

Orientation Session for New Graduate Students

Department of Civil Engineering
Fall 2025

Welcome to McGill!

- Welcome to the Department of Civil Engineering, which is at the forefront of innovative research for more than 150 years!
- You will play a key role through your various contributions to our department and university
- McGill & Montréal offer you a variety of opportunities for education and personal development – take advantage of them!



Outline

- McGill Libraries – Tara Mawhinney (Civil Engineering Liaison Librarian)
- Wellness Hub – Devon Simpson
- Graduate Engineering Equity Committee (GEEC) – Fathima Afsal
- Overview of the Graduate Program – Prof. Sushama, GPD & Ms. Wong, GPC
- Information about the Civil Engineering Graduate Students Society (CEGSS) – Megan Ethier

Wellness Resources

Orientation to the Student Wellness Hub

Devon Simpson, LWA Graduate Studies
Devon.simpson@mcgill.ca

Fall 2025



McGill

Student
Services

Services
aux étudiants



Student
Wellness Hub

Pôle bien-être
étudiant

Local Wellness Advisors



As your Local Wellness Advisors,

- Promote health and wellness through outreach activities and workshops tailored to student interests.
- Offer 45-minute consultation appointments for students;
- Connect students to appropriate on-and off-campus wellness resources;
- Collaborate with various faculty and staff to meet the needs of students
- Support graduate students/TA in their dual roles

For more information or to book a 1:1 appointment, please visit the Student Wellness Hub: <https://www.mcgill.ca/wellness-hub/>



Elizabeth
LWA International Students

Melissa,
LWA BIPOC students

Resources

- <https://www.mcgill.ca/student-services/wellness-wheel>
- <https://pgss.mcgill.ca/en/resources>
- <https://www.mcgill.ca/wellness-hub/>
- <https://involvement.mcgill.ca/>



GEEC

Graduate Engineering Equity Committee



McGill

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI/DEI)




We have Panel Discussions!





WOMEN IN STEM

10:30 AM - 1 PM | 29th May 2024 | MD-267




PANEL DISCUSSION

REGISTER HERE: 



HELLO!
WHAT WILL WE BE
DISCUSSING?

EQUITY, DIVERSITY,
INCLUSION IN ACADEMIA
AND IN LAB SETTINGS



MARCH 21ST 2023, 11 AM - 1 PM
MD 267 (2ND FLOOR, MACDONALD
ENGINEERING BUILDING)

We have Movie Nights and coffee hours!



MOVIE NIGHT

THE HATE U GIVE

REGISTER HERE:

MD 267 (MACDONALD BUILDING)
25TH MAY 2023 | 5 PM ONWARDS

FREE ICE CREAM

COME TAKE A BREAK WITH US

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

LOCATION: FROSTBITE
IN MCCONNELL ENGINEERING

TIME: TUES, AUG 8, 15:30-17:00

Movie Night!

PICTURE A SCIENTIST

"An eye-opening view of what women in male dominated academia have had to put up with!"

"a must see, for scientific students -- as well as all teachers and academic staff"

Register here:

EUS Common Room (McConnel 032) |
Aug 9, 2022 | 5:00 PM onwards

COFFEE MORNING

Come, chat with us! Enjoy a bagel! Join our team!

30.01.2024 • 10AM-1PM

FDA 5, Frank Dawson Adams Building,
Downtown Campus

Graduate students and Postdocs are welcome!

MOVIE NIGHT

PERSEPOLIS

(AN ADULT ANIMATED FILM SET ON PRE AND POST REVOLUTIONARY IRAN)

"I HAVE READ THE STORY OF THE IRANIAN REVOLUTION BUT IT HAS NOT STUCK WITH ME IN SUCH A PROFOUND WAY AS THE STORY OF THIS FILM"

Macdonald 267 (MD 267) |
Oct 25, 2022 | 5:00 PM onwards

Join our team !



[GEEC website](#)

equity.geec@gmail.com



We are recruiting!
Fill this form and we will get
back to you soon.



Thank You !

Department Faculty and Staff



McGill

Civil Engineering Faculty and Staff

- 21 Professors
- 4 administrative support staff
 - M. Falkner – Administrative Officer (mylissa.falkner@mcgill.ca)
 - A. Dinolfo – Senior Administrative and Student Affairs Coordinator
 - S. Wong – Administrative and Student Affairs Coordinator
 - T. Piovesan – Administrative Coordinator
- 5 technical support staff
 - J. Bartczak W. Cook D. Kiperchuk
 - J. Sayat M. Stephens

