

Standard Contract

UCPUMW 26-2075

Customizable International Travel Services

This contract, between Golden Rule Travel LLC, hereinafter called the “Contractor”, and the Commonwealth of Virginia, University of Mary Washington, called the “University” or “UMW”, shall become effective upon full execution of this document by both parties.

WITNESSETH that the Contractor and the University, in consideration of the mutual covenants, promises and agreements contained herein, agree as follows:

PERIOD OF CONTRACT: March 1, 2026 – February 28, 2027 with nine (9) one-year renewal options.

CONTRACT DOCUMENTS: The contract shall consist of the following documents in order of precedence, all of which are incorporated herein by reference, and constitute the “contract documents”:

1. This signed Contract;
2. Any addenda and the original solicitation, RFP # 26-2075, dated January 20, 2026, to include:
 - a. The Statement of Needs
 - b. The General Terms and Conditions
 - c. The Special Terms and Conditions;
3. The Contractor’s proposal dated February 4, 2026 including all attachments;

Any contractual claims shall be submitted in accordance with the contractual dispute procedures set forth in the Commonwealth of Virginia Purchasing Manual for Institutions of Higher Education and their Vendors.

SCOPE OF SERVICES: The Contractor agrees to provide the following services:

- A. Customized International Travel Programming
 1. Develop and manage group travel programs for academic, cultural, and service-learning purposes.
 2. Offer tailored itineraries that meet educational goals for faculty and students.
- B. Travel Management Services
 1. Arrange international transportation, lodging, and local transfers for large groups.
 2. Provide access to unique lodging options (e.g., apartments, dormitories, houses).
- C. Program Enhancements
 1. Secure admissions to museums, performances, and cultural attractions at favorable rates.
 2. Organize mini-trips or excursions during international programs.
- D. Support Services
 1. Offer professional trip counseling for faculty directors.
 2. Provide tour guides and interpreters as needed.
 3. Conduct pre-trip seminars and organizational meetings upon request.
- E. Compliance and Documentation
 1. Communicate entry requirements (visas, immunizations) and assist with passport/visa services.
 2. Ensure adherence to all local, state, and federal laws and regulations.

3. If the Contractor collects any traveler data, the Contractor shall disclose what data is collected, how it is stored, and how it is protected. Based on evaluation of proposals, the Hosted Technology Services Addendum may be required as part of any subsequent contract.

F. Emergency and Risk Management

1. Maintain a 24/7 Emergency Operations Plan for faculty, staff, and student travelers.
2. Communicate travel alerts, restrictions, and contingency procedures for pandemics or emergencies.

G. Financial and Administrative Requirements

1. Provide accurate invoicing showing cost per traveler.
2. Offer transparent refund and cancellation policies with maximum flexibility.
3. Issue quotes for budget planning and guarantee pricing when possible.

H. Additional Services

1. Provide meeting space and technology support during travel.
2. Offer travel insurance and refund processing for unused tickets.

PROGRAM PRICING CLARIFICATIONS:

- Refund processing fee: \$50 per ticket (plus any airline penalties; original processing fees non-refundable)
- Domestic ticket reissue/change: \$30
- International ticket reissue/change: \$50
- Domestic void fee: \$30
- International void fee: \$50
- Name correction fee: \$50 (processed as a standard reissue)
- Individual ticket payment: Full payment due at issuance
- Group block booking deposits (10+ seats): Determined by the airline's group contract; Golden Rule Travel communicates the required deposit and deadlines at the time of the quote.

CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION: The Director of Center for International Education, or designee, shall be identified by the University as the Contract Administrator and shall use all powers under the contract to enforce its faithfulness and performance in conjunction with the University's Procurement Services department.

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- A. **ANTI-DISCRIMINATION:** By submitting their bids or proposals, bidders or offerors certify to the Commonwealth that they will conform to the provisions of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, as well as the Virginia Fair Employment Contracting Act of 1975, as amended, where applicable, the Virginians With Disabilities Act, the Americans With Disabilities Act and § 10 of the Rules Governing Procurement, Chapter 2, Exhibit J, Attachment 1, available for review on the UMW Procurement Services website. If the award is made to a faith-based organization, the organization shall not discriminate against any recipient of goods, services, or disbursements made pursuant to the contract on the basis of the recipient's religion, religious belief, refusal to participate in a religious practice, or on the basis of race, age, color, gender or national origin and shall be subject to the same rules as other organizations that contract with public bodies to account for the use of the funds provided; however, if the faith-based organization segregates public funds into separate accounts, only the accounts and programs funded with public funds shall be subject to audit by the public body. (\$6 of the Rules Governing Procurement).

In every contract over \$10,000, provisions 1. and 2. below apply:

1. During the performance of this contract, the contractor agrees as follows:
 - a. The contractor will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, color, sex, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis

prohibited by state law relating to discrimination in employment, except where there is a bona fide occupational qualification reasonably necessary to the normal operation of the contractor. The contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.

- b. The contractor, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor, will state that such contractor is an equal opportunity employer.
- c. Notices, advertisements and solicitations placed in accordance with federal law, rule or regulation shall be deemed sufficient for the purpose of meeting these requirements.
- d. If the contractor employs more than five employees, the contractor shall:
 - i. provide annual training on the contractor's sexual harassment policy to all supervisors and employees providing services in the Commonwealth, except such supervisors or employees that are required to complete sexual harassment training provided by the Department of Human Resource Management, and
 - ii. post the contractor's sexual harassment policy in (a) a conspicuous public place in each building located in the Commonwealth that the contractor owns or leases for business purposes and (b) the contractor's employee handbook.

2. The contractor will include the provisions of 1. above in every subcontract or purchase order over \$10,000, so that the provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor.

- B. **APPLICABLE LAWS AND COURTS:** This solicitation and any resulting contract shall be governed in all respects by the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and any litigation with respect thereto shall be brought in the courts of the Commonwealth. The contractor shall comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations.
- C. **ASSIGNMENT OF CONTRACT:** A contract shall not be assignable by the contractor in whole or in part without the written consent of the Commonwealth.
- D. **AUDIT:** The Contractor hereby agrees to retain all books, records, and other documents relative to this contract for at least five (5) years after final payment, or until audited by the Commonwealth of Virginia, whichever is sooner. The Agency, its authorized agents, and/or State auditors shall have full access to, and the right to examine any of said materials during said period.
- E. **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS:** It is understood and agreed between the parties herein that the agency shall be bound hereunder only to the extent of the funds available or which may hereafter become available for the purpose of this agreement.
- F. **DEBARMENT STATUS:** By submitting their bids or proposals, bidders or offerors certify that they are not currently debarred by the Commonwealth of Virginia from submitting bids or proposals on contracts for the type of goods and/or services covered by this solicitation, nor are they an agent of any person or entity that is currently so debarred.
- G. **ETHICS IN PUBLIC CONTRACTING:** By submitting their bids or proposals, bidders or offerors certify that their bids or proposals are made without collusion or fraud and that they have not offered or received any kickbacks or inducements from any other bidder or offeror, supplier, manufacturer or subcontractor in connection with their bid or proposal, and that they have not conferred with any public employee having official responsibility for this procurement transaction any payment, loan, subscription, advance, deposit of money, services or anything of more than nominal value, present or promised, unless consideration of substantially equal or greater value was exchanged.
- H. **eVA BUSINESS-TO-GOVERNMENT VENDOR REGISTRATION, CONTRACTS, AND ORDERS:** The eVA Internet electronic procurement solution, website portal, streamlines and automates government purchasing activities in the Commonwealth. The eVA portal is the gateway for vendors to conduct business with state agencies and

public bodies. All vendors desiring to provide goods and/or services to the Commonwealth shall participate in the eVA Internet eProcurement solution by completing the free eVA Vendor Registration. All bidders or offerors must register in eVA and pay the Vendor Transaction Fees specified below; failure to register will result in the bid/proposal being rejected.

Vendor transaction fees are determined by the date the original purchase order is issued and the current fees are as follows:

1. Effective July 1, 2014, the Vendor Transaction Fees are:
 - i. DSBSD-certified Small Businesses: 1%, capped at \$500 per order.
 - ii. Businesses that are not DSBSD-certified Small Businesses: 1%, capped at \$1,500 per order.

The specified vendor transaction fee will be invoiced, by the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of General Services, approximately 30 days after the corresponding purchase order is issued and payable 30 days after the invoice date. Any adjustments (increases/decreases) will be handled through purchase order changes.

- I. **IMMIGRATION REFORM AND CONTROL ACT OF 1986:** By entering into a written contract with the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Contractor certifies that the Contractor does not, and shall not during the performance of the contract for goods and services in the Commonwealth, knowingly employ an unauthorized alien as defined in the federal Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986.
- J. **NONDISCRIMINATION OF CONTRACTORS:** A bidder, offeror, or contractor shall not be discriminated against in the solicitation or award of this contract because of race, religion, color, sex, national origin, age, disability, faith-based organizational status, any other basis prohibited by state law relating to discrimination in employment or because the bidder or offeror employs ex-offenders unless the state agency, department or institution has made a written determination that employing ex-offenders on the specific contract is not in its best interest. If the award of this contract is made to a faith-based organization and an individual, who applies for or receives goods, services, or disbursements provided pursuant to this contract objects to the religious character of the faith-based organization from which the individual receives or would receive the goods, services, or disbursements, the public body shall offer the individual, within a reasonable period of time after the date of his objection, access to equivalent goods, services, or disbursements from an alternative provider.
- K. **PRECEDENCE OF TERMS:** These Mandatory General Terms and Conditions and the Commonwealth of Virginia Procurement Manual for Institutions of Higher Education and their Vendors, shall apply in all instances. In the event there is a conflict between any of the other General Terms and Conditions and any Special Terms and Conditions in this solicitation, the Special Terms and Conditions shall apply.
- L. **PRICE CURRENCY:** Unless stated otherwise in the solicitation, bidders or offerors shall state bid or offer prices in US dollars.

SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- A. **ANTITRUST:** By entering into a contract, the contractor conveys, sells, assigns, and transfers to the Commonwealth of Virginia all rights, title and interest in and to all causes of action it may now have or hereafter acquire under the antitrust laws of the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia, relating to the particular goods or services purchased or acquired by the Commonwealth of Virginia under said contract.
- B. **AUDIT:** The contractor shall retain all books, records, and other documents relative to this contract for five (5) years after final payment, or until audited by the Commonwealth of Virginia, whichever is sooner. The agency, its authorized agents, and/or state auditors shall have full access to and the right to examine any of said materials during said period.
- C. **COOPERATIVE PROCUREMENT/ADDITIONAL USERS - USE OF AGREEMENT BY THIRD PARTIES:** It is the intent of this solicitation and resulting contract(s) to allow for cooperative procurement. Accordingly, any public body (to include government/state agencies, political subdivisions, etc.), cooperative purchasing

organizations, public or private health or educational institutions, or any University affiliated agency and/or corporation may access any resulting contract if authorized by the Contractor.

