is responsible for assisting the Executive team in keeping organizational agencies on track and moving forward to accomplish the goals of the organization. Prior to joining Operation Restoration, Satra was the Manager of Higher Education Justice Initiatives at The Education Trust, where she managed the inaugural Justice Fellows Policy Program. In addition to working on federal, state, and institutional policy issues at the intersection of higher education and the legal system.

Talk to me about...Working full-time, Housing, Socializing



Madison Thurston

Higher Ed, Master's

Email: madisont@umd.edu

Bio: Hello! My name is Madison, and I identify as a white, cisgender, bisexual, able-bodied woman. I have my Bachelor's in Sociology from Central Michigan University, and I came to UMD straight from undergrad. I currently have a graduate assistantship in Fraternity and Sorority Life as a Resident Director. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have about UMD, assistantships, or grad school in general at madisont@umd.edu!

Talk to me about...Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Socializing



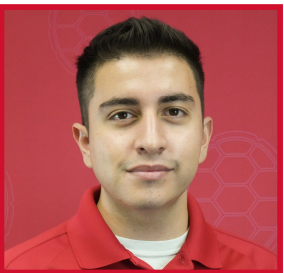
Jalah Townsend

Higher Ed, PhD

Email: jtownse4@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a Black, cis-gendered, heterosexual woman. I grew up in Richmond, Virginia and completed my undergraduate degree at a large public school in Virginia. I completed my master's degree here at the University of Maryland (in Student Affairs) and work full-time on campus as the Coordinator for Student Engagement for the Gemstone Honors Program. I am also a Resident Director for the Department of Fraternity & Sorority Life. If you have any questions (or just want to chat), please feel free to reach out to me at jtownse4@umd.edu!

Talk to me about...Research, Working full-time, Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Housing, Socializing



Nick H. Velasquez

Higher Ed, Master's

Email: nickjhv@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a Latino, heterosexual, cis-gender man. I was born in Colombia, South America but was raised in Maryland. I am currently serving as the Graduate Coordinator for Rights and Responsibilities in the Department of Resident Life but because I was at UMD for my Undergrad, I have worked with Recreation and Wellness and our STAMP engagement team. I also grew up very close to campus so I know where the good food is and love to be active and explore nature. Feel free to reach out :)

Talk to me about...Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Housing, Socializing



Liz Wasden

Higher Ed, PhD

Email: ewasden@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a white, cis-gender woman (and Type 1 Diabetic!). I am a triple Terp and completed my bachelor's in Communication and my master's in Higher Education at UMD. My three younger siblings are all also Terps! I was born and raised in the DC area. I work full time as an Academic Advisor in the College of Journalism. My research interests surround higher education leadership and communication, as well as academic advising and the education experiences of students with medical disabilities. Feel free to reach out at any time at ewasden@umd.edu!

Talk to me about... Research, Working full-time, Coursework, Housing, Socializing

HIGHER EDUCATION CONCENTRATION



Iliana C. Zepeda De Leon

Higher Ed, Master's

Email: zepedai@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a Latina (Mexican immigrant), and a first-generation student. I am was born in Guadalajara Mexico but raised in Santa Ana California. I attended the University of California Irvine (UCI) and majored in International Studies and Education Sciences. After graduating from UCI I worked for Upward Bound, TRIO (Student Support Services), and the office of Student Success Initiatives at UCI. I am currently the Vice-President for CHSE GSA. My Graduate Assistantship is with the office of Letters and Sciences as an academic advisor. Some fun facts about me: I love art, painting, plants, and gardening. I am happy to chat with yall, so please feel free to reach out!

Talk to me about...Internships, Family responsibilities, Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Housing, Socializing

STUDENT AFFAIRS CONCENTRATION



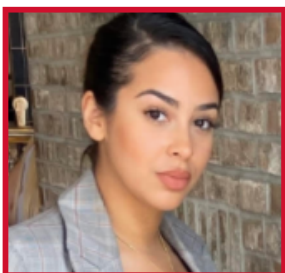
Jada DaMae Anderson

Student Affairs, Master's

Email: jdamae@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a Black Multiracial, Queer, disabled, non-binary femme person! I was born and raised in Southern California by my amazing single mom and am the youngest of six sisters. I was the first in my family to graduate high school, then got my Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from UCLA in 2019. In student affairs, I have worked within residential life, cultural centers, athletics, and am now in student activities in my Graduate Assistantship with the Student Organization Resource Center. Outside of student affairs, I work at the Discovery TRVL Channel and have worked on many television shows, and love seeing how each of these distinct industries can enrich the other. I worked full-time in student affairs for a little over 2 years before coming back to get my M.Ed here! If you have any questions, please feel free to connect!

