

The background of the image features a diagonal split between black and gold. A red rectangular box is positioned in the upper left, containing the university's name in white text.

# **UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND COLLEGE PARK**

## **HESI PREVIEW 2024 CURRENT STUDENTS**

# HIGHER EDUCATION CONCENTRATION



**Kelsey Brown**

**Higher Education, Master's**

**Email: kbrown68@umd.edu**

**Bio:** I identify as a Black, cis-gendered, heterosexual woman. I grew up in Philadelphia, but my heart belongs to the Midwest! I went to a small, private liberal arts college in Connecticut, and I served with the College Advising Corps for two years after graduating. I am a former Sociology major, and I am a Resident Director for the Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life. Feel free to contact me at kbrown68@umd.edu

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



**Beatrice Hammett (She/Her/Hers)**

**Higher Education, Master's**

**Email: bhammett@umd.edu**

**Bio:** I identify as a white, heterosexual, able-bodied, cis-gender woman. I am a double (and sometimes triple) Terp and completed my bachelor's in Community Health with minors in disabilities studies and professional writing at UMD in 2022. I am the middle child of 3 and both of my siblings have intellectual and developmental disabilities. I was born and raised in the DC area and grew up in Bowie MD. I now live in Greenbelt, MD I work full time here at UMD at the Center for Transition and Career Innovation as an intake specialist working with high school students of various abilities. Feel free to reach out at any time at bhammett@umd.edu

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



**Jaden Mikoulinskii (She/Her/Hers)**

**Higher Education, Master's**

**Email: jamikoul@umd.edu**

**Bio:** I am a Ukrainian-American with a Bachelor's of Arts in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, where I served as Student Body President. Since coming to Maryland, I have primarily worked in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions as a Graduate Assistant. I have taught two undergraduate courses, represented HESI in three levels of shared governance, served as a TA twice in the HESI department, and completed internships with the Institute for Higher Education Policy, the Maryland Higher Education Commission, and the Executive Office of the President at the White House. Please contact me via jamikoul@umd.edu or LinkedIn.

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

# HIGHER EDUCATION CONCENTRATION



**Younger Oliver (She/Her/Hers)**

**Higher Education, PhD**

**Email: yoliver@umd.edu**

Bio: I identify as a White, cis-gender woman. I grew up in the wilderness of Alaska, where I was homeschooled K-12. I have lived in Alaska, Belize, Massachusetts, Michigan, and my current home, Washington D.C. I attended the University of Alaska Anchorage for undergrad (English) and the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor for my Master's (Higher Education, Institutional Research). My research interests are student service members/veterans and higher education policy. I was an academic advisor to engineering students and for the past five years I have been conducting research for a nonprofit that advocates for the humanities in higher ed.

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



**Baili Park (She/Her/Hers)**

**Higher Education, Master's**

**Email: bmp73@umd.edu**

Bio: I identify as a Korean American, able-bodied, cisgender woman. I have my Bachelor's in Justice and Peace Studies from Georgetown University. Currently, I am a second-year Master's student with a Graduate Assistantship in Bias Incident Support Services and an overload assistantship as a research assistant for a National Science Foundation funded research team. I also hold the positions of Program Representative for the Higher Education Concentration and Vice President of the College of Education Graduate Student Org. Last semester, I had the opportunity to teach an undergraduate class for Words of Engagement Intergroup Dialogue. I loved teaching, so I am continuing my passion as a Teacher's Assistant for one of our core faculty members. In my free time, I enjoy golfing, hanging out with my cat, and painting! Please reach out if you have any questions about my experiences as an EdTerp!

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



**Anli Peng (She/Her/Hers)**

**Higher Education, PhD**

**Email: anli1996@umd.edu**

Bio: Hello, I am Anli Peng, a current 3-year PhD student in the HIED program, also an international student from China. I identify as an Asian cisgender woman and an absolute cat person. My research assistantship is working with Dr. Jeongeun Kim on research projects. The happiest entertainment activities for me are petting cats and reading novels.

