Hello University of Maryland FIRE Student,

I hope that you are having a good semester. We fully recognize that remote instruction is a real challenge we hope that you are getting the support you need to succeed. Please check our dedicated support page to ensure you are using every UMD resource possible to support your success this semester.

We are excited that you are about to begin the process of selecting your FIRE cluster and stream to take the next step in your research training and experience with FIRE next semester.

This guide was assembled to help support you through this process. Please take the time to study it and visit all of the recommended resources in your decision-making process. Finally, please plan to attend The FIRE Summit this Monday, November 16 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. This event is being built with you in mind.

Sincerely,
Dr. Patrick Killion

Director of Discovery-Based Learning
Director of The First-Year Innovation & Research Experience
Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost
University of Maryland
What do we know about FIRE courses for Spring 2021?
FIRE is more than a sequence of courses. The courses, however, are important! They are how we help you progress with the attainment of your degree while receiving broad academic, personal, research and professional mentorship. In other words - they are where we achieve our mission.

**FIRE Semester 1**
In our first course we welcome you to the research mission of UMD and build professional capacities that will help you succeed in your chosen FIRE stream.

Course Information: FIRE120, 3 credits, General Education Scholarship in Practice

**FIRE Semester 2**
In the second semester, we start square-zero training, deep immersion and research mentorship within the specific FIRE research stream you have chosen.

Course Information: FIRE198, 2 credits

**FIRE Semester 3**
In the third semester you transition from trainee to experienced practitioner within your chosen FIRE stream. You drive your research project to completion and communicate the results to a broad audience and potentially national conferences.

Course Information: FIRE298, 3 credits, General Education Scholarship in Practice
We are currently planning for a blended FIRE course experience for FIRE Semester 2 in Spring 2021. What does this mean for you?

**Course component** - the course component will be online due to the size of FIRE streams (~40 students), space restrictions in our instructional facilities and our inability to safely host socially distanced in-person class sessions.

**Research component** - we are working hard to determine how we will be able to safely and effectively design hybrid research engagement and mentorship.

Hybrid? This means we are designing a combination of remote and in-person research engagement.

We know that Spring 2021 FIRE Semester 2 will be different from previous years. **If we are able to open FIRE research environments for student instruction** it will be impossible to get all FIRE Semester 2 students into our labs for the typical 6 hours per week. This will be due to social distancing and research personnel spacing restrictions to which we will adhere. We will be targeting closer to 2 hours of laboratory time per student per week.

Please note that I bolded the **if we are able** phrase above. There is still significant uncertainty regarding this outcome and a number of issues to be solved. We strongly wish to have you in our FIRE labs - this is what they were designed for. It is my duty to be clear that we cannot guarantee this outcome.
What are the principles we will use to design both our course and research components?

**Learning from our experience** - We made a transition to remote instruction and mentorship this fall and have learned from our successes, challenges, and interactions with FIRE students.

**Fulfilling the goals of FIRE Semester 2** - We will do this in a way that fully provides you the ability to get to know and understand the FIRE program, work with peers, and receive mentorship from our faculty.

**Using resources that work** - We continue to engaging training for all FIRE faculty members to continue to excel at this mode of working with you.

**Building a course designed for flexibility** - We are hard at work designing FIRE Semester 2 for instruction in this way. You will not be experiencing an old version of FIRE Semester 2 slightly modified for online instruction - each FIRE stream will deliver an entirely new version built for online instruction.

**Building community safely** - We are putting thought into how we recreate the community you would have had with FIRE and an in-person FIRE course. We take this part of the FIRE experience seriously and will work hard to deliver. We know that some of you will be on our campus, some of you will not. While our instruction for the course component of FIRE Semester 2 will be online, we will look for every opportunity to safely connect first-semester FIRE students with each other and our faculty.
Will I have the option to continue with FIRE and take FIRE Semester 2 completely remotely if I am not on campus for Spring 2021?

**YES**

Worry not, we have you covered.

We recognize that some, perhaps many, FIRE students will be remote for the Spring 2021 semester. We will be ready to provide a FIRE Semester 2 experience in every cluster and stream to students who make this choice.
You are about to begin the process of selecting your FIRE cluster and stream.
Clusters

We organize FIRE research streams into three distinct clusters of streams.

Students of any major or background can join any cluster and stream. You do not need previous training or experience to consider any cluster or stream:

- NATURAL SCIENCE
- SOCIAL SCIENCE
- TECH & APPLIED SCIENCE
FIRE: THE FIRST-YEAR INNOVATION & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

NATURAL SCIENCE

FIRE.UMD.EDU
Stream Selection

Through your enrollment in FIRE Semester 1, you are participating in a process that will help you make your cluster and stream selection during the upcoming Spring 2021 course enrollment.