Talk to me about...Working full-time, Family responsibilities, Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Housing, Socializing



Stephanie M. Breen

Student Affairs, PhD

Email: smbreen@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a mixed-race, first-generation, Latina. I call Boston and New York City home. I am a proud McNair alumna and fellow. I received my bachelor's at Suffolk University and my master's at Teacher's College, Columbia University. I am a third-year doctoral candidate and I work as a GRA under Dr. Griffin and Dr. Park. I also serve as a Program Fellow at the National College Attainment Network (NCAN) in DC. My professional background and research interests include college access, restorative justice in P-12 schooling, higher ed policy, mentoring, experiences of marginalized students, and institutional equity-based practices.

Talk to me about...Research, Internships, Graduate Assistantships Coursework



Tim Bryson

Student Affairs, PhD

Email: tbryson@umd.edu

Bio: I am a Black millennial educator whose life mission is to help all people identify their passions, inspire vision, and walk in purpose. Originally from Cincinnati, I started my higher education journey as a college athlete at Coastal Carolina University before earning my B.S. from UofSC and M.A. from Ohio State. I worked at the NCAA National Office before coming to UMD where I work in college athletics. I enjoy podcasting, brewery visits, and traveling. Hit me via email (tbryson@umd.edu) or IG/Twitter (@TimothyFBryson) if you want to connect!

Talk to me about...Research, Internships, Working full-time, Coursework, Socializing



Emily Cheng

Student Affairs, Master's

Email: echeng99@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a Taiwanese/Chinese American, heterosexual, cis-gender, able-bodied woman. I'm a double Terp and earned my bachelor's in Geographical Sciences with minors in Asian American Studies and Sustainability Studies. I'm also a member of Sigma Psi Zeta Sorority, Inc. I currently work in the Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life as the Diversity & Inclusion Graduate Assistant. My research interests include APIDA college students, student leadership, and student organizations. In my free time I love going to the gym, watching dance videos, and eating good food. Feel free to reach out to me for anything at echeng99@umd.edu!

Talk to me about...Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Housing, Socializing



Jeffrey Cho

Student Affairs, Master's

Email: jdcho@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a Korean American, cisgender, gay man with a mental illness. I am also a first-generation, low-income college student. I was born and raised in Los Angeles, CA and graduated with a degree in linguistics from the University of Southern California in 2020. I currently serve as the graduate assistant for the University Career Center in the College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences. Please feel free to reach out to me via email to connect!

Talk to me about...Research, Internships, Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Housing, Socializing



Tyanna A.E. Clayton-Mallett

Student Affairs, PhD

Email: tacleaym@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a Black, cisgender, heterosexual woman. I am from Milwaukee, WI worked for 10+ years within higher education. I graduated from Marquette University with a BA in African-American Studies and just received my MEd in Student Affairs in Higher Education. I left a full-time job to become a full-time student. I consider myself a "seasoned" higher education professional but a forever continuous learner. I have plenty of interests and life experiences that brought me to where I am currently, a first year PhD student. Happy to connect with you.

Talk to me about...coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Housing, Socializing

STUDENT AFFAIRS CONCENTRATION



Peter DeCrescenzo

Student Affairs, PhD

Email: pdecresc@gmail.com

Bio: I identify as a white, cisgender heterosexual male who graduated from College of Staten Island (NYC native!). After graduation, I came to Maryland to study Higher Education Administration under Dr. Fries-Britt. I then worked for the POSSE Foundation in Washington, DC, and then back at UMD in Undergraduate Studies supporting students placed on academic probation. In January 2018, I transitioned to my current role as Assistant Director for the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation programs at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. I currently study how whiteness and white supremacy are cultivated or hindered by higher education institutions.

Talk to me about...Research, Working full-time, Coursework, Socializing



Amanda Dennis

Student Affairs, Master's

Email: Adennis3@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a white, bisexual, cisgender woman from Long Island, NY. Here at UMD, I am the GA for the Office Orientation and Transition, an instructor for several courses, and a volunteer for the Disability Summit and English Conversation Partners. I have also participated in the DC Consortium to take a course at GWU! Prior to UMD I studied psychology at Haverford College in PA and worked there for several years post-grad as a career advisor! Feel free to contact me at adennis3@umd.edu!

Talk to me about...Internships, Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Housing



Di-Tu Dissassa

Student Affairs, PhD

Email: dissassa@umd.edu

Bio: I am a Black, cisgender, heterosexual, able-bodied woman. I am a full-time 4th year and also work full-time at the Center for Diversity and Inclusion in Higher Education (CDIHE). In my downtime, I enjoy engaging in my faith community at church, spending time with loved ones, listening to podcasts (Code Switch and Here's The Thing), and binge-watching The Resident and Abbott Elementary. If you want to engage in any discussions about the following, then email me!