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



# HIGHER EDUCATION CONCENTRATION



**Brandon Rodriguez Torrento (He/Him/His)**

**Higher Education, Master's**

**Email: brt@umd.edu**

**Bio:** Hi there! I identify as a Latino, cisgendered, heterosexual, able-bodied man. I am the child of Salvadoran immigrants, a brother, and a father to Pudgy, Wilson, and Finn (2 cats + 1 dog). I am a lifelong Marylander, and am from Montgomery County, MD. I am First-Generation, and attended a small liberal arts college in the Baltimore region, where I majored in Business Management. My interests revolve around college access for marginalized communities, and I previously served as an Admission Counselor here at UMD before commencing this program as a full time student. Currently, I am a Resident Director for Sigma Kappa, Graduate Assistant for the Smith Business School's First-Year Experience, a Maryland Mentor Corps Mentor, and a Chapter Coach for 7 campus chapters.

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



**Veronica Vaisman (She/Her/Hers)**

**Higher Education, Master's**

**Email: vvaisman@umd.edu**

**Bio:** I identify as a white, Brazilian-American, cisgender, heterosexual, able-bodied woman. I am from Westchester, NY and completed my undergraduate coursework at the University at Buffalo. I am the Graduate Assistant for the Office of Events and Visitor Engagement where I work with prospective/admitted students and their families, student employees, and our UMD tour guides. Additionally, I hold an overload position with Carillon Communities in the Office of Undergraduate Studies, where I work with their student ambassadors to focus on the recruitment and retention of the Living and Learning Program. I love thrifting, baking, reading, and sewing. I am happy to answer any questions or chat if you would like! My email is: vvaisman@umd.edu. Go Terps!

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



# HIGHER EDUCATION CONCENTRATION



**Amrina Rangar (She/Her/Hers)**

**Higher Education, Master's**

**Email: [arangar@umd.edu](mailto:arangar@umd.edu)**

**Bio:** I identify as an Indian, straight, cisgender female. I grew up in Eastern North Carolina, so I call the south my home. I attended East Carolina University and obtained a Bachelors Degree in History. I currently serve as the Graduate Coordinator for Alternative Breaks in the Leadership and Community Service Learning Office. Feel free to reach me at [arangar@umd.edu](mailto:arangar@umd.edu)!

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

# STUDENT AFFAIRS CONCENTRATION



**Bridgette Behling (She/Her/Hers)**

**Student Affairs, PhD**

**Email: [bbehling@umd.edu](mailto:bbehling@umd.edu)**

**Bio:** I identify as white, cisgender, heterosexual woman. I earned my Bachelor's (in Social Work) and Master's (in Educational Policy and Leadership) from Marquette University. I am a part time student in my second year and work full time at UMD. I have worked at private and public institutions, on student success initiatives (Veterans, graduate students, LGBTQIA, undocumented/immigrant, transfer, first-generation students), multicultural programs, orientation, student activities, leadership education, and community service. Happy to discuss any of that, or great places to eat or hike in the DMV, balancing parenting and school, and more!

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



**Angelina R. Jenkins (She/Her/Hers)**

**Student Affairs, PhD**

**Email: [arjenkin@umd.edu](mailto:arjenkin@umd.edu)**

**Bio:** I am a biracial Korean American, cisgender, heterosexual woman. I am originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and earned my Bachelors in Psychology with an Asian Studies certificate and Masters in Student Affairs and Higher Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. I currently work full-time at UMBC as the Assistant Director for The Mosaic: Center for Cultural Diversity, cultivating an inclusive learning and healing environment through the celebration of culture and identity. My work experiences include certified peer mentoring programming, multicultural centers, Sorority and Fraternity Life, first-year experience, orientation, and program curriculum development. Feel free to reach out at [arjenkin@umd.edu](mailto:arjenkin@umd.edu).

**Talk to me about...** Working full-time, Coursework, Other



**Pearl Lo (She/ Her/ Hers)**

**Student Affairs, PhD**

**Email: [pearllo@umd.edu](mailto:pearllo@umd.edu)**

**Bio:** I identify as a queer, cisgender, Asian American, able-bodied woman. I was born and raised in California, but have been on the east coast since my undergrad at the University of Pennsylvania where I also received my Masters in Higher Education. I currently work as the Assistant Director of Research and Assessment in the Stamp Student Union. I am a fourth year doctoral candidate in the Student Affairs program and am also a dual degree student getting my Masters in the Quantitative Methods: Measurement & Statistics program. My research focuses on cross-racial interactions & friendships, queer students of color, and quantitative criticalism.

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



# STUDENT AFFAIRS CONCENTRATION



## **Tristen Mayer (He/They)**

**Student Affairs, Master's**

**Email: [tmayer27@umd.edu](mailto:tmayer27@umd.edu)**

**Bio:** I identify as a white, queer, trans person. Originally from California, I got my B.A. in Anthropology (minor in LGBT Studies) from UC Berkeley as a transfer student from my local Community College. My research interests include identity development among queer and trans folks through their participation in fandom, and other online spaces! I believe that every student deserves access to an empathetic support system that affords them the resources they need to succeed in their college experience, whatever that may be.