1. Structural, Construction Materials, Geomechanics and Geotechnical

M. Bezabeh A. Boyd L. Chouinard D. Malomo



C. Rogers Y. Shao T. Xie



2. Transportation

L.M. Moreno L. Sun J. Yu



3. Environmental, hydraulics and water resources

D. Frigon S. Ghoshal S. Jordaan M. Kang



S. Loeb J. Nicell P. Ozcer S. Gaskin



L. Sushama



Contact Info for Graduate Studies

Sun Chee Wong (GPC)

Administrative and Student Affairs
Coordinator, Graduate Records

Office hours: 10:30-11:30,
14:30-16:00 (in-person only from
Wednesday to Friday)

Tel: (514) 398-6858

gradinfo.civil@mcgill.ca

Laxmi Sushama (GPD)

Professor and Trottier Chair
in Sustainability in Engineering
and Design

laxmi.sushama@mcgill.ca

Degree Requirements

M. Eng (Non-Thesis), M. Sc (Thesis), and PhD requirements, internal tools for progress tracking



McGill



Mandatory Training

- It Takes All of Us
- Academic Integrity



Found on MyCourses



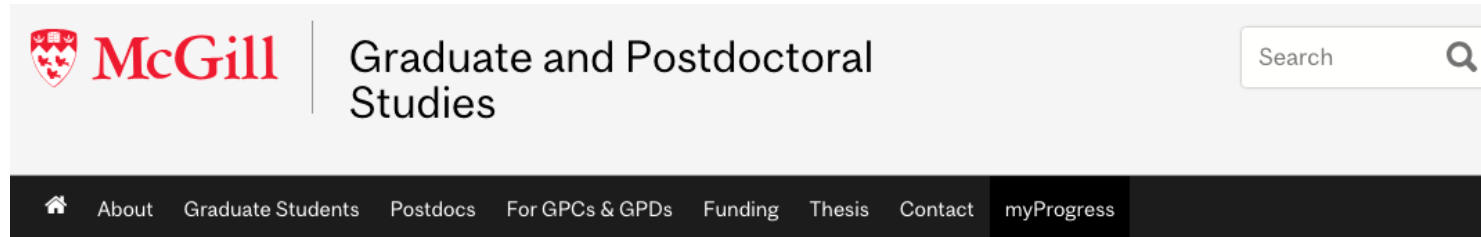
Found on Minerva

- Completion of online training is mandatory for all at McGill.
- Failure to comply will result in being blocked from registration (and TAs if this applies)

Progress Tracking

MyProgress (<https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/myprogress>)

- Web-based tool that will allow you to track and monitor progress towards your degree



McGill.CA / GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES

Students and Supervisors

GPCs and GPDs

myProgress

- Supervisor/Committee details
- Program requirements
- Courses taken or missing
- Milestones (non-course program requirements: supervisory committee, comprehensive exams/proposal, progress tracking, letter of understanding etc.)
- Receive reminders of upcoming or missed academic milestones in thesis graduate programs

Progress Tracking



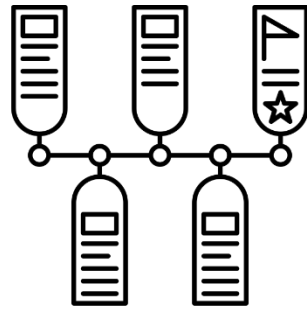
Progress Tracking form for Thesis students

- Form and information can be found at <https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/students/progress-tracking> (form and information)

Dates for progress tracking submission

- For September entries - deadline to submit is December 31st
- For January entries - deadline to submit is April 30th

Failure to comply: Unsatisfactory recorded after missing milestones,
Two unsatisfactory evaluations → Asked to withdraw from the program.
Be on top of this!



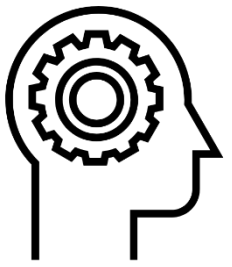
Program Milestones

Roadmap to Your Degree

PhD, MSc and MEng-Non-Thesis program: <https://www.mcgill.ca/civil/grad/roadmap-your-degree>

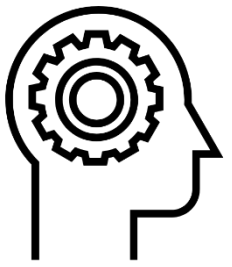
This page contains detailed step-by-step directions for the timely and successful completion of the three different graduate degrees offered in the Department, with convenient links to related topics whenever relevant.