During this process, we wish for you to learn about each of our clusters and streams, meet the faculty leaders, talk to FIRE Semester 3 students, and get a sense of what the day-to-day looks like with respect to each stream's research mission.

How?

First, use our website to study each of the research streams we have available in our three clusters.

It is probably best to first decide on a cluster that aligns with your interests and then focus on streams therein. Be sure, however, to look at all of the clusters and consider options outside your major!

We have a high level of confidence that you will be able to enroll in a stream within your chosen cluster and this is why we emphasize this as the first step.

What should you do next?

Add real human connection, conversation, and experience to your cluster and stream selection process through participation in The FIRE Summit.
Second, attend the FIRE Summit. In 2019 we started something new to benefit both FIRE Semester 1 & FIRE Semester 3 students - The FIRE Summit.

This event was huge - hundreds of posters and a near complete take-over the Edward St. John Teaching and Learning Center (ESJ). We had over 1000 UMD students, faculty, and staff attend!

We will not be able to hold this event in person this year but - we will hold this event on Monday, November 16 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Our goals remain the same as last year with potential benefits to the online version:

FIRE Semester 1 goals:
- Provide you an opportunity to see and hear from FIRE Semester 3 students and peer mentors as they showcase their FIRE accomplishments.
- Allow you to see the authentic research from each FIRE research cluster and stream in a manner that helps you choose the one you will join.

Please check this part of our website regularly and watch for future communications from us about this event.
Speaking of community, we have a new way we are connecting everyone in the FIRE program (students, faculty, leadership):

We launched Slack in late August as a new and exciting way in which we connect FIRE Semester 1 students to each other, to FIRE leadership, and to our FIRE faculty members.

We will be providing more information on Slack regarding the upcoming FIRE Summit and the cluster and stream selection process.

See these channels in our Slack workspace:
- #summit
- #cluster-and-stream-selection
FIRE COURSE ENROLLMENT

FIRE Semester 2 Course Enrollment

Third, when you are enrolling for your Spring 2021 courses, enroll in the a section of FIRE198 that has open seats remaining (each section is connected with a specific FIRE stream).

Summary of FIRE cluster and stream selection:
- Choose your FIRE cluster and study streams therein **first**.
- Attend the FIRE Summit **second**.
- Enroll in a section of FIRE198 **third**.

Yes, some FIRE streams may have filled by the time you are able to enroll.

We have designed this process to be in the hands of FIRE students so that you can decide and even re-decide should your interests or schedule change (they do). If you choose your cluster first we strongly believe you will gain membership in a stream therein.
FAQs

How will this remote course component work? Will I be on my own?

The class will be hosted online but will come with broad support. The class will meet online each week on the scheduled day and time to ensure all FIRE students have the opportunity to work with each other and their FIRE faculty member as they would have in person. Students will engage training and receive feedback during each week.

Does my cluster and stream choice need to align with my major?

You are empowered to choose any FIRE cluster or stream that might interest you. No experience is required.

Will I be able to join a stream within my chosen FIRE cluster?

Our historical data and FIRE student surveys clearly show us that students are able to gain enrollment in a stream within their chosen cluster. We strongly encourage you to consider your cluster first, stream second, and have multiple streams of interest within a cluster.

Will I be able to join a specific stream?

FIRE streams do fill. Please choose your cluster and multiple streams of interest within that cluster. We promise the research and professional development goals of FIRE happen in every FIRE stream.
FIRE Semester 2 is the next step in your FIRE experience.

Additional opportunities will be available to you, as well.
Summer Scholars

FIRE Summer Scholars is a new FIRE program created for the Summer of 2020. Our goal is to help students finishing FIRE Semester 2 stay connected to their research stream and continue research and professional development over the summer.

We expect to offer FIRE Summer Scholars in the Summer of 2021.

Summer Fellows

FIRE Summer Fellows involves a research-intensive 8-week summer experience. FIRE Summer Fellows work closely with their Research Educator and a small group of their peers on advanced research projects for their stream.

We hope to offer FIRE Summer Fellows in the Summer of 2021 (contingent on COVID-19 campus status).
This year we are broadening our Peer Mentoring Program into a broader set of opportunities we are calling FIRE Leadership Opportunities.

Students who complete all 3 semesters of FIRE are eligible for consideration.