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



## **Ben Parks (He/ Him)**

**Student Affairs, PhD**

**Email: [bparks@umd.edu](mailto:bparks@umd.edu)**

**Bio:** I am a white, cisgender gay man. I am from the Midwest -- grew up and did my undergrad in Iowa, and my Master's in Illinois. I work full-time as the Associate Director for Student Affairs for College Park Scholars, a community of living-learning programs on campus. My research focuses on mid-level student affairs professionals in this socio-political climate. Feel free to reach out at [bparks@umd.edu](mailto:bparks@umd.edu).

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



## **Randall Phyll (He/Him)**

**Student Affairs, PhD**

**Email: [Rphyall@umd.edu](mailto:Rphyall@umd.edu)**

**Bio:** I am a Black, cisgender, heterosexual, able-bodied man. I work full-time as an administrator here at the University of Maryland College Park. I was born and raised in New York City and Long Island, respectively. I received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Dickinson College, and received my Master's in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from Hofstra University. Currently, I reside in Upper Marlboro with my wife and 14 month old daughter. If you have questions about balancing work, school, and family feel free to reach out to me at [Rphyall@umd.edu](mailto:Rphyall@umd.edu).

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



# STUDENT AFFAIRS CONCENTRATION



**Pam Scott (She/Her/Hers)**

**Student Affairs, PhD**

**Email: [pscott13@umd.edu](mailto:pscott13@umd.edu)**

**Bio:** I identify as a white, queer, cisgender woman with a disability. I grew up outside of Boston (with a brief stint outside of Pittsburgh) and received my BS and MEd from the University of New Hampshire (math and counseling, respectively). I worked full-time in residence life at UNH (6 years) and UC Santa Barbara (11 years) prior to returning to school as a full-time student at UMD. For my GA, I am an instructor with the Leadership Studies Program. I am currently working on a research project exploring the lived experience of sense of belonging for LGBTQ+ resident directors. I live in Winchester, VA with my wife, Kristine, and my cat, Darrell.

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



**Huong Truong (She/Her/Hers)**

**Student Affairs, PhD**

**Email: [htruong5@umd.edu](mailto:htruong5@umd.edu)**

**Bio:** I am a first-generation Vietnamese-Chinese American queer woman. While I was born and raised in Oklahoma, I attended the University of Missouri, earning my Bachelor of Journalism and Master of Education. I was a sorority and fraternity life coordinator at Emory University in Atlanta for three years before deciding to pursue a Ph.D. full-time. My current graduate assistantship is in the Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life as a resident director. I also have experience working in residence life. Feel free to reach out at [htruong5@umd.edu](mailto:htruong5@umd.edu).

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



**Jennifer Valdez (She/Her/Hers)**

**Student Affairs, PhD**

**Email: [jvaldez3@umd.edu](mailto:jvaldez3@umd.edu)**

**Bio:** I identify as a Latina, I am out of state (all the way from Texas), got my Masters at Ohio State and have now been in the program 4 years! I work full time and live with my partner and two pups off campus in Bethesda MD. Would love to connect with you about any shared identities, interests, or just to help be a support to you on your journey!

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

# STUDENT AFFAIRS CONCENTRATION



**Nancy Wong (She/Her/Hers)**

**Student Affairs, PhD**

**Email: [nmwong@umd.edu](mailto:nmwong@umd.edu)**

**Bio:** I identify as an Asian American, cisgender woman, pansexual, able-bodied, first-generation college student. I grew up in a small town in rural Tennessee, right by the Tennessee-Alabama state line. I received my Bachelor's degree from Penn State and my Master's degree from the University of Connecticut. Before returning for my doctoral degree, I worked in leadership development, multicultural education, student affairs, learning and development, and higher ed policy. I am currently a 3rd-year doctoral candidate, and my graduate assistantship is with two research grants: one on test-optional admissions policies and the other on policy initiatives for the State of Illinois.

