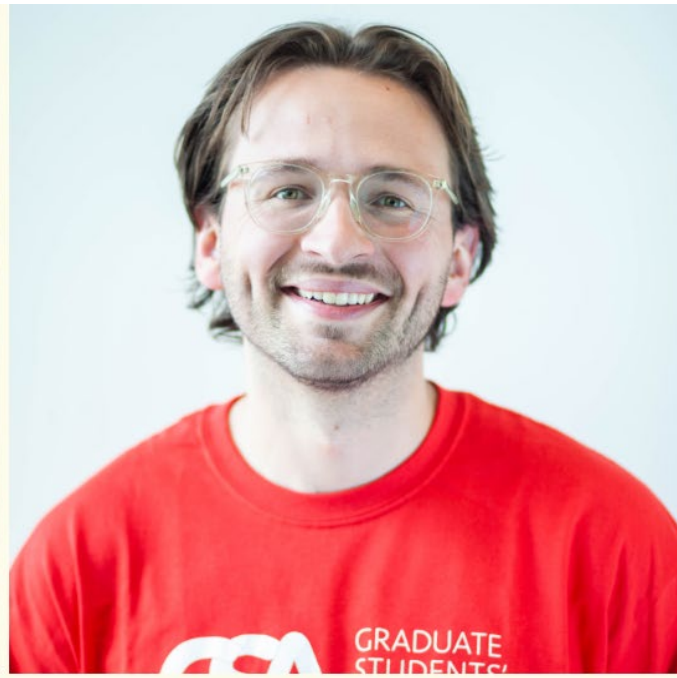


# GSA Departmental Orientation

August 2022

Masume Akbari  
Vice President Student Life, 2022-23  
Graduate Students' Association





# GSA Board of Directors

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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

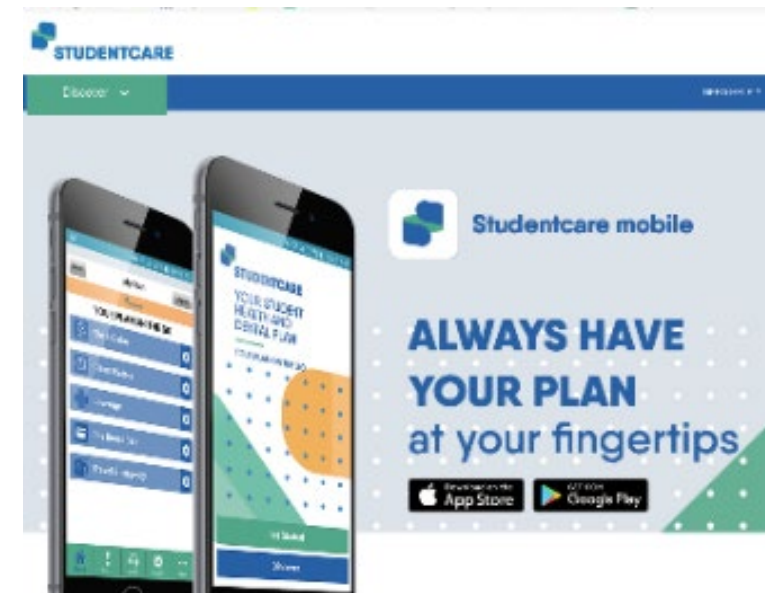
**Cameron Armstrong, VP Finance & Services**

MBA Student in Haskayne School of Business



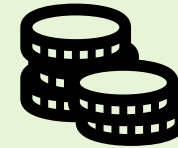
# Health and Dental Plan

- **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**



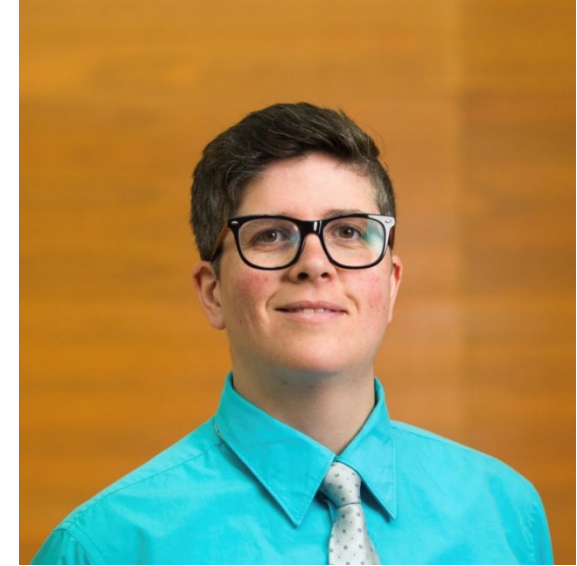
Last year, we distributed:

**\$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](mailto:lrc.gsa@ucalgary.ca)



**Keira Gunn**  
2022-2023 AVP  
Labour



# 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!

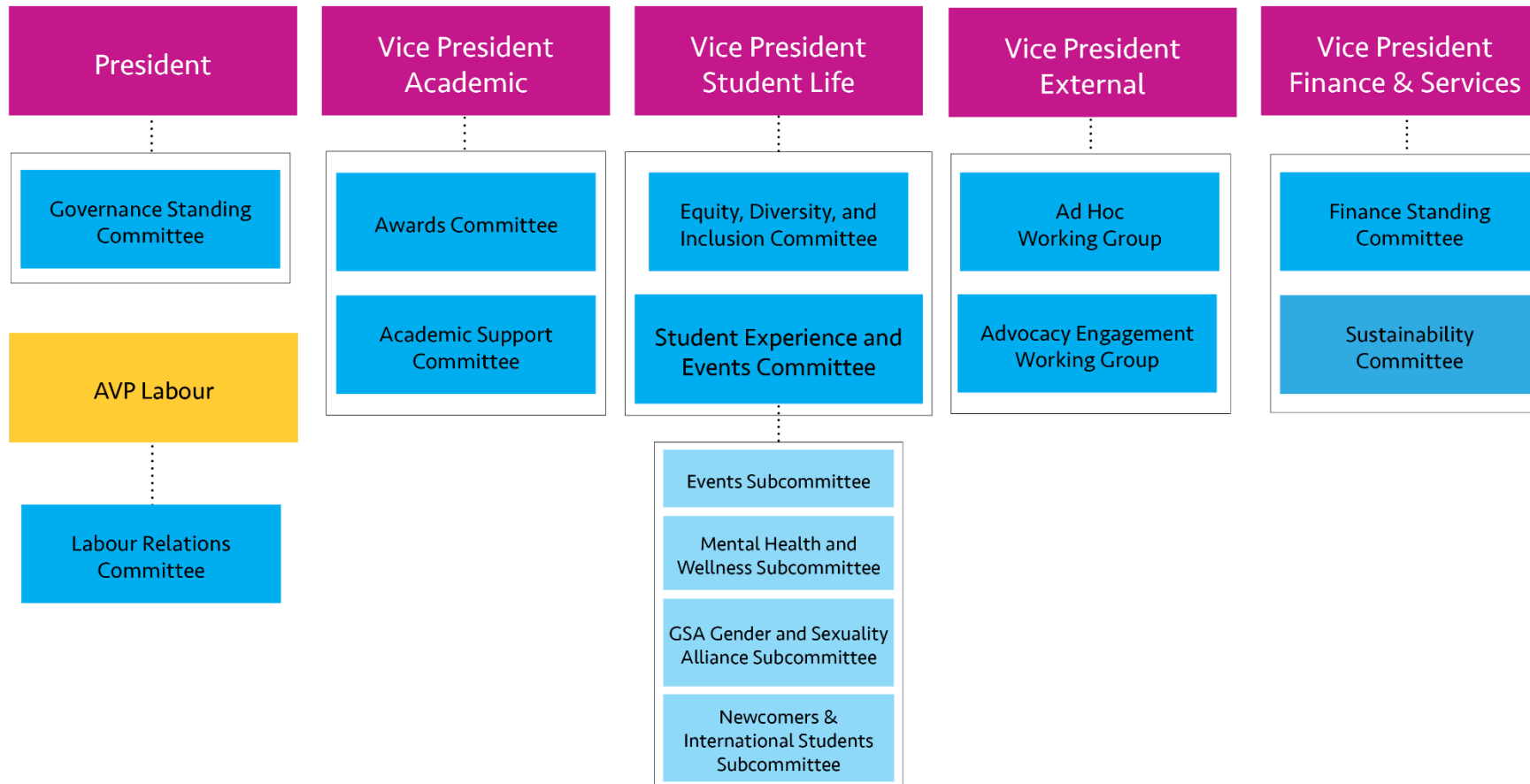
- **Image of Research Competition**

- **Peer Beyond Graduate Research Symposium**



# Get Involved!

## GSA COMMITTEE STRUCTURE



# 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](mailto: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

**GSA**  
GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY



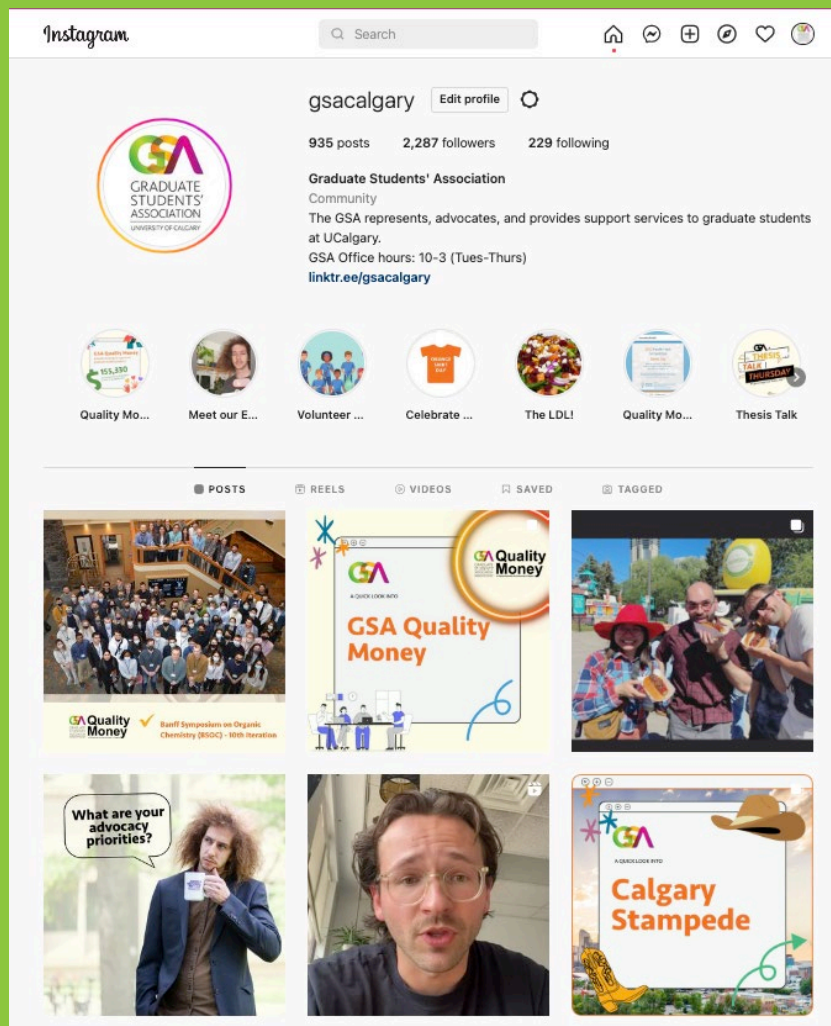
**STUDENTCARE**

## HEALTH & DENTAL Q&A

@ Last Defence Lounge  
Breakfast will be provided  
Register on [gsa.ucalgary.ca/events](https://gsa.ucalgary.ca/events)

September 1 | 10 AM

**GSA**  
GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY



## Connect with us

- our website: [gsa.ucalgary.ca](https://gsa.ucalgary.ca)
- our social media channels: [@gsacalgary](https://www.instagram.com/gsacalgary)
- weekly newsletters
- email: [askgsa@ucalgary.ca](mailto:askgsa@ucalgary.ca)