Participation in this cooperative procurement is strictly voluntary. If authorized by the Contractor(s), the resultant contract(s) will be extended to the entities indicated above to purchase goods and services in accordance with contract terms. As a separate contractual relationship, the participating entity will place its own orders directly with the contractor(s) and shall fully and independently administer its use of the contract(s) to include contractual disputes, invoicing and payments without direct administration from the University. No modification of this contract or execution of a separate agreement is required to participate; however, the participating entity and the contractor may modify the terms and conditions of this contract to accommodate specific governing laws, regulations, policies, and business goals required by the participating entity. Any such modification will apply solely between the participating entity and the Contractor.

The Contractor will notify the University in writing of any such entities accessing this Contract. The Contractor will provide semi-annual usage reports for all entities accessing the Contract. The Contractor should consider an offer of special tiered pricing or rebates to all entities accessing the contract, based on the results of such reporting. This tiered pricing and/or rebate structure should be included with the Offeror's bid or proposal package. The University shall not be held liable for any costs or damages incurred by any other participating entity as a result of any authorization by the Contractor to extend the Contract. It is understood and agreed that the University is not responsible for the acts or omissions of any entity, and will not be considered in default of the Contract no matter the circumstances.

Use of this Agreement does not preclude any participating entity from using other agreements or competitive processes.

- D. **CANCELLATION OF CONTRACT:** The University reserves the right to cancel and terminate any resulting contract, in part or in whole, without penalty, upon 60 days written notice to the contractor. In the event the initial contract period is for more than 12 months, the resulting contract may be terminated by either party, without penalty, after the initial 12 months of the contract period upon 60 days written notice to the other party. Any contract cancellation notice shall not relieve the contractor of the obligation to deliver and/or perform on all outstanding orders issued prior to the effective date of cancellation.
- E. **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS/FISCAL YEAR PROCESSING:** The University of Mary Washington's fiscal year is July 1st through June 30th. Payment cannot be made for multiple fiscal years in advance of services. It is understood and agreed between the parties herein that the agency shall be bound hereunder only to the extent of the funds available or which may hereafter become available for the purpose of this agreement.
- F. **CHANGES TO THE CONTRACT:** Changes can be made to the contract in any of the following ways:
 - 1. The parties may agree in writing to modify the scope of the contract. An increase or decrease in the price of the contract resulting from such modification shall be agreed to by the parties as a part of their written agreement to modify the scope of the contract.
 - 2. The University may order changes within the general scope of the contract at any time by written notice to the contractor. Changes within the scope of the contract include, but are not limited to, things such as services to be performed, the method of packing or shipment, and the place of delivery or installation. The contractor shall comply with the notice upon receipt. The contractor shall be compensated for any additional costs incurred as the result of such order and shall give the University a credit for any savings. Said compensation shall be determined by one of the following methods:
 - i. By mutual agreement between the parties in writing; or
 - ii. By agreeing upon a unit price or using a unit price set forth in the contract, if the work to be done can be expressed in units, and the contractor accounts for the number of units of work

performed, subject to the University's right to audit the contractor's records and/or to determine the correct number of units independently; or

- iii. By ordering the contractor to proceed with the work and keep a record of all costs incurred and savings realized. A markup for overhead and profit may be allowed if provided by the contract. The same markup shall be used for determining a decrease in price as the result of savings realized. The contractor shall present the University with all vouchers and records of expenses incurred and savings realized. The University shall have the right to audit the records of the contractor as it deems necessary to determine costs or savings. Any claim for an adjustment in price under this provision must be asserted by written notice to the University within thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of the written order from the University. If the parties fail to agree on an amount of adjustment, the question of an increase or decrease in the contract price or time for performance shall be resolved in accordance with the procedures for resolving disputes provided by the Disputes Clause of this contract or, if there is none, in accordance with the disputes provisions of the Commonwealth of Virginia Manual for Institutions of Higher Education and Their Vendors. Neither the existence of a claim nor a dispute resolution process, litigation or any other provision of this contract shall excuse the contractor from promptly complying with the changes ordered by the University or with the performance of the contract generally.

- G. **CONTROLLING VERSION:** The PDF version of the solicitation and any addenda issued by University of Mary Washington Procurement Services is the mandatory controlling version of the document. Any modification and/or additions to the solicitation by the Offeror shall not modify the official version of the solicitation issued by UMW Procurement Services unless accepted in writing by the University. Such modifications or additions to the solicitation by the Offeror may be cause for rejection of the proposal; however, UMW reserves the right to decide, on a case by case basis, in its sole discretion, whether to reject such a proposal. If the modifications or additions are not identified until after the award of the contract, the controlling version of the solicitation document shall still be the official state form (PDF) issued by UMW Procurement Services.
- H. **DEBARMENT STATUS:** By participating in this procurement, the vendor certifies that they are not currently debarred by the Commonwealth of Virginia or any affiliated agency from submitting a response for the type of goods and/or services covered by this solicitation. Vendor further certifies that they are not debarred from filling any order or accepting any resulting order, or that they are an agent of any person or entity that is currently debarred by the Commonwealth of Virginia. If a vendor is created or used for the purpose of circumventing a debarment decision against another vendor, the non-debarred vendor will be debarred for the same time period as the debarred vendor.
- I. **DEFAULT:** In case of failure to deliver goods or services in accordance with the contract terms and conditions, the Commonwealth, after due oral or written notice, may procure them from other sources and hold the contractor responsible for any resulting additional purchase and administrative costs. This remedy shall be in addition to any other remedies which the Commonwealth may have.
- J. **DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE:** During the performance of this contract, the contractor agrees to (i) provide a drug free workplace for the contractor's employees; (ii) post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, sale, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of a controlled substance or marijuana is prohibited in the contractor's workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violations of such prohibition; (iii) state in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor that the contractor maintains a drug-free workplace; and (iv) include the provisions of the foregoing clauses in every subcontract or purchase order of over \$10,000, so that the provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor.

For the purposes of this section, “drug-free workplace” means a site for the performance of work done in connection with a specific contract awarded to a contractor, the employees of whom are prohibited from engaging in the unlawful manufacture, sale, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of any controlled substance or marijuana during the performance of the contract.

- K. **EXTRA CHARGES PROHIBITED:** The bid or proposal price shall be complete; and shall include all applicable freight and any other charges; extra charges invoked by the Contractor shall not be honored or paid. These charges, for example, shall include but not be limited to fees invoked by the vendor for the use of the credit card for payment of invoices, or any order-associated eVA fees.
- L. **NON-ACCEPTANCE OF VENDOR TERMS:** The University shall not be bound by any additional or different terms and conditions issued by the Contractor in connection with a specific trip, booking, reservation, invoice, itinerary, online portal, or any other transaction. Any such terms, including but not limited to click-through agreements, booking confirmations, or standard business terms, shall be of no force or effect unless expressly agreed to in a formal written amendment executed by both parties. Performance by the University shall not constitute acceptance of any Contractor-issued terms.
- M. **DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:** The Contractor shall ensure that all information technology, digital content, documents, electronic communications, and related materials provided under this Contract comply with the nonvisual access requirements of the Information Technology Access Act, §§ 2.2 3500 through 2.2 3504 of the Code of Virginia, and with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. § 794d), as amended.

All Technology provided under this Contract shall:

1. Provide effective, interactive control and use through nonvisual means;
2. Be compatible with assistive technologies used by individuals who are blind or visually impaired;
3. Integrate nonvisual access into any networks used to share information or communication; and
4. Provide equivalent access to telecommunications and network services.

Upon request, the Contractor shall provide documentation demonstrating compliance with these requirements and shall promptly correct any identified accessibility barriers at no additional cost to the University.

- N. **INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR RELATIONSHIP:** In performing any and all of the services to be provided under this contract, the Contractor shall at all times and for all purposes be and remain an independent contractor. In no case and under no circumstances shall the Contractor or any of its employees, including but not limited to those of its employees actually performing any of the services, have authority to make any representations or commitments on behalf of the University or be considered the agent of the University for any purpose whatsoever. No persons engaged by the Contractor in connection with the provision of Services shall be considered employees of the University. As between the parties, the Contractor shall be responsible for hiring, supervising, training and instructing those individuals performing the services and shall pay any required state and federal taxes on behalf of such persons and provide them with any legally required employee benefits.
- O. **NON-EXCLUSIVE CONTRACT:** Nothing herein is intended nor shall be construed as creating any exclusive arrangement with the Contractor. The contract shall not restrict UMW from acquiring similar, equal or like goods and/or services from other sources.
- P. **NOTICES:** Any official legal notice, demand, request, consent, approval or communication required by this Agreement to be provided in writing by either party, shall be addressed to the University or Contractor at their respective addresses entered below. These notices shall be sent via certified mail, return receipt requested, and shall be considered by the sender received within five (5) days of delivery to the U.S. Postal Service, or via the stamped evidence of delivery, whichever occurs first. Any unofficial notices or communications may be sent via electronic mail.

If to the University:
Attn: Procurement Services
1301 College Avenue
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

If to the Contractor:
Attn: Golden Rule Travel LLC
2178 B 17000 Road
Oswego, KS. 67356

- Q. **PROCUREMENT MANUAL:** This contract is subject to the provisions of the Commonwealth of Virginia Procurement Manual for Institutions of Higher Education and their Vendor's and any revisions thereto, which are hereby incorporated into this contract in their entirety. The manual may be viewed at the VASCUPP website.
- R. **RECYCLING POLICY:** It shall be the policy of the University of Mary Washington to support and encourage conservation and recycling efforts by vendors, students, faculty and staff, where possible.
- S. **RENEWAL OF CONTRACT:** This contract may be renewed by the University upon written agreement of both parties for (9), one-year renewal periods, under the terms of the current contract, and at a reasonable time (approximately 90 days) prior to the expiration. Only at the time of renewal may prices be negotiated for the upcoming term.
- T. **SEVERABILITY:** If any term or provision of this Agreement is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, illegal or otherwise unenforceable, the same shall not affect the other terms or provisions hereof or the whole of this Agreement, but such term or provision shall be deemed modified to the extent necessary in the court's opinion to render such term or provision enforceable, and the rights and obligations of the parties shall be construed and enforced accordingly, preserving to the fullest permissible extent the intent and agreements of the parties herein set forth.
- U. **TAXES:** Sales to the Commonwealth of Virginia are normally exempt from State sales tax. State sales and use tax certificates of exemption, Form ST-12, will be issued upon request. Deliveries against this contract shall usually be free of Federal excise and transportation taxes. The Commonwealth's excise tax exemption registration number is 54-73-0076K.
- V. **TITLE IX:** Educational institutions that receive federal financial assistance are covered by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. In compliance with Title IX, the University of Mary Washington prohibits discrimination in employment as well as in all programs and activities on the basis of sex. The University of Mary Washington's Policy on Sexual and Gender Based Harassment and Other Forms of Interpersonal Violence can be found at <http://diversity.umw.edu/title-ix/files/2016/09/Policy-on-Sexual-and-Gender-Based-Harassment-and-Other-Forms-of-Interpersonal-Violence-03.18.pdf>.
- W. **INSURANCE:** The Contractor shall maintain the following insurance coverage during the term of the Contract: For construction contracts, if any subcontractors are involved, the subcontractor will have workers' compensation insurance in accordance with §25 of the Rules Governing Procurement – Chapter 2, Exhibit J, Attachment 1, and 65.2-800 et seq. of the Code of Virginia. The bidder or Offeror further certifies that the contractor and any subcontractors will maintain these insurance coverages during the entire term of the contract and that all insurance coverage will be provided by insurance companies authorized to sell insurance in Virginia by the Virginia State Corporation Commission.
- X. **MINIMUM INSURANCE COVERAGES AND LIMITS REQUIRED FOR MOST CONTRACTS:**
- i. Workers' Compensation - Statutory requirements and benefits. Coverage is compulsory for employers of three or more employees, to include the employer. Contractors who fail to notify the Commonwealth of increases in the number of employees that change their workers' compensation requirements under the Code of Virginia during the course of the contract shall be in noncompliance with the contract.
 - ii. Employer's Liability - \$100,000.
 - iii. Commercial General Liability - \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 in the aggregate. Commercial General Liability is to include bodily injury and property damage, personal injury

and advertising injury, products and completed operations coverage. The Commonwealth of Virginia must be named as an additional insured and so endorsed on the policy.