Talk to me about...Research, Working full-time, Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Housing



Hope Fagundes

Student Affairs, Master's

Email: hopef@umd.edu

Bio: I am pursuing my M.Ed. in Student Affairs at the University of Maryland, College Park. I am originally from California where I graduated from the University of California, Davis in 2017. Before coming to Maryland, I worked at an educational non-profit that provided comprehensive academic, financial, and social-emotional programming to prepare students for the expectations of college and beyond. My GAsip is with the Office of Extended Studies working with the Terps Young Scholars program. If you would like to contact me my email is: hopef@umd.edu

Talk to me about...Working full-time, Graduate Assistantships, Socializing



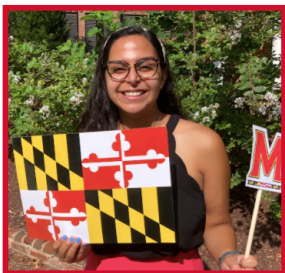
Tyrese Fenty

Student Affairs, Master's

Email: tfenty@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a Black, cisgender gay man. I went to a major public university in Connecticut where I majored in Communications and Africana Studies. My assistantship is in the Leadership and Community Service Learning Office and I have an overload in the Vice President's office working the SSLC program. I can be contacted at tfenty@umd.edu

Talk to me about...Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Housing, Socializing



Miriam Fraga

Student Affairs, Master's

Email: mfraga@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a Latinx, cis-gender, first-generation college student, woman. I am originally from the Chicagoland area, but I lived in Maine for the past seven years before moving to Maryland. I received my bachelor's from Bowdoin College where I majored in Religious Studies and minored in Latin American Studies. After graduating, I worked in Student Activities for three years. I am currently the Graduate Coordinator for Academic Success and Community Development Programs in the Department of Resident Life. I am happy to answer any questions about any of my experiences. You can email me at mfraga@umd.edu.

Talk to me about...Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Housing, Socializing

STUDENT AFFAIRS CONCENTRATION



Joana Granados

Student Affairs, Master's

Email: joanagra@umd.edu

Bio: I am a low-income, first-generation, queer Latina. I grew up in a mixed-status family and this impacted and continues to impact my educational journey. I went to undergrad at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) and graduated with a BA in Ethnic Studies, Sociology – Social Inequality, and a minor in Education Studies. After graduating, I moved back to Compton, CA, and worked at my high school for two years as a USC College Adviser. I am currently a Resident Director for Zeta Tau Alpha and Graduate Advisor for the Multicultural Greek Council (MGC) within the Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life. I am also a Graduate Research Assistant at the Consortium on Race, Gender, and Ethnicity. Transitioning from CA to MD was a little rough for me so I am always happy to talk to others about this experience! Feel free to reach out at joanagra@umd.edu.

Talk to me about...Research, Internships, Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Housing, Socializing, Other



Patrice Greene

Student Affairs, PhD

Email: pgreene1@umd.edu

Bio: I am a third-year doctoral candidate in the Student Affairs Ph.D. Program. I am originally from Dallas, TX, but I also lived in Denver before moving to Maryland. My research focuses on community and support for undergraduate Black womxn at PWIs. Currently, I work as a GA in the Career Center, advising students and teaching a course on career readiness. In my time here, I have also served as Teaching Assistant, Research Fellow, and have studied abroad in Ghana.

Talk to me about...Research, Coursework, Graduate Assistantships



Ashley Hixson

Student Affairs, PhD

Email: ahixson@umd.edu

Talk to me about...Research, Internships, Working full-time, Coursework, Socializing



Aaron Hooker

Student Affairs, Master's

Email: ajhooker@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as an African American, heterosexual, cis-gender man. I was born in Connecticut and attended the University of Connecticut where I got my degree in Political Science. I currently serve as a Resident Director and Chapter Expectations advisor for the Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life. Feel free to contact me at ajhooker@umd.edu!

Talk to me about...Family responsibilities, Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Housing, Socializing



Lindsay Inge-Carpenter

Student Affairs, PhD

Email: linge@umd.edu

Bio: I am a part-time doc student in the Student Affairs program. I hope to complete my comps this summer! I work full-time as a librarian at McKeldin Library. I'm also a new mom to my daughter Eleanor. My research interests include the experiences of international teaching assistants, graduate student mentorship, linguistic diversity and discrimination on American campuses, and language in education policies. In my librarian life, I write about Open Educational Resources, mentorship, and assessment of information literacy instruction programs.

Talk to me about...Research, Working full-time, Family responsibilities, Coursework



Joyce Seoyoung Jang

Student Affairs, Master's

Email: joycej@umd.edu

Bio: I am a bisexual, nonbinary Korean-American from California. I graduated from the University of Southern California with bachelor's degrees in Psychology and East Asian Languages and Cultures and came directly to UMD the following semester. I am also currently a Resident Director for the Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life. Please feel free to contact me at joycej@umd.edu !

