Dear International Student,

Congratulations on making the decision to further your education, and thank you for choosing the Graduate School of Political Management (GSPM) at The George Washington University!

We believe that GSPM offers an ideal educational experience for international students interested in the arenas of politics, global advocacy, public relations, and communications. GSPM’s location in the nation’s capital provides access to an impressive array of faculty, most of whom are working professionals in the very fields our students aim to launch their careers.

To ensure that you succeed at GSPM, this letter outlines the requirements and recommended resources for international students after they’re admitted to GSPM.

Requirements after Admittance to GSPM

1. **EAP Course**
   During the first semester at GSPM, admitted international students are required to register for an English for Academic Purposes (EAP) course. The EAP course that is required will be indicated in your letter of admission. Students who are assigned EAP courses should anticipate additional tuition expenses as well as a possible extended period of time required to complete their degree programs.

   **Exemptions**
   Those who have a TOEFL score of 600 on the paper-based or 100 on the Internet-based test, or who have an overall band score of 7.0 on the academic IELTS with no individual band score below 6.0, or those who have a PTE Academic score of 68 are exempt from taking the EAP course.

2. **Two Week Bootcamp Course**
   All admitted international students are required to enroll in a writing bootcamp course from Monday, August 15, 2016 – Friday, August 26, 2016. The two-week bootcamp course entitled “The Power of the Written Word: Diplomacy” will meet from 9 AM – 12 PM on GW’s main campus.

   **International students enrolled for the Fall 2016 semester will need to arrive to GW 3-4 weeks prior to the start of the Fall semester (August 29, 2016) in order to attend this required bootcamp class.** While GSPM does not charge tuition for the bootcamp course (0 credit), a modest program fee of $50 is required. Students need to register for the course and will need to consider these dates when arranging for housing.

   The bootcamp course is designed to help strengthen language proficiency in ways that directly relate to the types of communication assignments that will be expected of students throughout their graduate studies at GSPM. The professor, Cheryl W. Thompson, has over 25 years of journalism experience, most recently at The Washington Post. She was part of the reporting team that won the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for national reporting, and she is a 2011 recipient of an Emmy Award.

   **Exemptions**
   Exemptions from this requirement include the following:
   1. Admitted international students who hold a degree from a college or university in a country where English is the official language and the medium of instruction. Applicants must hold a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution in the United States. No other exceptions are made.
2. International students enrolled in GSPM’s Maestría en Comunicación Política y Gobernanza Estratégica Master’s program, which is taught entirely in Spanish, online.

**Resources (Recommended, but not Required)**

1. **Welcome Video**
   
   This video is specifically designed to assist international students with their transition to GSPM. It outlines the structure of GSPM programs and expected educational performance. The video can be found here: [https://cc.readytalk.com/play?id=f6k59u](https://cc.readytalk.com/play?id=f6k59u).

2. **Orientation and Welcome Breakfast**
   
   International students are encouraged to attend both the orientation program for all new GSPM students, as well as a welcome breakfast intended for international students at GSPM. Students will receive an email with more details on time and location closer to the start of the Fall 2016 semester.

3. **GSPM Recommended Courses**
   
   The below courses are recommended for international students to develop a greater understanding of America’s engagement with domestic and multicultural communities and institutions. If taken, the course(s) would be accepted as electives for any GSPM program (except for the Spanish Language Master’s Program).
   
   - PSAD 6250: Cultural Aspects of Global Engagement
   - PMGT 6480: Washington Residency

4. **Career Events**
   
   GSPM encourages domestic and international students to attend career events to make connections and to build a better understanding of the steps that lead to job satisfaction. Students will learn about scheduled Career Events via email (weekly e-newsletter) once the Fall semester begins.

5. **University Writing Center**
   
   The University Writing Center provides trained tutors to help domestic and international students with common communication challenges.

6. **Library Sessions**
   
   GSPM recommends that domestic and internationals students attend informational sessions at the library to learn about research tools and capabilities offered at GW’s Gelman Library. GSPM arranges library informational sessions throughout the year, and will learn about scheduled sessions via email (weekly e-newsletter) once the Fall semester begins.

7. **Mentors (Second Year)**
   
   GSPM encourages all second-year international students to serve as mentors to first-year international students.