- iv. Automobile Liability - \$1,000,000 combined single limit. Required only if a motor vehicle not owned by the Commonwealth is to be used in the contract. Contractor must assure that the required coverage is maintained by the Contractor (or third-party owner of such motor vehicle).

METHOD OF PAYMENT/PAYMENT TERMS: The contractor shall be paid using one of the following methods for all University initiated procurements:

1. University Charge Card: At the time of verified receipt of goods or services, if the Contractor accepts credit cards in payment, the University will authorize payment by UMW charge card, currently through the Bank of America Visa. Any "Check-out fees" imposed by the contractor must be disclosed prior to the purchase. No check-out fee or surcharge may be greater than 3% of the total sale, effective 4/15/2023. The University expects that these costs, as well as all contractor business expenses will be built into the contractor's quoted price.
2. Virtual Payables through Bank of America: All payments under Virtual Payables will have a net 16 payment term.
3. Check or ACH: Payment will be made 30 days after satisfactory performance of the contract in all provisions thereof and upon receipt of a properly completed invoice, whichever is later; in accordance with Chapter 43, VPPA, Article 4, Code of Virginia.

To be considered eligible for payment, all physical invoices must be received at the address below and should reference the eVA purchase order and UMW contract numbers as applicable. All electronic invoices must be sent to [UMW Account Payable](#). *The University will not be responsible for late payment or nonpayment of invoices not received directly by Accounts Payable at this email address or at the mailing address indicated (below).*

UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON
Attn: ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
1301 COLLEGE AVENUE
FREDERICKSBURG, VA 22401

Note: This public body does not discriminate against faith-based organizations in accordance with the *Governing Rules §36* or against a bidder or offeror because of race, religion, color, sex, national origin, age, disability, or any basis prohibited by state law relating to discrimination in employment.

In witness, whereof, the parties have caused this Contract to be duly executed intending to be bound thereby.

Golden Rule Travel LLC

UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON

Signature: Caleb M. Newton

Signature: _____

Printed Name: Caleb Newton

Printed Name: Melva A. H. Kishpaugh

Title: Accounting

Title: Director, Procurement Services

Date: 03/10/2026

Date: March 11, 2026

Phone: 620-795-2431

Email: accounting@goldenruletravel.com

SEALED REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

ISSUE DATE: January 20, 2026

RFP NUMBER & TITLE: **RFP 26-2075** - Customizable International Travel Services
Thursday, February 5, 2026 – 2:00 PM EST

PROPOSAL DUE DATE & TIME: **NOTE: Proposals received after the due date and time, as determined by the electronic time stamp generated by the eVA system, cannot be accepted.**

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION: Proposals shall be submitted electronically via the Commonwealth of Virginia’s eVA system in accordance with the instructions provided in this solicitation.
Reference **RFP 26-2075**

WORK LOCATION: All Campuses Fredericksburg Stafford Dahlgren

COMMODITY CODE(S): **95892, 96178**

PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE: Optional Mandatory N/A

CONTRACT OFFICER: JENNIFER BUIST **EMAIL:** jbuist@umw.edu

PERIOD OF CONTRACT: DATE OF AWARD THROUGH ONE YEAR, WITH OPTION FOR NINE (9) 1-YEAR RENEWALS, or as negotiated.

In compliance with this Sealed Request for Proposal (RFP) and to all the conditions imposed therein, and hereby incorporated by reference, the undersigned firm offers and agrees to furnish the goods/services in accordance with attached signed proposal or as mutually agreed upon by subsequent negotiation. The undersigned firm hereby certifies that all information provided in response to this RFP is true, correct and complete.

By signing this proposal, you are certifying that you are an authorized representative of the offering firm and that the firm’s principals or legal counsel have reviewed the Request for Proposal General Terms and Conditions and any Special Terms and Conditions. Any exceptions to the General or Special Terms and Conditions must be clearly identified in your proposal. No exceptions can be made to those General or Special Terms and Conditions that are mandated by law. If no exceptions are identified in your proposal, it is understood that the provisions will become a part of any final agreement.

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED WITH PROPOSAL

Name of Offering Firm: _____

Address of Offering Firm: _____

[DSBSD](#) Certification No.: _____ Expiration Date: _____

eVA ID: _____ Tax ID: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Website: _____ Fax: _____

Submitted By (Print Name & Title): _____

Signature (In Ink): _____ **Date:** _____

- I. QUESTIONS/INQUIRIES:** All inquiries for information should be directed via email to the contract officer listed above, referencing the RFP by title and number. No questions will be accepted after Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 2:00 PM EST. Responses will be posted as an addendum on eVA.
- II. PROPOSAL RECEIPT REQUIREMENTS:** Proposals for furnishing the goods/services described herein must be submitted electronically via the Commonwealth of Virginia's eVA Procurement Portal (www.eva.virginia.gov). Physical submissions will not be accepted. **It is the responsibility of the Offeror to ensure that the proposal is submitted through eVA and received on time.**
- A. Late proposals cannot be accepted.
 - B. Offerors should verify successful submission in eVA prior to the deadline.
 - C. *UMW requires the inclusion of a clearly marked redacted proposal to be uploaded in eVA if any portion of the Offeror's proposal contains proprietary information.*
- III. ADDENDA:** Any changes resulting from the University's requirements will be issued in an addendum and will be posted on the eVA website: <http://www.eva.virginia.gov>. It is the sole responsibility of the Offeror to check for all changes to the RFP prior to submission.
- IV. INCLEMENT WEATHER/SUSPENDED SCHEDULE:** Proposal receipt deadline scheduled during a period of suspended state business operations, including school closing due to inclement weather, will be rescheduled for processing at the same time on the next regular business day. It is your responsibility to check UMW's website or call for closing information or call the University's Weather Line at (540) 654-2424. Please visit the [University of Mary Washington Website](#) for current operating status updates.
- V. PUBLIC RELEASE OF INFORMATION:** UMW utilizes a Public Contracts Portal ([Cobblestone](#)) for posting of procurement documents, including winning proposals. Further, if the resulting contract includes cooperative language, the [VASCUPP public portal](#) will be used to house relevant procurement documents, including winning Offeror 's proposal.

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Note: This public body does not discriminate against faith-based organizations in accordance with §36 of the Governing Rules or against a bidder or Offeror because of race, religion, color, sex, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by state law relating to discrimination in employment.

I. PURPOSE:

The intent and purpose of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to solicit sealed proposals from qualified sources to establish contracts through competitive negotiations to provide customized education abroad and travel programming as outlined herein to the University of Mary Washington ('UMW' or 'the University'), an agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is intended for the resulting contract to include cooperative language for the benefit of all public bodies and other entities referenced herein.

II. ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW:

Founded in 1908, the University of Mary Washington, is a premier, selective, coeducational, public liberal arts institution that offers rigorous academics in small classroom settings, innovative master teachers, a supportive campus community that values honor and integrity, and a civically, socially, and intellectually engaged community. Located within the Commonwealth of Virginia in Fredericksburg, UMW resides within an hour's drive of both the nation's Capital of Washington, D.C. and the State Capital of Richmond, offering students unique opportunities for internships, research excursions, and recreation. The University currently consists of three colleges for Arts and Sciences, Business, and Education, and two additional campuses: one in Stafford, VA and the other in Dahlgren, VA. For more information about the University of Mary Washington, visit [the University About Page](#).

III. BACKGROUND:

The University provides numerous opportunities for customized travel and/or customized education abroad programs for study abroad, foreign language immersion, conservation, volunteerism, service learning, academic research, fine arts performances, athletic competition, or other group travel prospects each year. Participants may include students, alumni, faculty, staff, and approved guests (e.g., family members of faculty) as authorized by CIE.

A. The University currently maintains multiple contracts for customized international travel services on an as-needed basis under the incumbent contract UCPUMW 15-386. The awarded vendors under this contract are:

1. Vacations Consulting dba Destination Partners and Brazil Nuts
2. Vagabond Tours (EduTrips)
3. Fellowship Travel International Inc.
4. Golden Rule Travel, LLC
5. Academic Experiences Abroad (AEA)

B. Approximate annual spend for FY25 is \$187,134.00. Refer to Attachment D for detail. This figure is estimated and is provided for informational purposes. *The University will not guarantee actual contract usage in any amount during any period of the resulting contract, nor will it be held responsible in any way if contract usage exceeds or does not meet this estimate.*

C. The University shall issue Purchase Orders for each arranged travel program. The Purchase Order shall serve as the University's authorization to perform work. *The University shall not be required to sign additional agreements for work performed under this contract.*

IV. CONTRACT PARTICIPATION – COOPERATIVE PURCHASING/USE OF AGREEMENT BY THIRD PARTIES:

A. Under the authority of §6 of the Rules Governing Procurement of Goods, Services, Insurance and Construction by a Public Institution of Higher Education of the Commonwealth of Virginia (copy available on the [VASCUPP website](#)), it is the intent of this solicitation and resulting contract(s) to allow for cooperative procurement. Accordingly, any public body (to include government/state agencies, political subdivisions, etc.), cooperative purchasing organizations, public or private health or educational institutions or any University related foundation and affiliated corporations may access any resulting contract if authorized by the contractor.

- B. Participation in this cooperative procurement is strictly voluntary. If authorized by the Contractor(s), the resultant contract(s) may be extended to the entities indicated above to purchase goods and services in accordance with the contract terms. As a separate contractual relationship, the participating entity will place its own orders directly with the Contractor(s) and shall fully and independently administer its use of the contract(s) to include contractual disputes, invoicing and payments without direct administration from UMW. No modification of this contract or execution of a separate agreement is required to participate; however, the participating entity and the Contractor may modify the terms and conditions of this contract to accommodate specific governing laws, regulations, policies, and business goals required by the participating entity. Any such modification will apply solely between the participating entity and the Contractor.
- C. UMW shall not be held liable for any costs or damages incurred by any other participating entity as a result of any authorization by the Contractor to extend the contract. It is understood and agreed that UMW is not responsible for the acts or omissions of any entity and will not be considered in default of the contract no matter the circumstances. Use of this contract(s) does not preclude any participating entity from using other contracts or competitive processes as needed.