Talk to me about...Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Socializing

STUDENT AFFAIRS CONCENTRATION



Alexander K. Willie

Student Affairs, Master's

Email: awillie1@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as an Asian, cis-gendered heterosexual man. I went to a HBCU in North Carolina and majored in Psychology. I currently work as an Academic Advisor for the Office of Letters and Sciences. Feel free to contact me at awillie1@umd.edu

Talk to me about...Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Housing, Socializing



Grace Kim

Student Affairs, Master's

Email: gkim14@umd.edu

Bio: I am a Korean-American, cis-gendered Christian woman. I was born in South Korea but immigrated to the U.S. when I was very young, and grew up in Central Texas. I graduated from Baylor University with a BBA in Accounting, and then I worked in law school admissions and then as an Assistant Residence Hall Director both at Baylor before coming to UMD. I currently work as the Graduate Assistant for Club and Career Engagement at the Smith School of Business at UMD, working primarily with the executive board of the Smith Undergraduate Student Association. I'd love to connect! Feel free to email me at gkim14@umd.edu!

Talk to me about...Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Housing, Socializing, Other



Adam Klager

Student Affairs, Master's

Email: aklager@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a White trans nonbinary middle-class person. I'm originally from Wisconsin and attended UW-Madison for undergrad, where I majored in aerospace engineering and political science. Here at UMD, I work as a GA in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. I also interned for NASPA last summer with their Global Initiatives. You can contact me at aklager@umd.edu.

Talk to me about...Internships, Coursework, Graduate Assistantships



Pearl Lo

Student Affairs, PhD

Email: pearllo@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a queer, cisgender, Asian American, able-bodied woman. I was born and raised in California but did both my undergrad and master's at the University of Pennsylvania. After graduating, I stayed in Philadelphia working in Penn's College Houses and Academic Services. I have worked as a Resident Director in the Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life for my graduate assistantship as a first-year doctoral student and now serve as the graduate assistant for the Student Affairs Concentration as a second-year. My research focuses on cross-racial interactions & friendship groups and the psychosocial development of queer women of color. Please feel free to reach out with any questions!

Talk to me about...Research, Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Housing, Socializing, Other



Elizabeth Losada

Student Affairs, Master's

Email: elosada@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a cisgender Latina of Cuban and Colombian descent. I am also a first-generation college student and received my Bachelor of Science in Sociology with minors in Social Welfare and Psychology at Florida State University. I am currently a second-year master's student in the Student Affairs Concentration. My research interests include experiences of first-generation college students of color and BIPOC mental health issues in higher education. During my time at UMD, I have worked as the Graduate Coordinator for the Maryland Mentor Corps program. I supervise student leaders who provide mentoring and tutoring for elementary and middle school children in Prince George's County Public Schools. I have also served in multiple teaching capacities and worked with Multicultural Involvement and Community Advocacy (MICA) and the Department of Residence Life (DRL). You can reach me at elosada@umd.edu.

Talk to me about...Research, Internships, Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Housing



Moya Malcolm

Student Affairs, PhD

Email: mmalcolm@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a Black/West Indian, cisgender woman. I call Washington DC and Miami FL home. I am a proud HBCU graduate (Howard University). I am in my 7th year of the Student Affairs doctoral program. My professional background and research interests include college access, immigrant student populations, TRIO programs, and school counseling.

Talk to me about...Research, Working full-time, Coursework

STUDENT AFFAIRS CONCENTRATION



Marinel Martinez-Benyarko

Student Affairs, PhD

Email: marinel@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a cisgender woman. I was born in the Dominican Republic but raised in Brooklyn, NY. I am a first-generation college student who earned my Bachelors and Masters degrees from the University at Albany. I have worked within residential life, student activities, and now human resources at the Stamp Student Union on campus. I am a fourth-year doctoral candidate within the SAC concentration. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach me at marinel@umd.edu

Talk to me about...Research, Working full-time, Family responsibilities, Coursework



Alex Mullen

Student Affairs, Master's

Email: ajmul@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a mixed Guatemalan and white heterosexual, cisgender, able-bodied man. I grew up in Lansing, Michigan before attending the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor where I got my bachelor of art in film, television, and media. I'm currently a first-year student in the Student Affairs masters program at UMD and work as the Graduate Coordinator for Latinx Student Involvement in the MICA office. I'd love to talk about anything from what it's like to be a student at UMD, photography, movies, and basketball, so feel free to contact me at ajmul@umd.edu if you'd like to chat!

