

# Computer Science at George Mason University

Nguyen Engineering Building  
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Fairfax, VA 22030



# About GMU

- Largest Public University in Virginia
  - 39,000 students
  - 130 countries and all 50 states
  - R1: Very high research activity
- Relatively Young
  - Original founded as a Nova region branch of UVA
  - Became independent in 1972 (50 years old in 2022)
- Multiple locations
  - Fairfax (main campus)
  - Mason Square (Arlington)
  - Science and Technology (Manassas)
  - Mason Korea (Incheon, Korea)
  - and **others**

# Computer Science at GMU

- Faculty: 78 (36 tenured, 21 tenure-track, 21 term)
  - 38 new faculty (27 tenured/tenure-track, 11 term) during the 3 pandemic years 2020–2022
- Students
  - > 200 Ph.D
  - > 1000 M.S (quite big compared to most schools)
  - > 2200 undergraduate
- Degrees
  - Ph.D. in CS
  - MS in CS, Information Systems, Information Security Assurance, and Software Engineering
  - BS in CS and Applied CS
- Largest dept in the College of Engineering and Computing

# Research

## CSRankings

- **33 overall** (highest in Virginia)
  - 10 in SE
  - 20 in graphics
  - 21 in mobile computing
  - 25 in security
  - 26 in robotics
  - 29 in AI
- top 30 in the last 5 years

## Research Awards

- 7 ACM and IEEE fellows
- 24 NSF CAREER Awards
- Many industrial award recipients (e.g., Amazon/Google/Meta)

## Wide-range research areas

- HCI, software engineering, programming languages
- security, cryptography, theory
- robotics, systems and networks, databases, mobile computing
- NLP, AI, ML and data mining
- computer graphics and vision
- bioinformatics, formal methods

# Ph.D. Admission Info

## Application Process

- **Two** Reference Letters
- **Do NOT** require GRE
- International students
  - English tests through TOEFL/IELTS or Duolingo
  - NOT required for students from the US and many other countries
- Eligible for **Presidential Scholarship**

## GTAs

- **\$28K** 9-month stipend for GTA (*guaranteed* for 4 years)
- **\$9K** summer stipend for *first year* GTA
  - 37K first year when you haven't found an advisor
- Tuition Wavier / Health Insurance / other benefits typical for R1 univs

## GRAs

- Depend on advisor but at least as good as GTAs

# Faculty Candidates: Why join CS@GMU?

- Reputation, quality, quantity steadily increase
  - CSRankings: 70 in '18, 60 in '21, 50 in '22, 33 in '23
  - Faculty: double in size in past 3 years (78 total, 38 are new '20–'22)
  - You will likely get your top student recruits
- Close to funding agencies NSF, DoD, NIH; New Amazon HQ2
  - internships and opportunities for your students (or even yourself, e.g., Amazon Scholar program)
- Many generous internal and in-state grants (e.g., VA Initiatives)
- 1-semester study leave before tenure
- Flexible course scheduling: 2,3 days / week or 1 day / week
- Beginning in 2024, university will pay GRA tuition
- On-campus living for faculty (Masonvale) and daycare for kids
- Vibrant and helpful Slack channels!
  - questions about NSF? We have in-house ex-NSF directors
  - interested in Industrial funding? Our faculty win Amazon/Google/Meta awards every year