V. SMALL, WOMAN-OWNED AND MINORITY-OWNED (SWAM) PARTICIPATION:

It is the policy of the Commonwealth of Virginia to contribute to establishment, preservation, and strengthening of small businesses and businesses owned by women and minorities and to encourage their participation in State procurement activities. The Commonwealth encourages contractors to provide for the participation of Small (includes Micro) and otherwise Diverse Businesses through partnerships, joint ventures, subcontracts, and other contractual opportunities. Information regarding Commonwealth of Virginia SWaM requirements is available on the University of Mary Washington's [SWaM information page](#). Offerors are encouraged to review this information prior to proposal submission.

VI. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

A. GENERAL PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

1. Proposal Requirements - The University reserves the right to:
 - accept or reject any and all proposals, in whole or in part, received as a result of this RFP,
 - waive minor informalities,
 - issue a lowered evaluation of the proposal for failure to submit all information requested,
 - negotiate with any or all responsible vendors in any manner necessary to serve the best interests of the University, or accept the best proposal as submitted, without negotiation.

Any proposal submitted without a signature binding the Offeror to the proposal will be considered non-responsive and may be rejected. *This Request for Proposal creates no obligation on the part of the University to award a contract or to compensate vendors for proposal preparation expenses.*

2. Protection of Trade Secrets/Proprietary Information: The Virginia Freedom of Information Act "FOIA" requires release of any procurement documents that are not appropriately marked and protected through the Trade Secrets or Proprietary Information provisions outlined in the paragraphs below.

If the Offeror intends to protect any Trade Secrets or Proprietary Information, they must:

- invoke the protection of the Code of Virginia, § 2.2-4342F, **in writing**, stating the reasons why protection is necessary, and,
- submit, at the same time as the original proposal submission, a separate redacted version of the proposal which contains identical content but blacks out any protected information not appropriate

for public release. *If a redacted proposal is not received at the same time as the original proposal, no part of the document may later be protected by the Offeror and restricted from public review.*

The designating of an entire proposal document, line-item prices and/or total proposal prices as proprietary or as a trade secret is not acceptable. If, after being given reasonable time, the Offeror refuses to withdraw the entire proposal designation as proprietary and/or confidential, the proposal will be rejected.

3. Oral Presentations: Offerors who submit a proposal in response to this RFP may be required to give an oral presentation of their proposal to the University. If required, presentations may be conducted in person or via video conference (e.g., Zoom or Microsoft Teams). This will provide an opportunity for the Offeror to clarify or elaborate on the proposal. This is a fact-finding and explanation session only and does not include negotiation. *Oral presentations are an option of the university and may not be conducted. Therefore, proposals submitted in response to this RFP should not be submitted with the presumption that there will be opportunities to revise the proposal after submission.*
4. Vendors shall submit one (1) complete electronic proposal through eVA by the date and time specified in this solicitation. Paper or physical media submissions will not be accepted. All proposal documents must be uploaded in eVA in a non-corrupted, readable format and must not be password protected, unless the password is provided at the time of submission. If a redacted copy of the proposal is required, the vendor shall submit one (1) separate electronic redacted copy through eVA, clearly labeled "Redacted," in addition to the complete proposal.
5. Proposal Formatting and Content: Proposals should be as detailed as necessary to enable the University of Mary Washington to properly evaluate the Offeror's capabilities to provide the required services. Proposals shall be:
 - Prepared simply and economically, with attention to minimizing unnecessary content and file size.
 - Submitted electronically through eVA in commonly used, readable file formats.
 - Organized in a clear and logical manner.
 - Straightforward and concise, while fully addressing all solicitation requirements.
 - Formatted to facilitate electronic review, including the use of bookmarks, headings, or tables of contents where appropriate.
6. Limited Contact: To ensure timely and adequate consideration of your proposal, Offerors are to limit all contact, whether verbal or written, pertaining to this RFP to the UMW Procurement Office Contract Officer indicated on the face of this document for the duration of this Procurement process. Failure to do so may jeopardize further consideration of an Offeror's Proposal.

SPECIFIC PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The Offeror should provide the following information tabbed as follows:

1. Please identify the amount of sales your company has had (if any) during the last twelve months with each public Higher Education Institution within the Commonwealth of Virginia.
2. Provide a comprehensive list of currently serviced destinations and examples of types of travel programming that the offering firm has provided to clients within the last three years.
 - a. Specify the international locations to which your firm has experience in providing travel management services.

- b. Describe the experience that your firm has in providing travel management services for large groups in an academic and higher education setting. Please provide recent examples (references) to support this experience.
 - c. Describe the ability of your firm to provide customized group tours and/or organize group events that meet educational goals for faculty and students while traveling abroad. Provide examples of previously arranged tours.
 - d. Describe the ability of your firm to offer professional trip counseling for faculty directors for complex or unique itineraries.
 - e. Describe your firm's ability to provide tour guides and/or interpreters on an as-needed basis during international travel.
 - f. Describe your firm's ability to arrange for admissions passes to various museums, performances, special exhibits, and other attractions as an enhancement to the international study program at the most favorable rate to the University. Provide suggested attractions as examples in conjunction with various serviced locations.
 - g. Describe the ability of your firm in locating restaurants in the travel area that can accommodate large travel groups, including dietary restrictions (allergies, vegetarian/vegan, gluten-free, halal/kosher) and accessibility needs. Describe the ability of the University to have select group meals be pre-reserved and invoiced as part of the trip. Provide examples of previous arrangements.
 - h. Describe your firm's ability to provide or attend pre-trip seminars and organizational meetings on campus to the groups that will be traveling, if requested by the University. Specify all associated costs in the Pricing Schedule.
 - i. Describe the firm's ability to provide meeting space, classroom facilities, and/or presentation/technology needs during international travel at the University's request. Describe your ability to provide facilities on another university or college campus and specify the locations.
3. If all services described in section IV.A are not provided "in-house" by the offering firm, please provide the list of providers that partner with the firm to supply the services.
- a. Describe the firm's ability to plan mini-trips or excursions for University groups traveling abroad. Describe the firm's ability to schedule either intra-national or international travel to accommodate the mini-trips or excursions. Provide examples of previous experience in providing this service.
 - b. Describe firm's ability to provide charter transportation and the types available by location.
 - c. Describe all travel insurance available at no cost to the University.
 - d. Describe any Common Carrier and Flight Insurance that would be made available to University travelers at no additional cost to the University.
 - e. The contractor shall provide any refunds due as a result of unused tickets and shall identify each refund by the original ticket and invoice number. Refunds shall be credited to the University in the form of the original payment. Describe the firm's refund policy as it pertains to tickets, rentals, and reservations described within this RFP.
 - f. Describe the timeframe for providing the delivery of tickets and/or itineraries to the requesting University faculty travel leader after reservations are confirmed. All tickets and itineraries, unless otherwise requested by the University, should be delivered electronically.

- g. Describe the information provided on standard itineraries.
 - h. Describe the firm's ability to communicate entry requirements for a country (such as a visa, letter of invitation), and to communicate any issues that may prevent entry into a country (such as passport stamps to a specific country) and provide guidance on resolution.
 - i. Specify the firm's ability to provide Passport and Visa services. Include all associated costs.
 - j. Trip itineraries for the entire group shall be provided to the University faculty director in charge of the trip and the Center for International Education (CIE), unless otherwise specified.
 - k. Describe how the firm ensures accuracy in booking, invoicing, and itineraries. Specify if original receipts shall be provided to the University.
 - l. Describe the ability of the firm to provide communications to the faculty director when the trip being planned will take the group to locations requiring immunizations. Specify if the firm will be able to provide the faculty director and the Center for International Education (CIE) with details about the immunizations needed and time frame for the traveling group to receive the immunizations.
 - m. Describe the firm's ability to book group lodging for short term and long term stays. Describe any unique lodging situations for which the firm would have booking access, such as apartments, dormitories or houses.
4. Describe business operations.
- a. Provide resumes for key personnel (particularly the single point of contract who will be working with UMW) who would be representing the firm and working with UMW staff to develop travel programming or fulfill travel programming needs.
 - b. Specify how invoicing will demonstrate exactly how the cost per traveler was determined. Provide an invoice example.
 - c. Describe how payment is accepted.
 - d. Describe billing and payment terms. Specify if deposits are required and when full payment is due.
 - e. Specify the firm's cancellation policies and penalties. In the case of program cancellation or individual participant withdrawal, describe how refunds would be processed. Maximum flexibility is preferred.
 - f. Describe the process for providing a quote of travel costs, as requested by the University for Budget planning. Describe how the firm would be able to guarantee quoted price (for up to a year in advance). Specify any and all issues that would impact the quoted price.
 - g. Describe how the firm would ensure that post trip reconciliation charges or surcharges, previously unapproved by the University are not levied.
 - h. Describe the ability of the firm to provide quotes for international travel based on current exchange rates and provide the University with the ability to hedge currency when possible and if in the best interest of the University. Explain the process for issuing credits and charges if exchange rates change after the original quote.
 - i. Describe how the firm obtains the most favorable rates in regard to international travel for large groups.

- j. Describe the firm's ability to advise the University departments of savings opportunities as it pertains to various items of travel as part of an international study program.
 - k. The University shall not be required to sign additional travel agreements or pro forma for individual trips planned by firms awarded a contract as a result of this solicitation. The University will issue a purchase order in accordance with the contract and in accordance with the pro forma, which shall serve as the University's agreement to proceed. Describe the firm's ability to comply with this requirement.
 - l. Describe any data collected from travelers as part of your services, including what data is collected, how it is stored, and how it is protected. Based on evaluation of proposals, the Hosted Technology Services Addendum may be required as part of any subsequent contract.
5. Provide an Emergency Operations Plan to support UMW faculty, staff and student travelers, inclusive of emergency contact information (24/7).
 - a. Describe the firm's ability to communicate travel alerts or warnings issued by the U.S. Government and/or destination area including travel restrictions to sanctioned countries.
 - b. Provide details on the process that a University faculty leader would follow if problems occurred during an international trip arranged by the firm. Describe the firm's ability to provide back-up arrangements with short-term notice.
 - c. Include contingency procedures for pandemics, epidemics, public health emergencies, border closures, and other force-majeure events, including quarantine/isolation logistics, rebooking, cancellations, refunds/credits, and emergency communication protocols.
 6. Describe how the firm ensures that all local state and federal laws and regulations are followed.
 7. Provide at least one sample travel program with itinerary, for purposes of cultural immersion for 10 students and one faculty member, in a specific designation that the firm services, for a program minimum 21 days in length, or if only air transportation is available through the firm, please provide sample group itineraries with pricing.
 8. Provide information regarding services not described in the scope of work that the offering firm is currently able to provide to the University, along with associated pricing.
 9. TIME LINES AND KEY DATES:
 - a. Questions from Offerors accepted only through: Thursday, January 29, 2026 – 2:00 PM EST
 - b. Proposals are Due: Thursday, February 5, 2026 – 2:00 PM EST
 - c. Initial Evaluations complete & Score Sheets due: Friday, February 13, 2026
 - d. Proposal Clarification questions to Procurement Services: Tuesday, February 17, 2026
 - e. Tentative Proposal Clarifications complete and/or presentations: Thursday, February 19, 2026
 - f. Tentative Negotiations to be complete: Friday, February 27, 2026
 - g. Tentative Award(s): Friday, February 27, 2026 – 4:30 PM ET
 - h. Tentative Commencement of Contract(s) (contract signed): Monday, March 2, 2026
 10. Complete and return SIGNED RFP cover page. Proposals shall be signed by an authorized representative of the Offeror.
 11. Complete and return the following attachments with the proposal:
 - a. Attachment A – Proposal Submission Checklist. (Required)
 - b. Attachment B – Small Business Subcontracting Plan. (Required)
 12. Submit any exceptions the Offering firm takes to the Terms and Conditions as stated in this RFP.
 13. Any other information the Offeror believes will help the University evaluate its proposal.