Talk to me about... Research, Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Housing, Socializing



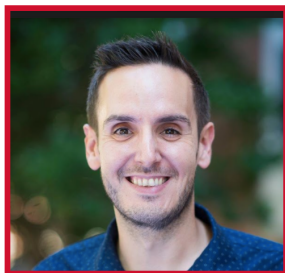
Antoinette Newsome

Student Affairs, PhD

Email: acnews@umd.edu

Bio: I am a third-year PhD candidate in the Student Affairs concentration. I identify as a Christian, Black and mixed-race woman who is cis-gender and heterosexual. I am from New York and North Carolina. I have lived in the DMV for almost 7 years. In addition to graduate school, I work full-time as the McNair Scholars Program Coordinator at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. I am an alum of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) for undergrad and Bowling Green State University for my masters. I previously worked in Housing & Residence Life, Fraternity & Sorority Life, and TRIO Programs. I am passionate about social justice and equity-based practices, along with supporting low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented minority college students. My current research centers on post-secondary schooling support systems for students of color, mentoring and peer-mentoring relationships for women of color in the academy, and equity-based action for inclusionary practices at the institutional level. If you have any questions or want to connect email me at acnews@umd.edu

Talk to me about... Research, Working full-time, Coursework, Housing, Socializing



Ben Parks

Student Affairs, PhD

Email: bparks@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a white cis-gender gay man. I am from Iowa. I attended Wartburg College for undergrad and Western Illinois University for grad school. I work full-time as the Associate Director for Student Affairs for the College Park Scholars living-learning program. I am a second-year part-time doctoral student and happy to connect anytime at bparks@umd.edu.

Talk to me about...Research, Working full-time, Coursework, Housing, Socializing



Randall Phyll

Student Affairs, PhD

Email: rphyall@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a Black/Caribbean-American, cisgender, heterosexual, able-bodied, Christian man. I am originally from NY, but the DMV is gradually becoming a place that I call home as well! I am a 2nd year, a part-time student in the program and work full-time at UMD. I attended a small private PWI for undergrad and attended a mid-sized university for my master's degree. I'm down to connect, so please feel free to reach me at rphyall@umd.edu.

Talk to me about...Working full-time, Family responsibilities, Graduate Assistantships, Socializing

STUDENT AFFAIRS CONCENTRATION



Jenny Sak

Student Affairs, PhD

Email: jsak@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a Southeast Asian-American (Khmer & Lao), cis-gender, able-bodied woman. I'm also the child of two immigrant parents who were refugees of the "American/Vietnam War & Cambodian Genocide." I was born and raised in Philadelphia Pennsylvania. I attended Penn State University (UP) for undergrad where I received my B.A. in both Crime, Law and Justice and Sociology, and received my Masters of Art in Student Affairs at Indiana University of PA (IUP). I have experience working in DEI, student leadership, mentoring programs, health and wellness, and advocacy. I'm working on my PhD as a full-time student and currently serve as a graduate assistant/career advisor for UMD University Career Center and the President's Promise. You can reach me at jsak@umd.edu.

Talk to me about... Family responsibilities, Graduate Assistantships, Housing



Kwesi Acquah

Student Affairs, Master's

Email: kasam@umd.edu

Talk to me about... Research, Family responsibilities, Coursework



Daniel Stott

Student Affairs, Master's

Email: dstott@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a White transgender queer man. I recently graduated from the University of New Haven in Connecticut, my home state, with two Bachelors degrees in National Security and Criminal Justice. I currently serve as the Graduate Coordinator for Human Resources in the Department of Resident Life. I live in College Park - right down the road from campus! Feel free to reach out if you want to chat! You can reach me at dstott@umd.edu.

Talk to me about... Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Housing



Justine Suegay

Student Affairs, Master's

Email: jsuegay@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a 1.5 generation Filipina settler-immigrant, able-bodied, cisgender, heterosexual woman. I went to a large public research university in Virginia where I majored in Global Affairs and Spanish. I am currently the Graduate Coordinator for APIDA Student Involvement at the Office of Multicultural Involvement and Community Advocacy. I have lived in Northern Virginia for 12 years and have been actively involved with the Filipinx & Asian American communities in the DC Metro Area. I would love to connect with you through email (jsuegay@umd.edu)!

Talk to me about.. Research, Family responsibilities, Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Socializing



Jennifer Valdez

Student Affairs, PhD

Email: jvaldez3@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a Latina. I live in Bethesda MD with my partner and our two pups. I have in the doctoral program and finishing up my second year! I went straight through from my masters and go to school full time with a GA position in the Office of Student Conduct and I am a research assistant with Dr. Espino-Lira. If you have any questions about the program, living off-campus, or anything related to what I said please reach out!