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



**Kwesi Acquah Sam (He/Him/His)**

**Student Affairs, PhD**

**Email: [kasam@umd.edu](mailto:kasam@umd.edu)**

**Bio:** My name is Kwesi, a name given to a male child born on a Sunday in my culture. I am from Ghana, West Africa. I am a counseling psychologist by profession with 12 years of working experience in student affairs and higher education in African universities. Before my doctoral studies, I served as the head of student affairs for the Association of African Universities, the apex higher education body for all universities in Africa. I am interested in first-generation students' out-of-class experiences, engagements, and how university-wide policies promote access, retention, graduation, and overall student development. Reach out to me if you are a prospective international student.

**Talk to me about...** Research, Coursework, Campus life as an international graduate student



# INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY CONCENTRATION



**Faiqoh Agustin (She/Her/Hers)**

**International Education Policy, Master's**

**Email: fagustin@umd.edu**

**Bio:** Hey there, I'm Faiqoh Agustin, a master student of International Education Policy program! I'm all the way from Indonesia and currently a Fulbright scholar pursuing my MA here with research interests in internationalization for higher education, and international mobility. I love to take pictures and watch sports games, especially volleyball games when I'm free.

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



**Nicolas Alesso**

**International Education Policy, Master's**

**Email: nalesso@umd.edu**

**Bio:** I come from a very small town, Gobernador Crespo, in the interior of Argentina. With an academic background in international relations, I worked on research in two universities of my country and in educational project management with the goal of improving skills in small and vulnerable communities to overcome access gaps and insert them into the regional development. The IEP Master's program allows me to learn about a field I am passionate about from experienced and kind professors, very interesting classes, excellent classmates from all over the world, and the events that the program organizes, like visits to IE organizations.

**Talk to me about...** Research, Family responsibilities, Coursework, Socializing, Other



**Imdad Baloch**

**International Education Policy, PhD**

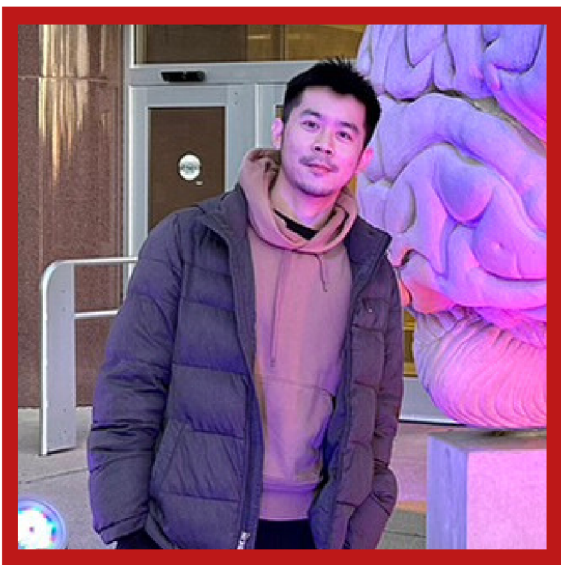
**Email: ibaloch@umd.edu**

**Bio:** I identify as a man who is cisgender and heterosexual. I am a Pakistani Muslim, born and raised in Sindh province of Pakistan (South Asia). I am fluent in English, Urdu/Hindi, Sindhi, and Balochi. I have an undergrad degree in Computer Technology and two master degrees (Teacher Education and Education and International Development). I also attended the Aga Khan University Karachi, Pakistan and Institute of Education-University College London. I have extensive teaching, professional and research experience in education sector. I am a first-year PhD student and Graduate Assistant at UMD. I am happy to share my experiences of relocating and academically coping with a new environment. I can be reached at ibaloch@umd.edu

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



# INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY CONCENTRATION



**Sean Jung-Hau Chen (He/Him/His)**

**International Education Policy, PhD**

**Email: [sjhchen@umd.edu](mailto:sjhchen@umd.edu)**

**Bio:** I'm a first-year PhD student in the International Education Policy program. I was born and raised in Taiwan, where I also completed my BA in English. I earned my M.Ed. in higher education from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. My academic interests broadly lie in international higher education and language education policy. I identify as a cisgender gay man. I have a shiba inu named Kuma (which means "bear" in Japanese) that I cannot stop talking about. Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions about being an international student or just life overall at UMD.

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



**Anna Grigoreva (She/Her/Hers)**

**International Education Policy, PhD**

**Email: [avgrig@umd.edu](mailto:avgrig@umd.edu)**

**Bio:** I identify as a white, heterosexual cisgendered women. I grew up in Russia. I attended a large public research university in Moscow and majored in Cultural Studies. I have two MA degrees - in Cultural Studies and Sociology. I am a former Fulbright student at UMD. I currently serve as a Resident Director of the Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life. You can feel free to contact me at - [avgrig@umd.edu](mailto:avgrig@umd.edu).