Please review the Proposal Submission Checklist attached to this RFP prior to submission.

VII. STATEMENT OF NEEDS:

The Contractor shall provide the following services and capabilities:

- A. Customized International Travel Programming
 - 1. Develop and manage group travel programs for academic, cultural, and service-learning purposes.
 - 2. Offer tailored itineraries that meet educational goals for faculty and students.
- B. Travel Management Services
 - 1. Arrange international transportation, lodging, and local transfers for large groups.
 - 2. Provide access to unique lodging options (e.g., apartments, dormitories, houses).
- C. Program Enhancements
 - 1. Secure admissions to museums, performances, and cultural attractions at favorable rates.
 - 2. Organize mini-trips or excursions during international programs.
- D. Support Services
 - 1. Offer professional trip counseling for faculty directors.
 - 2. Provide tour guides and interpreters as needed.
 - 3. Conduct pre-trip seminars and organizational meetings upon request.
- E. Compliance and Documentation
 - 1. Communicate entry requirements (visas, immunizations) and assist with passport/visa services.
 - 2. Ensure adherence to all local, state, and federal laws and regulations.
 - 3. If the Contractor collects any traveler data, the Contractor shall disclose what data is collected, how it is stored, and how it is protected. Based on evaluation of proposals, the Hosted Technology Services Addendum may be required as part of any subsequent contract.
- F. Emergency and Risk Management
 - 1. Maintain a 24/7 Emergency Operations Plan for faculty, staff, and student travelers.
 - 2. Communicate travel alerts, restrictions, and contingency procedures for pandemics or emergencies.
- G. Financial and Administrative Requirements
 - 1. Provide accurate invoicing showing cost per traveler.
 - 2. Offer transparent refund and cancellation policies with maximum flexibility.
 - 3. Issue quotes for budget planning and guarantee pricing when possible.
- H. Additional Services
 - 1. Provide meeting space and technology support during travel.
 - 2. Offer travel insurance and refund processing for unused tickets.

VIII. CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION:

- A. The Director of the Center for International Education, or designee, shall be identified by the University as the Contract Administrator and shall use all powers under the contract to enforce its faithfulness and performance in conjunction with the University's Procurement Services department.
- B. The Contract Administrator shall determine the amount, quantity, acceptability, fitness of all aspects of the services and shall decide all other questions in connection with the services. The Contract Administrator shall not have authority to approve changes in the services which alter the concept or which call for an extension of the contract term. Any modifications made to the contract must be authorized by the University's Procurement Services Department through a written two-party modification to the contract.

IX. EVALUATION AND AWARD CRITERIA

A. Evaluation Criteria - Proposals shall be evaluated by the University of Mary Washington Evaluation Committee using the following criteria:

Criteria	Point Value
Offeror’s capability – Experience based on provided resume(s) of personnel proposed	30
Client recommendations	10
Quality of proposal - offerings; portfolio (examples of prior work); addresses UMW requirements	30
Pricing: Financial Proposal	20
Small Business Subcontracting Plan	10
Total	100

SWaM participation will be considered but weighted modestly due to the nature of this contract. Details regarding award process and multiple awards are located in the Special Terms and Conditions – Award to Multiple Offerors.

X. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

The full set of General Terms and Conditions is a mandatory part of this solicitation and will be incorporated into the resulting contract. Please review the current version on the [UMW Terms & Conditions page](#).

XI. SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- A. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARD:** Upon the award or the announcement of the decision to award a contract resulting from a competitive solicitation process for any dollar value, or sole source procurement valued at over \$50,000, the University will publicly post such notice on the DGS/DPS eVA VBO (www.eva.virginia.gov) for a minimum of 10 days.
- B. **ANTITRUST:** By entering into a contract, the contractor conveys, sells, assigns, and transfers to the Commonwealth of Virginia all rights, title and interest in and to all causes of action it may now have or hereafter acquire under the antitrust laws of the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia, relating to the particular goods or services purchased or acquired by the Commonwealth of Virginia under said contract.
- C. **AUDIT:** The contractor shall retain all books, records, and other documents relative to this contract for five (5) years after final payment, or until audited by the Commonwealth of Virginia, whichever is sooner. The agency, its authorized agents, and/or state auditors shall have full access to and the right to examine any of said materials during said period.
- D. **PROPOSAL ACCEPTANCE PERIOD:** Any offer in response to this solicitation shall be valid for (120) days. At the end of the (120) days the proposal may be withdrawn at the written request of the Offeror . If the proposal is not withdrawn at that time it remains in effect until an award is made or the solicitation is canceled.
- E. **COOPERATIVE PROCUREMENT/ADDITIONAL USERS - USE OF AGREEMENT BY THIRD PARTIES:** It is the intent of this solicitation and resulting contract(s) to allow for cooperative procurement. Accordingly, any public body (to include government/state agencies, political subdivisions, etc.), cooperative purchasing organizations, public or private health or educational institutions, or any University affiliated agency and/or corporation may access any resulting contract if authorized by the Contractor.

Participation in this cooperative procurement is strictly voluntary. If authorized by the Contractor(s), the resultant contract(s) will be extended to the entities indicated above to purchase goods and services in accordance with contract terms. As a separate contractual relationship, the participating entity will place its own orders directly with the contractor(s) and shall fully and independently administer its use of the contract(s) to include contractual disputes, invoicing and payments without direct administration from the University. No

modification of this contract or execution of a separate agreement is required to participate; however, the participating entity and the contractor may modify the terms and conditions of this contract to accommodate specific governing laws, regulations, policies, and business goals required by the participating entity. Any such modification will apply solely between the participating entity and the Contractor.

The Contractor will notify the University in writing of any such entities accessing this Contract. The Contractor will provide semi-annual usage reports for all entities accessing the Contract. The Contractor should consider an offer of special tiered pricing or rebates to all entities accessing the contract, based on the results of such reporting. This tiered pricing and/or rebate structure should be included with the Bidder/Offeror's bid or proposal package. The University shall not be held liable for any costs or damages incurred by any other participating entity as a result of any authorization by the Contractor to extend the Contract. It is understood and agreed that the University is not responsible for the acts or omissions of any entity, and will not be considered in default of the Contract no matter the circumstances.

Use of this Agreement does not preclude any participating entity from using other agreements or competitive processes.

- F. **AWARD TO MULTIPLE OFFERORS:** Selection shall be made of two or more Offeror s deemed to be fully qualified and best suited among those submitting proposals on the basis of the evaluation factors included in the Request for Proposals, including price, if so stated in the Request for Proposals. Negotiations shall be conducted with the Offeror s so selected. Price shall be considered, but need not be the sole determining factor. After negotiations have been conducted with each Offeror so selected, the agency shall select the Offeror which, in its opinion, has made the best proposal, and shall award the contract to that Offeror. The University reserves the right to make multiple awards as a result of this solicitation. The University may cancel this Request for Proposals or reject proposals at any time prior to an award, and is not required to furnish a statement of the reasons why a particular proposal was not deemed to be the most advantageous (*Code of Virginia, § 2.2-4359D*). Should the University determine in writing and in its sole discretion that only one Offeror is fully qualified, or that one Offeror is clearly more highly qualified than the others under consideration, a contract may be negotiated and awarded to that Offeror . The award document will be a contract incorporating by reference all the requirements, terms and conditions of the solicitation and the contractor's proposal as negotiated.
- G. **CANCELLATION OF CONTRACT:** The University reserves the right to cancel and terminate any resulting contract, in part or in whole, without penalty, upon 60 days written notice to the contractor. In the event the initial contract period is for more than 12 months, the resulting contract may be terminated by either party, without penalty, after the initial 12 months of the contract period upon 60 days written notice to the other party. Any contract cancellation notice shall not relieve the contractor of the obligation to deliver and/or perform on all outstanding orders issued prior to the effective date of cancellation.
- H. **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS/FISCAL YEAR PROCESSING:** The University of Mary Washington's fiscal year is July 1st through June 30th. Payment cannot be made for multiple fiscal years in advance of services. It is understood and agreed between the parties herein that the agency shall be bound hereunder only to the extent of the funds available or which may hereafter become available for the purpose of this agreement.
- I. **CHANGES TO THE CONTRACT:** Changes can be made to the contract in any of the following ways:
1. The parties may agree in writing to modify the scope of the contract. An increase or decrease in the price of the contract resulting from such modification shall be agreed to by the parties as a part of their written agreement to modify the scope of the contract.
 2. The University may order changes within the general scope of the contract at any time by written notice to the contractor. Changes within the scope of the contract include, but are not limited to, things such as

services to be performed, the method of packing or shipment, and the place of delivery or installation. The contractor shall comply with the notice upon receipt. The contractor shall be compensated for any additional costs incurred as the result of such order and shall give the University a credit for any savings. Said compensation shall be determined by one of the following methods:

- a. By mutual agreement between the parties in writing; or
 - b. By agreeing upon a unit price or using a unit price set forth in the contract, if the work to be done can be expressed in units, and the contractor accounts for the number of units of work performed, subject to the University's right to audit the contractor's records and/or to determine the correct number of units independently; or
 - c. By ordering the contractor to proceed with the work and keep a record of all costs incurred and savings realized. A markup for overhead and profit may be allowed if provided by the contract. The same markup shall be used for determining a decrease in price as the result of savings realized. The contractor shall present the University with all vouchers and records of expenses incurred and savings realized. The University shall have the right to audit the records of the contractor as it deems necessary to determine costs or savings. Any claim for an adjustment in price under this provision must be asserted by written notice to the University within thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of the written order from the University. If the parties fail to agree on an amount of adjustment, the question of an increase or decrease in the contract price or time for performance shall be resolved in accordance with the procedures for resolving disputes provided by the Disputes Clause of this contract or, if there is none, in accordance with the disputes provisions of the Commonwealth of Virginia Manual for Institutions of Higher Education and Their Vendors. Neither the existence of a claim nor a dispute resolution process, litigation or any other provision of this contract shall excuse the contractor from promptly complying with the changes ordered by the University or with the performance of the contract generally.
- J. **CONTROLLING VERSION:** The PDF version of the solicitation and any addenda issued by University of Mary Washington Procurement Services is the mandatory controlling version of the document. Any modification and/or additions to the solicitation by the Offeror shall not modify the official version of the solicitation issued by UMW Procurement Services unless accepted in writing by the University. Such modifications or additions to the solicitation by the Offeror may be cause for rejection of the proposal; however, UMW reserves the right to decide, on a case by case basis, in its sole discretion, whether to reject such a proposal. If the modifications or additions are not identified until after the award of the contract, the controlling version of the solicitation document shall still be the official state form (PDF) issued by UMW Procurement Services.
- K. **DEBARMENT STATUS:** By participating in this procurement, the vendor certifies that they are not currently debarred by the Commonwealth of Virginia or any affiliated agency from submitting a response for the type of goods and/or services covered by this solicitation. Vendor further certifies that they are not debarred from filling any order or accepting any resulting order, or that they are an agent of any person or entity that is currently debarred by the Commonwealth of Virginia. If a vendor is created or used for the purpose of circumventing a debarment decision against another vendor, the non-debarred vendor will be debarred for the same time period as the debarred vendor.
- L. **DEFAULT:** In case of failure to deliver goods or services in accordance with the contract terms and conditions, the Commonwealth, after due oral or written notice, may procure them from other sources and hold the contractor responsible for any resulting additional purchase and administrative costs. This remedy shall be in addition to any other remedies which the Commonwealth may have.
- M. **DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE:** During the performance of this contract, the contractor agrees to (i) provide a drug free workplace for the contractor's employees; (ii) post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, sale, distribution,

dispensation, possession, or use of a controlled substance or marijuana is prohibited in the contractor's workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violations of such prohibition; (iii) state in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor that the contractor maintains a drug-free workplace; and (iv) include the provisions of the foregoing clauses in every subcontract or purchase order of over \$10,000, so that the provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor.