Talk to me about... Research, Family responsibilities, Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Housing, Socializing



Chris Villalobos

Student Affairs, Master's

Email: cnvillal@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a Native American (Cherokee), able-bodied, queer cis-man. I got my undergraduate degree from UC San Diego in Sociology. I have been raised in both California and Oklahoma. I came to graduate school right after undergrad and have my Graduate Assistantship as an academic adviser within the Office of Letters and Sciences. I also have been doing some research and support outside UMD with an Indigenous scholarship program which I can talk more about! I live in Hyattsville in a townhouse with a couple of other people. I am happy to chat further if you have any questions! You can reach me at cnvillal@umd.edu.

Talk to me about... Research, Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Housing, Socializing

STUDENT AFFAIRS CONCENTRATION



Abbie Williams-Yee

Student Affairs, Master's

Email: awyee@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as mixed with Black, Asian (Chinese), and white descent. I am an able-bodied, gender-questioning gay woman. I was born and raised in the midwest as well as attended a large midwestern research institution where I received undergraduate degrees in Music and Psychology. I currently work in first-year programming in the Smith School of Business. Feel free to reach out with any questions about UMD, graduate programs, the DC, Maryland, and Virginia area (DMV), or to connect along any of the social identities or facts I mentioned earlier!

Talk to me about... Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Housing, Socializing



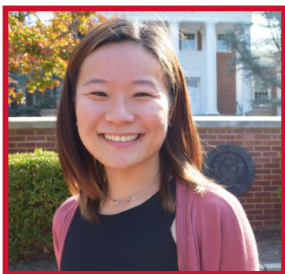
Nancy Wong

Student Affairs, PhD

Email: nmwong@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a first-generation, able-bodied, pansexual, cisgender, Asian American womxn. I've lived and worked in the DMV (DC/MD/VA) for the past 3.5 years. My bachelor's degree was from Pennsylvania State University, and my master's degree was from the University of Connecticut. When I started my doctoral program, I shifted my full-time position to 32 hours while being a full-time doctoral student. However, I recently transitioned into my new role as a research assistant for my doctoral advisor's research team.

Talk to me about... Research, Coursework, Socializing



Jia Zheng

Student Affairs, PhD

Email: jz158@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a Chinese international student, cisgender, heterosexual, and able-bodied, woman. Before transitioning to becoming a full-time doctoral student, I used to work in residence life at a small liberal arts joint-venture institution in China. At UMD, I served as a Graduate Assistant in the Office of Student Conduct and I'm currently the GA/instructor in the Leadership Studies Program. My research interests include Asian international students' perceptions and experiences of race, racialization, racism, and racism, international students' leadership identity development, and the internationalization of higher education. Happy to chat about my experience in the program and my transition to Maryland, email: jz158@umd.edu.

Talk to me about... Research, Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Housing, Socializing

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY CONCENTRATION



Belal Ahmad Noori

International Education Policy, Master's

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Talk to me about...Coursework, Housing, Socializing



Megan Ash

International Education Policy, Master's

Email: mash@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a white, cis-gendered heterosexual woman. I went to Colorado State University where I double majored in International Studies and Spanish. Before starting graduate school, I was a Peace Corps Volunteer for two years in Costa Rica. I am currently finishing my last semester of the MA program, and my areas of interest include gender and nonformal education. On campus, I work as a graduate assistant for the Health Professions Advising Office. I currently live in Baltimore but am on campus most days! Feel free to email me at mash@umd.edu.

Talk to me about...Internships, Coursework, Graduate Assistantships



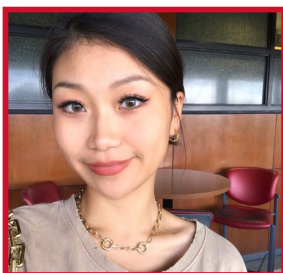
Sopiko Beriashvili

International Education Policy, Master's

Email: Sopikob@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a white, able-bodied, cisgender, heterosexual, female. I am originally from Tbilisi, Georgia (Country), currently pursuing my master's in International Education Policy in the framework of the Fulbright Program. I earned my B.A. degree in Philosophy from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University in Georgia. During my studies at TSU, I did an Erasmus + exchange program at Ca' Foscari University of Venice, in Venice, Italy. Prior to starting my studies at UMD, I worked at American Councils for International Education as a part of the alumni program team through which she had an opportunity to work with hundreds of International Students across the world. Apart from that, I also served as a board member of the International Student Advisory Board and International Education Policy. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at Sopikob@umd.edu

Talk to me about...Coursework, Socializing



Joy (Zhuo) Chen

International Education Policy, Master's

Email: zchen131@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as an Asian, heterosexual, able-bodied woman, and I am originally from China. I am currently a first-year graduate student in the International Education Policy (IEP) program at the University of Maryland College Park. My research interest is majorly in comparing Autism Spectrum Disorder Education strategies and systems between the United States and China. I am also glad to chat from a perspective of an international student about living experiences in a new country and how to adapt to cultural differences. Feel free to reach out with any questions - Zchen131@umd.edu

Talk to me about...Research, Coursework



Langan Courtney

International Education Policy, PhD

Email: langan@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a white, cisgender woman. I am from the USA though spent a significant portion of my career in SE Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. I have a BA from a small east coast college and an MA from a large west coast university. I started my PhD in 2020 after working in refugee education and support for nearly two decades...being back in the classroom is definitely a change! :) I have a graduate assistantship with the IEP program - and my family and I are new to the DMV area. Feel free to contact me!

