GSA Departmental Orientation

August 2022

Masume Akbari
Vice President Student Life, 2022-23
Graduate Students’ Association
GSA Board of Directors

We are graduate students just like you!

Saaka Sulemana Saaka, GSA President
PhD Candidate in Political Science

James Steele, VP Academic
PhD Student in Mathematics

A.C. Cameron, VP External
Master’s Student in Mathematics

Masume Akbari, VP Student Life
PhD Student in Geomatics Engineering

Cameron Armstrong, VP Finance & Services
MBA Student in Haskayne School of Business
Health and Dental Plan

• Managed by the GSA to provide students with extended coverage

• All full-time students are automatically enrolled
  • Part-time, distance, visiting, and Executive MBA students aren't automatically covered, but may be eligible to enroll in the plan during the Change-of-Coverage Period.

• Add family members (Opt In) or opt out if you have private insurance
  • Deadline: September 2 to September 23, 2022

• Download: StudentCare app
  • Submit claims electronically
  • Find your Pay Direct Card (insurance card) on app

• Did you know?
  • Empower Me is a covered wellness services available 24/7
  • Recall exams, teeth cleaning, filling -> Up to 90%-100% covered!
  • Prescription drugs -> Up to 80% covered
  • $150 off your eyeglasses and contact lenses
Awards and Financial Support

• **Bursaries**
  • Support Bursaries, Emergency Bursaries, and GSA Bursaries

• **Awards**
  • GSA Sustainability Award
  • Excellence Awards
  • Emerging Leader Award
  • Leadership Award
  • Graduate Representative Council Initiative Award
  • GSA Graduate Citizenship Award

• **Professional Development Grants**
• **Quality Money**

Last year, we distributed: $792,119 of financial support to graduate students
Collective Agreement (CA)

• Types of Graduate Assistantship covered by CA
  • Graduate Assistant (Teaching) (GAT)
  • Graduate Assistant (Research) (GAR)
  • Graduate Assistant (Non-Teaching) (GANT)

• Defines
  • Remuneration (Salary + Scholarship)
  • Rights and responsibilities
  • Hours of work
  • Leaves (medical leave, parental leave, special leaves)

• Negotiation

• If you have any employment questions or concerns or feel your rights have been violated
  • Please contact Labour Relations Committee at lrc.gsa@ucalgary.ca
Student Experience

• Social Events
  • LDL Trivia, Paint nights, Yoga, Dance Crew, Strength Training, Book Club, etc.
  • Holiday events

• Discounted Tickets
  • West Edmonton Mall GalaxyLand, WaterPark
  • Calgary Zoo
  • Royal Tyrrell Museum
  • Telus Spark
  • More to come!

• Image of Research Competition
• Peer Beyond Graduate Research Symposium
Get Involved!

GSA COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

President
- Governance Standing Committee
- AVP Labour
  - Labour Relations Committee

Vice President Academic
- Awards Committee
- Academic Support Committee

Vice President Student Life
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee
- Student Experience and Events Committee
  - Events Subcommittee
  - Mental Health and Wellness Subcommittee
  - GSA Gender and Sexuality Alliance Subcommittee
  - Newcomers & International Students Subcommittee

Vice President External
- Ad Hoc Working Group
- Advocacy Engagement Working Group

Vice President Finance & Services
- Finance Standing Committee
- Sustainability Committee
Get Involved

• **Departmental Graduate Associations (DGA)**
  • Each department has their own student leaders
  • Host social/academic events
  • Sit on department committees
  • Represent your department at GRC

• **Graduate Representative Council (GRC)**
  • Monthly meetings
  • Voting member

• **Graduate Student Groups (GSG)**

• **Volunteer Recruitment Program**
  • The GSA connects you with internal volunteer opportunities or with organizations extending external volunteer opportunities.
Advocacy

• We advocate to...
  • The University
  • City Council (with CSA)
  • Provincial Legislature (with ab-GPAC)
  • Federal Parliament (with CASA)

• We advocate for...
  • Mental health access and supports
  • Immigration support and pathways to Permanent Residency
  • Public funding to lower tuition
  • Food-housing security
  • ...You!

And we need your help!
Email: vpext.gsa@ucalgary.ca
Instagram: @ac.clearly
Welcome Events

Welcome to UCalgary!

LDL SOCIAL
@ Last Defence Lounge
First come first serve!
180 student capacity
AUGUST 31 | 4 - 7 PM

HEALTH & DENTAL Q&A
@ Last Defence Lounge
September 1 | 10 AM
Register on gsa.ucalgary.ca/events
Connect with us

- our website: gsa.ucalgary.ca
- our social media channels: @gsacalgary
- weekly newsletters
- email: askgsa@ucalgary.ca