For the purposes of this section, "drug-free workplace" means a site for the performance of work done in connection with a specific contract awarded to a contractor, the employees of whom are prohibited from engaging in the unlawful manufacture, sale, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of any controlled substance or marijuana during the performance of the contract.

- N. **EXTRA CHARGES PROHIBITED:** The bid or proposal price shall be complete; and shall include all applicable freight and any other charges; extra charges invoked by the Contractor shall not be honored or paid. These charges, for example, shall include but not be limited to fees invoked by the vendor for the use of the credit card for payment of invoices, or any order-associated eVA fees.
- O. **INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR RELATIONSHIP:** In performing any and all of the services to be provided under this contract, the Contractor shall at all times and for all purposes be and remain an independent contractor. In no case and under no circumstances shall the Contractor or any of its employees, including but not limited to those of its employees actually performing any of the services, have authority to make any representations or commitments on behalf of the University or be considered the agent of the University for any purpose whatsoever. No persons engaged by the Contractor in connection with the provision of Services shall be considered employees of the University. As between the parties, the Contractor shall be responsible for hiring, supervising, training and instructing those individuals performing the services and shall pay any required state and federal taxes on behalf of such persons and provide them with any legally required employee benefits.
- P. **LATE PROPOSALS:** To be considered for selection, proposals must be received at the address listed on Page 1 of the solicitation no later than the designated date and hour. The official time used in the RFP is that time on the automatic time stamp machine in the location listed on Page 1 of the solicitation. Proposals received at this location after the date and hour designated are automatically disqualified and will not be considered. It is the sole responsibility of the Offeror to ensure that its proposal reaches the designated receipt location no later than the assigned date and hour.
- Q. **NON-EXCLUSIVE CONTRACT:** Nothing herein is intended nor shall be construed as creating any exclusive arrangement with the Contractor. The contract shall not restrict UMW from acquiring similar, equal or like goods and/or services from other sources.
- R. **NOTICES:** Any official legal notice, demand, request, consent, approval or communication required by this Agreement to be provided in writing by either party, shall be addressed to the University or Contractor at their respective addresses entered below. These notices shall be sent via certified mail, return receipt requested, and shall be considered by the sender received within five (5) days of delivery to the U.S. Postal Service, or via the stamped evidence of delivery, whichever occurs first. Any unofficial notices or communications may be sent via electronic mail.

If to the University:
Attn: Procurement Services
1301 College Avenue
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

If to the Contractor:
Attn:
ADDRESS LINE 1
ADDRESS LINE 2

- S. **PROCUREMENT MANUAL:** This solicitation and any resulting contract is subject to the provisions of the Commonwealth of Virginia Procurement Manual for Institutions of Higher Education and their Vendor's and any revisions thereto, which are hereby incorporated into this contract in their entirety. The manual may be viewed at the [VASCUPP website](#).
- T. **QUALIFICATION OF OFFERORS:** UMW may make such reasonable investigations as deemed proper and necessary to determine the ability of the Offeror to perform the services and the Offeror shall furnish to UMW all such information and data for this purpose as may be requested. UMW reserves the right to inspect the Offeror's physical facilities prior to award to satisfy questions regarding the Offeror's capabilities. UMW further reserves the right to reject any proposal if the evidence submitted by, or investigations of, such Offeror fails to satisfy UMW that such Offeror is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the Contract and to provide the services and/or furnish the goods contemplated herein.
- U. **RECYCLING POLICY:** It shall be the policy of the University of Mary Washington to support and encourage conservation and recycling efforts by vendors, students, faculty and staff, where possible.
- V. **RENEWAL OF CONTRACT:** This contract may be renewed by the University upon written agreement of both parties for (9), one-year renewal periods, under the terms of the current contract, and at a reasonable time (approximately 90 days) prior to the expiration. Only at the time of renewal may prices be negotiated for the upcoming term.
- W. **SEVERABILITY:** If any term or provision of this Agreement is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, illegal or otherwise unenforceable, the same shall not affect the other terms or provisions hereof or the whole of this Agreement, but such term or provision shall be deemed modified to the extent necessary in the court's opinion to render such term or provision enforceable, and the rights and obligations of the parties shall be construed and enforced accordingly, preserving to the fullest permissible extent the intent and agreements of the parties herein set forth.
- X. **TAXES:** Sales to the Commonwealth of Virginia are normally exempt from State sales tax. State sales and use tax certificates of exemption, Form ST-12, will be issued upon request. Deliveries against this contract shall usually be free of Federal excise and transportation taxes. The Commonwealth's excise tax exemption registration number is 54-73-0076K.
- Y. **TITLE IX:** Educational institutions that receive federal financial assistance are covered by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. In compliance with Title IX, the University of Mary Washington prohibits discrimination in employment as well as in all programs and activities on the basis of sex. The University of Mary Washington's Policy on Sexual and Gender Based Harassment and Other Forms of Interpersonal Violence can be found at <http://diversity.umw.edu/title-ix/files/2016/09/Policy-on-Sexual-and-Gender-Based-Harassment-and-Other-Forms-of-Interpersonal-Violence-03.18.pdf>.
- Z. **UNDERSTANDING OF REQUIREMENTS:** Your signature on your bid/proposal submission certifies your understanding of the following:
- a. It is the responsibility of each Offeror to inquire about and clarify any requirements of this solicitation that is not understood. The University will not be bound by oral explanations as to the meaning of specifications or language contained in this solicitation.
 - b. Therefore, all inquiries deemed to be substantive in nature regarding the specifications or other solicitation documents must be in writing and submitted to the responsible Contract Officer, whose name appears on the face of the solicitation, in the Procurement Services Office no later than five business days before the due date. Offerors must ensure that written inquiries reach the Contract Officer by the date stated in RFP. A copy of all queries and the respective response will be provided in the form of an addendum.
 - c. Your signature on your proposal and submission thereof certifies that you fully understand the requirements of this solicitation and have familiarized yourself with all federal, state and local

laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations that may affect the cost, progress, or performance of the work. Failure or omission of any Offeror to receive or examine any form, instrument, addendum or other documents, or to acquaint itself with conditions existing at the site, shall in no way relieve the vendor from any obligations with respect to its proposal submission or to the contract.

AA. AWARD – RFP: Selection shall be made of two or more Offerors deemed to be fully qualified and best suited among those submitting proposals on the basis of the evaluation factors included in the Request for Proposals, including price, if so stated in the Request for Proposals. Negotiations shall be conducted with the Offerors so selected. Price shall be considered, but need not be the sole determining factor. After negotiations have been conducted with each Offeror so selected, the agency shall select the Offeror (s) which, in its opinion, has offered the best overall combination of quality, price and various elements of required goods/services, as stated in the solicitation, which in total are optimal relative to the agency's need, and shall award the contract to that Offeror (s). The University may cancel this Request for Proposal, reject proposals at any time prior to an award, and is not required to furnish a statement of the reasons why a particular proposal was not deemed to be the most advantageous (Governing Rule §16). Should the University determine in writing and in its sole discretion that only one Offeror is fully qualified, or that one Offeror is clearly more highly qualified than the others under consideration, or if in the sole opinion of the University it is in the University's best interest to award to only one, a contract may be negotiated and awarded to that Offeror. The award document will be a contract incorporating by reference all the requirements, terms and conditions of the solicitation and the contractor's proposal as negotiated. The University, in its sole opinion, reserves the right, if determined to be in the best interest of the University, to make:

- a separate award of each item,
- an award of a group of items,
- an award either in whole or in part,
- a single award, or
- a multiple award

BB. INSURANCE: By signing and submitting a bid or proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or Offeror certifies that if awarded the contract, it will have the following insurance coverage at the time the contract is awarded. For construction contracts, if any subcontractors are involved, the subcontractor will have workers' compensation insurance in accordance with §25 of the Rules Governing Procurement – Chapter 2, Exhibit J, Attachment 1, and 65.2-800 et seq. of the Code of Virginia. The bidder or Offeror further certifies that the contractor and any subcontractors will maintain these insurance coverage during the entire term of the contract and that all insurance coverage will be provided by insurance companies authorized to sell insurance in Virginia by the Virginia State Corporation Commission.

MINIMUM INSURANCE COVERAGES AND LIMITS REQUIRED FOR MOST CONTRACTS:

- a. Workers' Compensation - Statutory requirements and benefits. Coverage is compulsory for employers of three or more employees, to include the employer. Contractors who fail to notify the Commonwealth of increases in the number of employees that change their workers' compensation requirements under the Code of Virginia during the course of the contract shall be in noncompliance with the contract.
- b. Employer's Liability - \$100,000.
- c. Commercial General Liability - \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 in the aggregate. Commercial General Liability is to include bodily injury and property damage, personal injury and advertising injury, products and completed operations coverage. The Commonwealth of Virginia must be named as an additional insured and so endorsed on the policy.

- d. Automobile Liability - \$1,000,000 combined single limit. Required only if a motor vehicle not owned by the Commonwealth is to be used in the contract. Contractor must assure that the required coverage is maintained by the Contractor (or third party owner of such motor vehicle).

XII. **PRICING SCHEDULE:** The contractor shall provide pricing for all products and services included in proposal, including transaction, processing, and service charges. Contractor should specify travel management fees.

XIII. **ATTACHMENTS (POSTED SEPARATELY IN eVA):** The following attachments are part of this Request for Proposals and are posted as separate downloadable files in eVA. Offerors are responsible for reviewing all attachments and submitting all required attachments with their proposal.