Talk to me about...Family responsibilities, Coursework, Graduate Assistantships



Brendan DeCoster

International Education Policy, PhD

Email: bdecoster@gmail.com

Bio: Ph.D. student focused on issues of academic integrity, data transparency, enrollment management issues in higher education, language policy, education in East Asia. Did my undergrad in Oregon, master's in Alberta, Canada, and was an EFL/ESL teacher for many years in Korea and the US. Happy to talk. I'm at bdecoster@gmail.com.

Talk to me about...Research, Working full-time, Family responsibilities, Coursework, Graduate Assistantships

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY CONCENTRATION



Alana Ebert-Zavos

International Education Policy, Master's

Email: aebertza@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a White, cisgender, heterosexual woman. I am from Maryland and received my bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Maryland, so I am now a two time terp! I spent the past three years living in Barcelona, where I worked as an English teacher in a variety of educational settings. I currently serve as the Graduate Assistant in the Office of Undergraduate Advising and Academic Support in the A. James Clark School of Engineering. If you have any questions or just want to chat about the IEP program, feel free to contact me at aebertza@umd.edu.

Talk to me about...Coursework, Graduate Assistantships



Jeremy Ryan Gombin-Sperling

International Education Policy, PhD

Email: jgombins@umd.edu

Bio: Hey all! I'm a white queer cisgender Jewish able-bodied man currently working and living in Lima, Perú on diversity and inclusion initiatives for the Fulbright Program while finishing up my dissertation. I'm originally from New Jersey. My research in my PhD focuses on integrating critical pedagogies and theories into international educational programs, as well as how folks from the United States make sense of their U.S. identity abroad. I can be reached at jgombins@umd.edu. Wishing you all well!

Talk to me about...Research, Working full-time, Coursework, Graduate Assistantships



Virginia Gomes

International Education Policy, PhD

Email: vigomes@umd.edu

Bio: I am a 2nd year PhD student in the International Education Policy program. My interests are poverty in Latin America, the role of classroom cooperation in education outcomes and the relationships between school and community. I am from the northeast of Brazil.

Talk to me about...Coursework, Housing, Socializing



Joey Haavik

International Education Policy, Master's

Email: Lawrencejoao22@gmail.com

Bio: Howdy! I'm Joey (he/him), a 1st year master's student in the IEP program. I am originally from Columbia, Maryland, and went to St. Mary's College of Maryland for undergrad, where I was an English & French double major. My research interests focus particularly on international student exchange, diversity, inclusion, and equity in Study abroad, and climate change education/adaptation. At UMD, I am the LGBTQ+ Graduate Coordinator with MICA (multicultural involvement and community advocacy center) and I sit on the Graduate Student Government as IEP's representative. Otherwise, I like hikes, bikes, and open mics!

Talk to me about...Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Socializing



Nicole Halat

International Education Policy, PhD

Email: nhalat@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a Latina, indigenous, cisgender, heterosexual, able-bodied woman. I am a double Terp (BA History '08), and earned a Master's degree at Penn State. I was born in Staten Island, NY and raised both there and in Northeast PA. I'm a mom to two young children who often (virtually) accompany me to classes. My research focuses on identity exploration among globally-mobile students, but I also have strong interests in academic diplomacy and intercultural communication. I'm also an Academic Advisor at American University. I'm happy to chat about any of the above- reach out any time at nhalat@umd.edu!

Talk to me about...Research, Working full-time, Family responsibilities, Coursework



Makkie Haller

International Education Policy, Master's

Email: makkie@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a white, heterosexual, cisgender, able-bodied, female. I am originally from Montana and received my undergraduate degree in Political Science and Communication Studies from the University of Montana. Currently, I hold a full-time assistantship in the Office of Student Conduct. I also serve as an International Student Orientation Leader and a member of the IEP student board. I've interned at multiple locations in the DC area including the State Department and AMIDEAST. I live in Hyattsville with my partner and cat and commute to campus via the UMD shuttle bus system. Freely contact me at makkie@umd.edu!

