

CANDIDATE PROFILES



Kelsey Marchand – VP Communications Candidate

My name is Kelsey Marchand and I am running for the position of Vice President of Communications with the Graduate Students Association (GSA).

I began a Masters degree in the Department of Biology at the University of Regina in September 2015. During this time I have had the opportunity to engage in community outreach regarding my research through various media and social media platforms. It became apparent how effective proper communication between various organizations and community groups can be in gaining support of projects, sharing emerging news, and spreading the word about future events.

If elected as VP Communications, I will make sure that a high level of communication within and among the GSA, associations, and the students is maintained as a priority. I will ensure that grad students have access to all the necessary information in regards to governance, member services such as scholarships, as well as promotion of GSA events through group emails and social media platforms.



Aamir Sohail – VP International Candidate

Myself, Aamir Sohail, I am contesting Graduate student Association election for 2016-2017 as Vice President International (VP International). I am pursuing my Master degree in Business Administration at University of Regina. I hold Bachelor degree in Business study from National University of Modern Languages Islamabad (Pakistan). In 2013 I earned scholarship for graduate study under Italian Government Program “**Invest Talent in Italy**”. I was the active member of European student Association “**AEGEE- Europe**”.

My hobbies are traveling, watching different sports and learn new cultures.



Aurpa Nath – Member-At-Large Candidate

Hi, my name is Aurpa Nath, currently I am doing Masters in Human Resources at the university of Regina.

Originally I am from Bangladesh and it has been a year since I moved here. Prior to coming here I have worked under numerous pillars of HR for two years and currently I am engaged as a full time student at the university. Since I entered at the university, it has been a tremendous learning experience. It feels great when people accept me as who I am and appreciate diversity.

I want to get engaged with the Graduate Student Association because I want to establish a strong relationship with the diverse group of people out there. I believe Graduate Student Association is a big part of the

university and to ensure its ongoing success I want to contribute to this association as much as possible. I know, together we can make a big difference. Hence, here I am and applying for the 'Member-At-Large'!

Finally, I believe as a graduate student of business, I owe to the Graduate Student Association for always being there to work for the betterment of the graduate students. Now, it is my turn to give something back to this community! Hope to have an amazing learning experience. Cheers!



Khaleel Soomro – VP Finance Candidate

My name is M. Khaleel Soomro and I would like to present my candidature for position of VP Finance in the upcoming URGSA elections. I am currently studying towards my MBA degree and am an affiliate of ACCA, a British accountancy qualification similar to CPA, SK. I have experience of working in Australia and Pakistan in roles that required financial acumen and teamwork. I hope to serve the URGSA by helping the executive craft transparent, effective financial and budgetary strategies. I would also be a fervent advocate of the interests of our association, and you the members will always have my ear.



Natasha Gallant – VP Academic Candidate

My name is Natasha Gallant and I am running for the position of VP Academic with the University of Regina's Graduate Students' Association (GSA). I am a graduate student in Clinical Psychology at the university. Before beginning my graduate studies in Regina, I was an undergraduate student in Psychology at Western University in London, Ontario.

Over the past year, I have been a GSA representative for my department and participated at GSA Council meetings. I have also been actively involved with Toastmasters International, both as current president of UR Toastmasters at the university and as coordinator of Youth Leadership Programs in the city. Through these and other experiences, I have developed strong communication and leadership skills that I would utilize as VP Academic.

If elected as VP Academic, I plan to improve the quality of graduate studies while strengthening the graduate student community at the University of Regina. I would advocate the perspectives of this community through my participation on various committees such as the President's Research Committee and the University Committee on Teaching and Learning. I would become well-informed on university policies and structures and I would promote innovative policies that are of benefit to you as graduate students. I would increase awareness of graduate student research on campus because these research contributions are vital to the university's success. In these ways, I hope to contribute to the graduate student community at the University of Regina by providing a strong voice on academic issues.



Devjyoti Nath – Research Conference Chair Candidate

Hi, I am Devjyoti Nath. Currently, I am doing my PhD in Process System Engineering at University of Regina. Previously, I completed my MASC in Industrial Systems Engineering at UofR as well.

I would like to join Graduate Student Association as a "Research Conference Chair" because I believe I have the right balance of research experiences and the proven leadership skills.

The topic of my PhD research is to develop low-cost environmentally-friendly liquid solvent that will facilitate large scale separation of CO₂ from flue gas. Also, I researched on the development of renewable energy during my MASC. During my MASC and PhD; I have achieved "FGSR Graduate Scholarship" award for numerous times due to the academic excellence. I published few Journal papers and book chapter with the collaboration of other researchers; and also presented my research at conference.

During my Masters, I worked as Treasurer and Signatory in University of Regina Bangladeshi Student Association. I have been working with this association since its

inception and demonstrated strong leadership in organizing cultural and social activities. I also worked as an Office Administrator at Badhan (voluntary blood donors' organization), Bangladesh.

I want to work with GSA to ensure its ongoing success. I believe that if I were given this chance; I would be able to contribute much to this association. Hope to working with you.



Shaelja Sharma – VP Student Affairs Candidate

Hi, my name is Shaelja, and I am running for the Vice President Student Affairs in the upcoming election for the Graduate Student Association (GSA). I am a graduate student of the Levene Business School. I am running for this position, as I have years of experience in Human Resources and in my earlier roles, I have learned how to address the conflicting concerns of individuals and groups, and this position requires lots of cooperation and interaction between student and different departments. If elected, I intend to be a voice of students representing them on various bodies by keeping their interest supreme. Personally, as I believe in transparent and clear communication and for effective

relationship building, clear and transparent communication are the two major cornerstones, I would propel the FGSR and other departments to be more transparent in structuring graduate fee and charging extra amounts for other activities. Given the opportunity, I am confident that through my experience and skills I will be able to make a significant contribution.



Firuz Philip – VP Student Affairs Candidate

I am currently pursuing PhD in Process Systems Engineering at the University of Regina. I have completed MASc in Environmental Systems Engineering from the University of Regina. Being graduate student for more than 3 years, I know what challenges graduate students face at this university. From the time I started, there has been steep increase in student tuition fees especially for graduate students. As of 2016, graduate students of this university pay the highest amount of tuition fee among all universities in western Canada. However at the same time research grants has decreased considerably. After hour's research is very common for the graduate students, primary challenge they face is the lack of amenities like

foods. Most of the food stores are usually closed by 5 pm. There is many more challenges graduate students encounter during their study in this university.

I would like to be your voice to represent your concerns to the authority and make the graduate study at University of Regina more enjoyable and memorable.