- a. Proposal Submission Checklist (Required)
- b. Small Business Subcontracting Plan (Required)
- c. SWAM Spend Reporting (Informational Only)
- d. Approximate FY25 Annual Spend Sheet (Historical / Informational Only)
- e. Hosted Technology Services Addendum (Exhibit)

XIV. **SUPPLIER ONBOARDING and METHOD OF PAYMENT:** *All awarded Contractors must be [registered with the University](#) to receive payment via University-issued check or ACH.* The Contractor shall be paid using one of the following methods for all University initiated procurements:

- a. University Charge Card: At the time of verified receipt of goods or services, and proper invoice, if the Contractor's eVA profile indicates acceptance of credit cards in payment, the University will authorize payment by University charge card, currently through the Bank of America Visa, under the following terms:
 - a. Any "Check-out fees" imposed by the contractor must be disclosed prior to the purchase.
 - b. No check-out fee or surcharge, that was appropriately disclosed in advance of the sale/purchase, shall be greater than 3% of the total sale., effective 4/15/2023. The University expects that these costs, as well as all contractor business expenses will be built into the contractor's quoted price.
- b. Virtual Payables through Bank of America: All payments made under Virtual Payables will have a net 16 payment term. For more information about this payment option, contact UMW's Accounts Payable department via [email](#), or view details on the [Bank of America Virtual Payables Website](#).
- c. UMW Check or ACH: *Payment will be made per the terms of the contract, or 30 days after satisfactory performance of the contract in all provisions thereof and upon receipt of a properly completed invoice, whichever is later; in accordance with Chapter 43, VPPA, Article 4, Code of Virginia.*

NOTE: ACH must be set up in advance prior to submittal of any invoices. For more information about ACH enrollment, please visit the [Department of Accounts Electronic Data Interchange \(EDI\) webpage](#).

To be considered eligible for payment, all physical invoices must be received at the address below and should reference the eVA purchase order and UMW contract numbers as applicable. All electronic invoices must be sent to invoices@mail.umw.edu. *The University will not be responsible for late payment or nonpayment of invoices not received directly by Accounts Payable at this email address or at the mailing address indicated (below).*

UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON
Attn: ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
1301 COLLEGE AVENUE
FREDERICKSBURG, VA 22401

ATTACHMENT A

RFP 26-2075 Proposal Submission Checklist

It is important that the Offeror carefully read through the RFP and provide all required documentation. The proposal **MUST** be submitted and received on time to qualify for a chance at evaluation. Use this checklist as a guideline to ensure the proposal is complete before submission.

IMPORTANT DATES & REMINDERS

- No Questions Accepted after **Thursday, January 29, 2026 – 2:00 PM EST**. All Questions must be directed toward the Procurement Officer for this solicitation: [Jennifer Buist, jbuist@umw.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Buist@umw.edu) , and 540-654-1382.
- Proposal Due Date: **Thursday, February 5, 2026 – 2:00 PM EST** - Proposals submitted after 2:00 PM EST as indicated by the official eVA timestamp will NOT be accepted.
- All proposals must be submitted electronically through the Commonwealth of Virginia’s eVA Procurement Portal by the solicitation due date and time. Offerors are responsible for ensuring successful submission in eVA. Proposals submitted by mail, email, or physical delivery will not be accepted.
- **Read the ENTIRE RFP including terms and conditions and attachments carefully before submitting a proposal.**

REQUIRED DOCUMENT SUBMISSION

Acknowledgement:

The classification of an entire proposal document, line item prices and/or total proposal prices as proprietary or as a trade secret is not acceptable. If, after being given reasonable time, the Offeror refuses to withdraw an entire classification designation, the proposal will be rejected.

Documents to Submit:

- Completed and signed RFP cover page.
- Any/All signed addenda.
- Electronic proposal uploaded through eVA (including a separate redacted version, if applicable).
- Description of the Offering firm’s history and expertise relevant to the services described in this RFP.
- Pricing Schedule, as required by this RFP.
- Completed Attachment B, Small Business Subcontracting Plan.
- Any exceptions taken to University’s Terms and Conditions.
- Current Certificate of Liability Insurance

ATTACHMENT B - SMALL BUSINESS SUBCONTRACTING PLAN

MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED WITH PROPOSAL PACKAGE

All small businesses must be certified by the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity (DSBSD) by the due date of the solicitation to participate in the SWaM program. Certification applications are available through DSBSD online at <http://sbsd.virginia.gov>.

DEFINITIONS:

“Micro Business” means a business that is a certified Small Business under the SWaM Program and has no more than twenty-five (25) employees and no more than \$3million in average annual revenue over the three-year period prior to their certification.

"Small business" means a business independently owned and controlled by one or more individuals who are U.S. citizens or legal resident aliens, and together with affiliates, has 250 or fewer employees, or average annual gross receipts of \$10 million or less averaged over the previous three years. One or more of the individual owners shall control both the management and daily business operations of the small business. *Note: DSBSD-certified women- and minority-owned businesses shall also be considered small businesses when they have received DSBSD small business certification. (Code of Virginia, § 2.2-4310)*

“Woman-owned business” means a business that is at least 51% owned by one or more women who are U.S. citizens or legal resident aliens, or in the case of a corporation, partnership, or limited liability company or other entity, at least 51% of the equity ownership interest is owned by one or more women who are U.S. citizens or legal resident aliens, and both the management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more women. *(Code of Virginia, § 2.2-4310)*

“Minority-owned business” means a business that is at least 51% owned by one or more minority individuals who are U.S. citizens or legal resident aliens, or in the case of a corporation, partnership or limited liability company or other entity, at least 51% of the equity ownership interest in the corporation, partnership, or limited liability company or other entity is owned by one or more minority individuals who are U.S. citizens or legal resident aliens, and both the management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more minority individuals. *(Code of Virginia, § 2.2-4310)*

Bidder Name: _____

Preparer Name: _____ **Date:** _____

INSTRUCTIONS:

- A. If you are certified by the Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity (DSBSD) as a small business, complete only Section A of this form. This shall not exclude DSBSD-certified women-owned and minority-owned businesses when they have received DSBSD small business certification.
- B. If you are not a DSBSD-certified small business, complete Section B of this form. For the bid to be considered and the bidder to be declared responsive, the bidder shall identify the portions of the contract that will be subcontracted to DSBSD-certified small business in Section B.

ATTACHMENT B (CONT'D)

Section A

If you are certified by the Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity (DSBSD), are you certified as a:

Check All That Apply: Micro Business Small Business Woman-Owned Business Minority-Owned Business

DSBSD Certification No.: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Section B

Populate the table below to show your plans for utilization of DSBSD-certified small businesses in the performance of this contract. This shall not exclude DSBSD-certified women-owned and minority-owned businesses that have received the DSBSD small business certification. Include plans to utilize small businesses as part of joint ventures, partnerships, subcontractors, suppliers, etc.

Plans for Utilization of DSBSD-Certified Small Businesses for this Procurement

Small Business Name, Address & DSBSD Cert No.	Indicate if also: Micro (O), Women (W), or Minority (M) Certified	Contact Person, Telephone & Email	Type of Goods and/or Services	Planned Involvement During Initial Period of the Contract (%)	Planned Contract Dollars During Initial Period of the Contract (\$)
Total Planned Subcontracting Spend (\$)					

ATTACHMENT D - See sheet 2 for breakdown

VHEPC FY25 Custom Travel Services Spend

V_Vendor	GMU	ODU	UMW
Academic Experiences Abroad		\$ 77,175	
Fellowship Travel International Inc	\$ 60,000	\$ 46,499	
GOLDEN RULE TRAVEL			\$ 3,460

SEALED REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

ISSUE DATE: January 20, 2026

RFP NUMBER & TITLE: **RFP 26-2075** - Customizable International Travel Services
Thursday, February 5, 2026 – 2:00 PM EST

PROPOSAL DUE DATE & TIME: **NOTE: Proposals received after the due date and time, as determined by the electronic time stamp generated by the eVA system, cannot be accepted.**

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION: Proposals shall be submitted electronically via the Commonwealth of Virginia’s eVA system in accordance with the instructions provided in this solicitation.
Reference **RFP 26-2075**

WORK LOCATION: All Campuses Fredericksburg Stafford Dahlgren

COMMODITY CODE(S): **95892, 96178**

PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE: Optional Mandatory N/A

CONTRACT OFFICER: JENNIFER BUIST **EMAIL:** jbuist@umw.edu

PERIOD OF CONTRACT: DATE OF AWARD THROUGH ONE YEAR, WITH OPTION FOR NINE (9) 1-YEAR RENEWALS, or as negotiated.

In compliance with this Sealed Request for Proposal (RFP) and to all the conditions imposed therein, and hereby incorporated by reference, the undersigned firm offers and agrees to furnish the goods/services in accordance with attached signed proposal or as mutually agreed upon by subsequent negotiation. The undersigned firm hereby certifies that all information provided in response to this RFP is true, correct and complete.

By signing this proposal, you are certifying that you are an authorized representative of the offering firm and that the firm’s principals or legal counsel have reviewed the Request for Proposal General Terms and Conditions and any Special Terms and Conditions. Any exceptions to the General or Special Terms and Conditions must be clearly identified in your proposal. No exceptions can be made to those General or Special Terms and Conditions that are mandated by law. If no exceptions are identified in your proposal, it is understood that the provisions will become a part of any final agreement.

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED WITH PROPOSAL

Name of Offering Firm: Golden Rule Travel LLC

Address of Offering Firm: 2178 B 17000 Rd, Oswego, KS , 67356

DSBSD Certification No.: _____ Expiration Date: _____

eVA ID: _____ Tax ID: _____

Email: accounting@goldenruletravel.com Telephone: +1 (620) 795-2431

Website: https://goldenruletravel.com/ Fax: _____

Submitted By (Print Name & Title): Benjamin Newton, Executive Assistant

Signature (In Ink): *Benjamin Newton* Date: 2/4/2026

RFP 26-2075: Customizable International Travel Services Response

TAB 1: VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION SALES

- **Question 1:** Please identify the amount of sales your company has had (if any) during the last twelve months with each public Higher Education Institution within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

University of Mary Washington: \$78,070.59 (2025 Calendar Year)

TAB 2: DESTINATIONS AND PROGRAMMING EXPERIENCE

- **Question 2a:** Specify the international locations to which your firm has experience in providing travel management services.

Golden Rule Travel provides comprehensive global airfare management. We service all major international hubs across Europe, Asia, South America, Africa, and Oceania. Our primary experience lies in managing complex, multi-leg international itineraries for academic groups, ensuring cost-effective routing and specialized "humanitarian" or "academic" airfare rates to any destination served by commercial carriers.

- **Question 2b:** Describe the experience that your firm has in providing travel management services for large groups in an academic and higher education setting. Please provide recent examples (references) to support this experience.

Golden Rule Travel specializes in the logistics of moving large academic cohorts (groups of 10 to 100+) internationally. Our experience includes coordinating block-seat bookings, managing flexible ticketing for changing student rosters, and navigating complex baggage requirements for university equipment.

- **Question 2c:** Describe the ability of your firm to provide customized group tours and/or organize group events that meet educational goals for faculty and students while traveling abroad. Provide examples of previously arranged tours.

Golden Rule Travel focuses exclusively on the "travel" component of international programs. While we do not curate on-site educational tours or events, we ensure that the flight logistics—including arrival/departure synchronization and airport transfers—are aligned with the faculty's academic schedule to maximize their time for educational goals on the ground.

- **Question 2d:** Describe the ability of your firm to offer professional trip counseling for faculty directors for complex or unique itineraries.

This is a core competency of Golden Rule Travel. We provide one-on-one counseling to faculty directors to navigate the complexities of international air travel. We advise on the best "gateways" into specific regions, optimal layover durations for student groups, and "open-jaw" ticketing options that allow groups to arrive in one city and depart from another, maximizing the program's efficiency.