Talk to me about...Internships, Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Housing, Socializing

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY CONCENTRATION



Caleb McGill

International Education Policy, Master's

Email: jcmcgill@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a white, heterosexual, cis-gender, able-bodied man. I am from Fort Mill, South Carolina and have also lived in Ningbo, China for a year. I am in my final semester of the IEP M.A. program, and hope to work in the international higher education field after graduation. I work as a Resident Director for the Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life, so I live on campus in a fraternity house with my wife, who is also an M.A. student in the MLIS program at UMD. I also have an internship in the International Student Services Office. Welcome to UMD!

Talk to me about...Research, Internships, Family responsibilities, Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Housing, Socializing



Denise McHugh

International Education Policy, PhD

Email: dmchugh@umd.edu

Bio: Greetings! I identify as a white heterosexual cisgender female who is a part-time graduate student and a full-time staff member managing the campus interfaith chapel (part of student affairs). I have called the DMV home for a while, although I grew up in New Jersey and have lived in New England and Tennessee. Feel free to reach out to talk about balancing school and work, returning to school after a gap from undergraduate studies, or any other topic!

Talk to me about...Research, Working full-time, Coursework, Graduate Assistantships



Katya Murillo

International Education Policy, PhD

Email: katyam@umd.edu

Bio: Hi everyone, my pronouns are she/hers/ella and I am a Chicana, Southern California native. I am a heterosexual, cisgender woman and I am bilingual in Spanish and English (and I guess Spanglish, also!). I earned my BA in PoliSci and Spanish from Whittier College, where I also had the opportunity to study abroad in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. I then earned my MEd at the University of Pennsylvania where I was partnered with an NGO in Beirut for a summer internship. I am currently the GA at the Undergraduate Student Legal Aid Office (there is also a Graduate Legal Aid Office so let me know if you have any questions!). My research interests include migration and education, particularly education in HHS facilities for unaccompanied minors. I am not sure if I will be able to be at Preview, but I am happy to connect with anyone :)

Talk to me about...Coursework, Graduate Assistantships



Elnaz Safarha

International Education Policy, PhD

Email: esafarha@umd.edu

Bio:Howdy! I'm Joey (he/him), a 1st year master's student in the IEP program. I am originally from Columbia, Maryland, and went to St. Mary's College of Maryland for undergrad, where I was an English & French double major. My research interests focus particularly on international student exchange, diversity, inclusion, and equity in Study abroad, and climate change education/adaptation. At UMD, I am the LGBTQ+ Graduate Coordinator with MICA (multicultural involvement and community advocacy center) and I sit on the Graduate Student Government as IEP's representative. Otherwise, I like hikes, bikes, and open mics!

Talk to me about...Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Socializing



Ruchi Saini

International Education Policy, PhD

Email: rsaini3@terpmail.umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a cis-gendered and heterosexual woman from India. I worked as an educator and administrator across schools in India for seven years before joining the PhD program. I presently work as a graduate assistant with the McNair program at UMD.

Talk to me about...Research, Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Housing, Socializing



Christina Smith

International Education Policy, Master's

Email: cgs6424@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a white, heterosexual, cisgender, able-bodied, female and am loving my time as an IEP MA student! I graduated in 2015 with a BA in global studies from UMBC, a local state school, and spent the last five years working with nonprofits in Baltimore and abroad. I'm interested in higher education access for refugees and critical whiteness and race within migration studies. As an extrovert, I've enjoyed finding virtual community in my one semester so far. I'd love to chat with prospective students about all things UMD.

Talk to me about...Coursework, Graduate Assistantships, Socializing, Other

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY CONCENTRATION



Erin Sorensen

International Education Policy, PhD

Email: erin1228@umd.edu

Bio: I identify as a white, cisgender, heterosexual, able-bodied woman. I grew up in Oregon and my family and I moved back during COVID while I finished coursework and began dissertation research. I have an almost 2-year-old son who makes life fun and interesting. Previously I worked with the International Rescue Committee resettling refugees in the DC area. Currently, I am an hourly research assistant, a consultant for an international education organization, and am working on my dissertation. My research interests are in refugee education and education in emergencies. Feel free to email me at erin1228@umd.edu.

Talk to me about...Research, Working full-time, Family responsibilities, Coursework, Graduate Assistantships



Kate Williams

International Education Policy, PhD

Email: kmwills@umd.edu

Bio: I'm a first generation college student from the Rust Belt. I attended an urban Jesuit university, where I studied English and media ecology. I earned my Master of Science in media and international development as an international student at a research university in London. Until recently, I've been a working professional with experience in proposal management, federal awards, research operations, and technical assistance. I'm a remote GA with TLTC, supporting research and evaluation activities. I'm currently in the pre-candidacy of my PhD, pursuing the Nonprofit Management Certificate. I'm married with children and live near Harpers Ferry. Contact me at kmwills@umd.edu.

Talk to me about...Research, Internships, Working full-time, Family responsibilities, Coursework