The most up to date information about FIRE Leadership Opportunities can be found at: https://fire.umd.edu/leadership

Questions can be sent to:

Dr. Cristina Risco
Research Educator - FIRE Addiction Science
Chair - Leadership Initiatives
Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost
University of Maryland

Email: crisco1@umd.edu
FIRE students are strongly positioned to transition to next steps in their professional development after completing the FIRE three-semester experience.

We are working on developing additional resources and support to help you transition to a next step after you complete FIRE.

Questions can be sent to:

Dr. Carol Vieira
Research Educator - FIRE Found In Translation Chair - Next Steps Initiatives
Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost
University of Maryland

Email: cvieira@umd.edu
STUDENT SUPPORT

We are using one location to keep you **updated**, **supported**, and **informed** this semester:

https://fire.umd.edu/support

Please visit this location and check back regularly!
Please be sure you are getting the personal, academic, and professional support you need to succeed in all of your UMD courses.

These resources are all documented at our support web page: https://fire.umd.edu/support

**KEEP LEARNING**
https://ugst.umd.edu/keeplearning/
UMD has worked to aggregate many technology and learning services in one place. Please visit Keep Learning @ UMD to learn more about the Fall semester, ways to academically succeed and solutions to technology problems.

**THE COUNSELING CENTER**
https://www.counseling.umd.edu/
The Counseling Center provides comprehensive support services that promote the personal, social, and academic success of UMD students.

**THE TUTORING CENTER**
https://tutoring.umd.edu/
The University is committed to academic excellence and provides a variety of tutoring and other academic resources to support student success.

**THE CAREER CENTER**
https://careers.umd.edu/
The University Career Center & The President’s Promise provides comprehensive career assistance for all students enrolled at the University of Maryland, College Park. Designed to support students through each stage of their career development, the Center offers an array of resources, services, and programs that empower students to pursue their ambitions and navigate a meaningful career journey.

**STUDENT SUCCESS OFFICE**
https://studentsuccess.umd.edu/Resources/overview.html
The Student Success Office has a broad range of support available for students seeking tutoring, financial assistance, information on academic policies, and health and wellness services.

4Maryland
https://umd.edu/4Maryland
Fall 2020 Reopening Plan - UMD has been working collaboratively across campus to develop a plan to ensure all operations and courses are safe, coordinated, and in line with state and national guidance.
STUDENT SUPPORT: TECHNOLOGY

The following is a list of resources that will help ensure you and your computer are ready for the engagement. These resources are all documented at our support web page: https://fire.umd.edu/support

TERPMAIL
Several FIRE services (Google Shared drives and Slack) require you to have an active Terpmail account working. Please follow these steps to get this important UMD resource up and running!

TERPWARE
https://terpware.umd.edu/
Visit the UMD Terpware website and download and install software provided by your enrollment at UMD.

Even if you already have some of this software (Microsoft Office), it is recommended that you uninstall your existing version and install a full and complete version of the current version on Terpware.

CHROME
https://www.google.com/chrome/
There are many web browsers, right?  FIRE highly recommends you adopt and use Google Chrome exclusively for your UMD courses. We have found that most of the websites, applications, and extensions we use work best and most reliably with Chrome. We have fixed many problems that students have by suggesting, "Have you tried it in Chrome?"  So, just start with Chrome, and let's go from there.

GOOGLE DRIVE & GOOGLE APPS
https://drive.google.com/
You have a huge amount of cloud storage available to you through your UMD Google account. Install Google Drive File Stream on your computer to ensure all of your non-Google documents (Office, PDF, source code, etc) are automatically backed up as you work on them!

TECH HELP DESK
https://umd.service-now.com/itsupport/
Get help now with any technology issues that you are having (or call 301-405-1500).

LEARN ELMS & GET HELP
https://go.umd.edu/elmsstudent
Take advantage of this short tutorial, and get help when you need it. You can also browse tutorials and ELMs support guides (or call 877-399-4090).
FIRE CONTACTS

Web & Social Media
Website: https://fire.umd.edu/
Instagram: @umdfire
Twitter: @umdfire

FIRE Leadership
Do you need assistance with your FIRE research stream or courses?

Director: Dr. Patrick Killion
Phone: 301-405-0057
Email: pkillion@umd.edu

Associate Director: Dr. Ian Page
Phone: 301-405-5849
Email: ibpage@umd.edu

Please leave a voice message if you call - we will return your call as soon as possible.

Campus Issues & Emergencies
UMPD - 301-405-3333 (emergencies)
UMPD - 301-405-3555 (non-emergencies)
I am looking forward to continuing to be a part of the FIRE community with you this spring and ask that you continue to do everything you can to protect your emotional and physical health and well-being during this challenging time.

Patrick Killion
Director, FIRE