- **Question 2e:** Describe your firm's ability to provide tour guides and/or interpreters on an as-needed basis during international travel.

Golden Rule Travel does not provide in-house tour guides or interpreters. Our expertise is strictly focused on international airfare.

- **Question 2f:** Describe your firm's ability to arrange for admissions passes to various museums, performances, special exhibits, and other attractions as an enhancement to the international study program at the most favorable rate to the University. Provide suggested attractions as examples in conjunction with various serviced locations.

Golden Rule Travel does not offer museum or performance pass procurement.

- **Question 2g:** Describe the ability of your firm in locating restaurants in the travel area that can accommodate large travel groups, including dietary restrictions (allergies, vegetarian/vegan, gluten-free, halal/kosher) and accessibility needs. Describe the ability of the University to have select group meals be pre-reserved and invoiced as part of the trip. Provide examples of previous arrangements.

Golden Rule Travel does not provide ground-based dining or meal reservation services.

- **Question 2h:** Describe your firm's ability to provide or attend pre-trip seminars and organizational meetings on campus to the groups that will be traveling, if requested by the University. Specify all associated costs in the Pricing Schedule.

Golden Rule Travel does not offer in-person attendance at pre-trip seminars.

- **Question 2i:** Describe the firm's ability to provide meeting space, classroom facilities, and/or presentation/technology needs during international travel at the University's request. Describe your ability to provide facilities on another university or college campus and specify the locations.

Golden Rule Travel does not provide or facilitate the rental of classroom or meeting facilities abroad.

TAB 3: OPERATIONS AND LOGISTICS

- **Question 3a:** Describe the firm's ability to plan mini-trips or excursions for University groups traveling abroad. Describe the firm's ability to schedule either intra-national or international travel to accommodate the mini-trips or excursions. Provide examples of previous experience in providing this service.

Golden Rule Travel facilitates intra-national and international "mini-trips" specifically through the booking of regional air carriers and "open-jaw" flight segments. We specialize in routing students between multiple international destinations, ensuring that air transfers are seamless and cost-effective within a larger program itinerary.

- **Question 3b:** Describe firm's ability to provide charter transportation and the types available by location.

Golden Rule Travel specializes exclusively in commercial air transportation.

- **Question 3c:** Describe all travel insurance available at no cost to the University.

Golden Rule Travel recommends passengers purchase comprehensive travel insurance options through our preferred providers, covering trip cancellation, interruption, and medical emergencies. Golden Rule Travel recommends RoamRight insurance.

- **Question 3d:** Describe any Common Carrier and Flight Insurance that would be made available to University travelers at no additional cost to the University.

See 3c answer.

- **Question 3e:** The contractor shall provide any refunds due as a result of unused tickets and shall identify each refund by the original ticket and invoice number. Refunds shall be credited to the University in the form of the original payment. Describe the firm's refund policy as it pertains to tickets, rentals, and reservations described within this RFP.

Our refund policy is dictated by the specific "fare rules" of the airline ticket purchased. However, we prioritize booking "Academic" or "Humanitarian" fares that offer higher flexibility and lower cancellation penalties than standard commercial fares.

- **Question 3f:** Describe the timeframe for providing the delivery of tickets and/or itineraries to the requesting University faculty travel leader after reservations are confirmed. All tickets and itineraries, unless otherwise requested by the University, should be delivered electronically.

Itineraries are delivered via email immediately upon booking. Final electronic tickets (e-tickets) are delivered within 24 hours of payment/issuance.

- **Question 3g:** Describe the information provided on standard itineraries.

Our itineraries include: Confirmation numbers (PNRs), flight numbers, seat assignments, terminal/gate information, and basic travel requirements.

- **Question 3h:** Describe the firm's ability to communicate entry requirements for a country (such as a visa, letter of invitation), and to communicate any issues that may prevent entry into a country (such as passport stamps to a specific country) and provide guidance on resolution.

We provide basic entry requirements for every international booking. This includes current U.S. State Department entry requirements, health protocols, and any specific documentation required for US citizens.

- **Question 3i:** Specify the firm's ability to provide Passport and Visa services. Include all associated costs.

While Golden Rule Travel is not a visa processing courier, we provide expert guidance on the application process and can refer travelers to our preferred visa expediting partners.

- **Question 3j:** Trip itineraries for the entire group shall be provided to the University faculty director in charge of the trip and the Center for International Education (CIE), unless otherwise specified.

Golden Rule Travel can provide account summaries as requested by UMW.

- **Question 3k:** Describe how the firm ensures accuracy in booking, invoicing, and itineraries. Specify if original receipts shall be provided to the University.

Golden Rule Travel ensures accuracy through a dual-verification quality control system. All tickets are reviewed for accuracy and fare drops.

- **Question 3l:** Describe the ability of the firm to provide communications to the faculty director when the trip being planned will take the group to locations requiring immunizations. Specify if the firm will be able to provide the faculty director and the Center for International Education (CIE) with details about the immunizations needed and time frame for the traveling group to receive the immunizations.

See answer 3h.

- **Question 3m:** Describe the firm's ability to book group lodging for short term and long term stays. Describe any unique lodging situations for which the firm would have booking access, such as apartments, dormitories or houses.

As a specialized airfare agency, Golden Rule Travel does not provide lodging or dormitory booking services.

TAB 4: BUSINESS OPERATIONS AND FINANCIALS

- **Question 4a:** Provide resumes for key personnel (particularly the single point of contract who will be working with UMW) who would be representing the firm and working with UMW staff to develop travel programming or fulfill travel programming needs.

The primary point of contact for the University of Mary Washington will be Lorene Petersheim. Lorene is a travel consultant with over 30 years of industry experience and a valued member of the Golden Rule Travel team.

- **Question 4b:** Specify how invoicing will demonstrate exactly how the cost per traveler was determined. Provide an invoice example.

Golden Rule Travel provides transparent, line-item invoicing. Each invoice explicitly breaks down the base fare, taxes and airline fees, and the Golden Rule Travel processing fee for each individual traveler. This allows the University to see the exact "cost per traveler" at a glance.

- **Question 4c:** Describe how payment is accepted.

Golden Rule Travel accepts all major credit cards and is prepared to work with UMW's preferred payment methods (ACH, or Check). Please note that some credit card transactions are subject to a 3.5% surcharge.

- **Question 4d:** Describe billing and payment terms. Specify if deposits are required and when full payment is due.

For individual commercial tickets, full payment is required at the time of issuance to guarantee the fare. For group block bookings (10+ seats), deposit requirements and deadlines are dictated by the specific airline's group contract; Golden Rule Travel will communicate these deadlines to UMW at the time of the quote.

- **Question 4e:** Specify the firm's cancellation policies and penalties. In the case of program cancellation or individual participant withdrawal, describe how refunds would be processed. Maximum flexibility is preferred.
 - **Refunds:** Golden Rule Travel charges a \$50 fee per ticket for processing refunds, in addition to any airline-imposed penalties. Original processing fees are non-refundable.

- **Reissues/Changes:** For domestic flights, Golden Rule Travel charges \$30; for international, \$50.
- **Voids:** Domestic voids are \$30; International voids are \$50.
- **Name Corrections:** \$50 (standard reissue fee).

- **Question 4f:** Describe the process for providing a quote of travel costs, as requested by the University for Budget planning. Describe how the firm would be able to guarantee quoted price (for up to a year in advance). Specify any and all issues that would impact the quoted price.

Golden Rule Travel provides quotes based on real-time GDS availability. While commercial fares are not guaranteed until ticketed, we can provide group quotes up to 11 months in advance (the limit of the airline's booking window).

- **Question 4g:** Describe how the firm would ensure that post trip reconciliation charges or surcharges, previously unapproved by the University are not levied.

Golden Rule Travel does not levy post-trip surcharges.

- **Question 4h:** Describe the ability of the firm to provide quotes for international travel based on current exchange rates and provide the University with the ability to hedge currency when possible and if in the best interest of the University. Explain the process for issuing credits and charges if exchange rates change after the original quote.

Transactions are usually processed in USD at the time of ticketing.

- **Question 4i:** Describe how the firm obtains the most favorable rates in regard to international travel for large groups.

Golden Rule Travel has access to specialized Net Fares and Academic/Humanitarian rates that are not available to the general public.

- **Question 4j:** Describe the firm's ability to advise the University departments of savings opportunities as it pertains to various items of travel as part of an international study program.

Golden Rule Travel ensures accuracy through a dual-verification quality control system. All tickets are reviewed for accuracy and fare drops.

- **Question 4k:** The University shall not be required to sign additional travel agreements or pro forma for individual trips planned by firms awarded a contract as a result of this solicitation. The University will issue a purchase order in accordance with the contract and in accordance with the pro forma, which shall serve as the University's agreement to proceed. Describe the firm's ability to comply with this requirement.

Golden Rule Travel confirms our ability to accept University Purchase Orders as the authorizing document for travel services.

- **Question 4l:** Describe any data collected from travelers as part of your services, including what data is collected, how it is stored, and how it is protected. Based on evaluation of proposals, the Hosted Technology Services Addendum may be required as part of any subsequent contract.

Golden Rule Travel collects only necessary information required by TSA and airlines. This data is stored within our secure, PCI-compliant GDS environment and is never shared with third parties except for the operating airlines.

TAB 5: EMERGENCY AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Provide an Emergency Operations Plan to support UMW faculty, staff and student travelers, inclusive of emergency contact information (24/7).

- **Question 5a:** Describe the firm's ability to communicate travel alerts or warnings issued by the U.S. Government and/or destination area including travel restrictions to sanctioned countries.

Golden Rule Travel provides 24/7 emergency support via a dedicated phone line staffed by senior agents. Our emergency protocol ensures that UMW travelers have prompt access to a travel agent to resolve urgent flight disruptions.

- **Question 5b:** Provide details on the process that a University faculty leader would follow if problems occurred during an international trip arranged by the firm. Describe the firm's ability to provide back-up arrangements with short-term notice.

In the event of a flight cancellation or delay outside of normal business hours, the faculty leader calls our 24/7 emergency line. GRT immediately advocates with the airline to secure alternative commercial routings, often protecting seats on back-up flights before the group reaches the airport service desk.

- **Question 5c:** Provide details on the process that a University faculty leader would follow if problems occurred during an international trip arranged by the firm. Describe the firm's ability to provide back-up arrangements with short-term notice.

During large-scale disruptions, GRT acts as the primary liaison with airline "Group Desks" to identify remaining commercial flight capacity for repatriation. We navigate complex force-majeure policies to secure the best possible outcomes for refunds, waivers, and travel credits for the University.

TAB 6: LEGAL AND COMPLIANCE

- **Question 6a:** Describe how the firm ensures that all local state and federal laws and regulations are followed.

Golden Rule Travel maintains adherence to all applicable aviation and commerce regulations. We are a fully licensed and insured agency, compliant with Airlines Reporting Corporation (ARC) standards.

TAB 8: OTHER SERVICES

- **Question 8a:** Provide information regarding services not described in the scope of work that the offering firm is currently able to provide to the University, along with associated pricing.

Golden Rule Travel specializes exclusively in commercial air transportation.