

Hello, my name is Hyeongjun Kim and I'm a former RISD graduate, interested in pursuing a career in teaching art through the MAT art education graduate program at GMU. One of the toughest decisions I had to make since graduating from RISD was whether to pursue my career in the industry or within the education department. The expectations I've set up with myself by attending RISD clouded my judgment on deciding the career path on what I wanted to do versus what I was expected to perform based on the reputation of my school. I've decided to take it upon myself to attend George Mason University as a graduate student for art education and with my master's degree, I wish to expand my horizon on society by constantly communicating my area of expertise to people of all age, gender, and ethnicity. My current financial status is too poor for me to continue my education without asking for loans which I've already amounted to over \$27,000 from the Federal Aid program the government offered me from my RISD years in 2017-2021. I am currently undergoing a non-paid full time internship program for my student teaching courses while undergoing three different part time jobs without a car to call it my own just to sustain the cost of my tuition. Furthermore, I am currently enrolled as a member of the Medicaid United Healthcare Community Plan which is offered to those who are especially struggling with financial need. Which is all the more reason why I fully appreciate the support I am receiving from SNUCMAA for awarding me with their scholarship for the year 2023-2024 so as to allow me to continue my education. Thank you again from the bottom of my heart and I hope you continue to support many other future scholars in financial need much like myself.

Sincerely,

Hyeongjun Kim.