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



**Makynzie Horvath (She/Her/Hers)**

**International Education Policy, Master's**

**Email: [mhorvat2@umd.edu](mailto:mhorvat2@umd.edu)**

**Bio:** I identify as a white, cisgender, heterosexual, able-bodied woman. I am originally from Rossford, OH. I graduated from small liberal arts college where I studied Anthropology and Gender studies. My interest in international education came about after studying abroad in Samoa as an undergraduate student. After graduation, I worked as an English teacher in Kyrgyzstan and South Korea. In my program, I am interested in research around intercultural learning within non-formal education and the Native English Speaking Teaching (NEST) industry. I also work as graduate assistant for Maryland Mentor Corps in the Leadership and Community Service Learning Center (LCSL). Feel free to reach out at [mhorvat2@umd.edu](mailto:mhorvat2@umd.edu)!

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

# INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY CONCENTRATION



**Nicole Halat (She/Her/Hers)**

**International Education Policy, PhD**

**Email: [nhalat@umd.edu](mailto:nhalat@umd.edu)**

**Bio:** I identify as a Latina and indigenous, able-bodied, cis-gendered, heterosexual woman. I grew up between Staten Island, NY and northeast PA. I am a double Terp (BA in 2008) and got my Master's in International Affairs at Penn State in 2011. Currently, I'm in editing my comps paper for final submission in a few months. My research focuses on academic diplomacy and cultural ambassadorship in educational exchange. Aside from school, I work full-time as a Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist in the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. I am also a mother of 2 kiddos, ages 6 (Killian) and 3 (Amelia, who was born my second semester in the program!). I live in Montgomery County with them, my husband, 2 cats, and a dog.

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



**Natalie Vinski Ibrahim (She/Her/Hers)**

**International Education Policy, PhD**

**Email: [nvinski@umd.edu](mailto:nvinski@umd.edu)**

**Bio:** I am a doctoral candidate in International Education Policy. My primary research focus is women's higher education in the Middle East and North Africa. I am also interested in the use of experiential and action-oriented pedagogies in higher education including service-learning, intergroup dialogue, and contemplative practices. Beyond the College of Education, I am a full-time staff member in UMD's Honors Global Communities living learning program and a community activist in support of gun violence prevention in the U.S.

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



**Reese Joiner (He/Him/His)**

**International Education Policy, Master's**

**Email: [rjoiner@umd.edu](mailto:rjoiner@umd.edu)**

**Bio:** I identify as a white, cisgender heterosexual man. I am originally from Alabama, where I graduated from University of Alabama at Birmingham with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work. I stayed in Alabama in two years to serve in the 2020 Teach For America Corps as a middle school mathematics instructor. I am now a Graduate Assistant, as well as an Instructor in English and Math at Art of Problem Solving in Vienna, Virginia. Feel free to contact me at [rjoiner@umd.edu](mailto:rjoiner@umd.edu)!

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



# INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY CONCENTRATION



## **Jasmine Stephens (She/Her/Hers)**

**International Education Policy, Master's**

**Email: [jstephe7@umd.edu](mailto:jstephe7@umd.edu)**

**Bio:** I am a first-generation college student from North Carolina and a mom to a 4 year old. I went to the University of North Carolina at Wilmington for undergrad, earning my degree in Elementary Education. I began the IEP program working full-time while taking a full course load. I currently have a 20-hr graduate assistantship on campus working for ADVANCE Program for Inclusive Excellence. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach me at [jstephe7@umd.edu](mailto:jstephe7@umd.edu).

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



## **Shytance Wren (She/Her/Hers)**

**International Education Policy, PhD**

**Email: [shywren@umd.edu](mailto:shywren@umd.edu)**

**Bio:** I identify as a Black, heterosexual, cisgender, able-bodied, female. I'm a third-year PhD student from Michigan. Currently, I have a full-time Graduate assistantship in the IEP program and a part-time research assistantship in the HESI program. After completing my Masters program, I spent about three years working as a faculty member and advisor in the UAE. My research interests revolve around the geopolitics of knowledge and the contested meanings of educational borrowing. Over the past few years, I have interned at several nonprofit and governmental organizations in Washington, D.C.. Furthermore, I've completed multiple study abroad courses at UMD and classes in the Washington Consortium.

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