The screenshot shows the McGill University Civil Engineering Graduate Studies page. The browser address bar displays [mcgill.ca/civil/grad/roadmap-your-degree](https://www.mcgill.ca/civil/grad/roadmap-your-degree). The page header includes the McGill logo and the text "Civil Engineering", along with a search bar. A navigation menu at the top lists: Home, About Us, People, Undergraduate Studies, Graduate Studies (selected), Student Life, and Contact Us. Below the menu, the breadcrumb trail reads "McGill.CA / CIVIL ENGINEERING / Graduate Studies". On the left, a sidebar menu lists various links: Admissions, Areas of Specialization, Courses, Departmental Procedures, Electronic Thesis Final Submission, Financial Assistance, Practical Guidelines, Roadmap to Your Degree (highlighted), Roadmap to MEng Non-Thesis Degree, and Roadmap to MSc Thesis Degree. The main content area features the heading "Roadmap to Your Degree" followed by a paragraph: "This page contains detailed step-by-step directions for the timely and successful completion of the three different graduate degrees offered in the Department, with convenient links to related topics whenever relevant." Below this, it states "The degrees offered are:" and lists three links: [MEng Non-thesis](#) (also MEng Non-thesis - Environmental Engineering Option), [MSc](#), and [PhD](#).



M. Eng Requirements

- Non-thesis program (45 credits)
- Minimum residency of 3 full-time terms
- Usual completion time: 20-24 months (if full-time)
- No funding allocated



M. Eng Requirements

- Emphasis on expertise (specialty area) for professional practice
- 27 to 42 credits of coursework (minimum 8 credits at 600-level)
- 3 credit CIVE 664 MEng (Non-Thesis) Research Seminar - Mandatory for graduation
- It is possible to complete a project (5-10 credits) if a supervisor has a project and is willing to take a student on. If so, ask GPC for more information (reaching out to a supervisor, agreement form...)
- Graduate courses from other McGill Engineering Departments are allowed as complementary courses
- A maximum of 1/3 of coursework credits may be taken outside McGill (approval required from the Department)
- Environmental Engineering Option: Contact Professor Subhasis Ghoshal



M. Sc Requirements

- Thesis program (45 credits)
- Minimum residency of 3 full-time terms
- Usual completion time: 20-24 months (if full-time)
- 27 credits of Thesis Research courses (CIVE 63X)
- 17 credits of complementary courses at the 500 or 600 level, with a minimum of 8 credits at the 600 level.
- Mandatory for graduation: CIVE 662 (Master's thesis research seminar; organized thrice a year; seminar to be given the term thesis will be submitted)
- A maximum of 1/3 of the coursework may be taken outside McGill (approval required from the Department)
- Transfer to Non-Thesis available, but cannot switch back after

PhD Requirements



Theses for doctoral degrees must constitute original scholarship and must be a distinct contribution to knowledge/research area

- 6-8 credits at the 500 or 600 level must be taken from the Department of Civil Engineering (must be completed before the comprehensive examination)
- **CIVE 701: Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination** (<https://www.mcgill.ca/civil/grad/departamental-procedures#COMPEXAM>)
 - To be completed within 13 months since joining the Program
 - Examination is to determine if the candidate has the required background and the potential to succeed in the Ph.D. program
 - Registration should take place in the semester in which the oral examination is to be scheduled
- **CIVE 702: Ph.D. Research Proposal** ([https://www.mcgill.ca/civil/grad/departamental-procedures - PROPOSAL](https://www.mcgill.ca/civil/grad/departamental-procedures-PROPOSAL))
 - Within 3 months following CIVE 701
 - Examination to determine if the candidate may continue in the doctoral program and if the proposed research project has the potential to lead to successful completion of a Ph.D. thesis
 - Registration should take place in the semester in which the examination is to be scheduled

Thesis submission and deadlines

myThesis

<https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/thesis/thesis-guidelines/initial-submission/what-mythesis>

- Part of the myProgress hub
- McGill graduate students are required to use myThesis
 - 1) to notify their supervisors in advance of their intent to submit their thesis
 - 2) to nominate thesis examiners
 - 3) for initial thesis submission
 - 4) for examiner evaluation
 - 5) for oral defence preparation
 - 6) for final thesis submission.

Thesis deadlines

Initial and Final Thesis deadlines:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/thesis/deadlines>

Getting Started – First Steps

- Getting a Student ID Card from Service Point
- Getting a Québec Permanent Code (crucial and mandatory)
- Meeting with your supervisor(s)
 - Course selection
 - Meeting frequency
 - Intellectual property
 - Authorship
 - Funding (RA-TAships)
 - Mutual Expectations – Letter of Understanding
- Opening a LAN computer account & other local computing access

Contact Dr. William Cook (bill.cook@mcgill.ca) and Jorge Sayat (Jorge.sayat@mcgill.ca)

Supervisory Relationships

McGill's Commitment

- Provide the **framework** for degree completion
- **Support** mechanisms
- **Develop** your professional skills (e.g., McGill SKILLSETS - www.mcgill.ca/skillsets)
- Provide a **safe** work environment (e.g., WHMIS training – Mandatory) www.mcgill.ca/ehs/training)

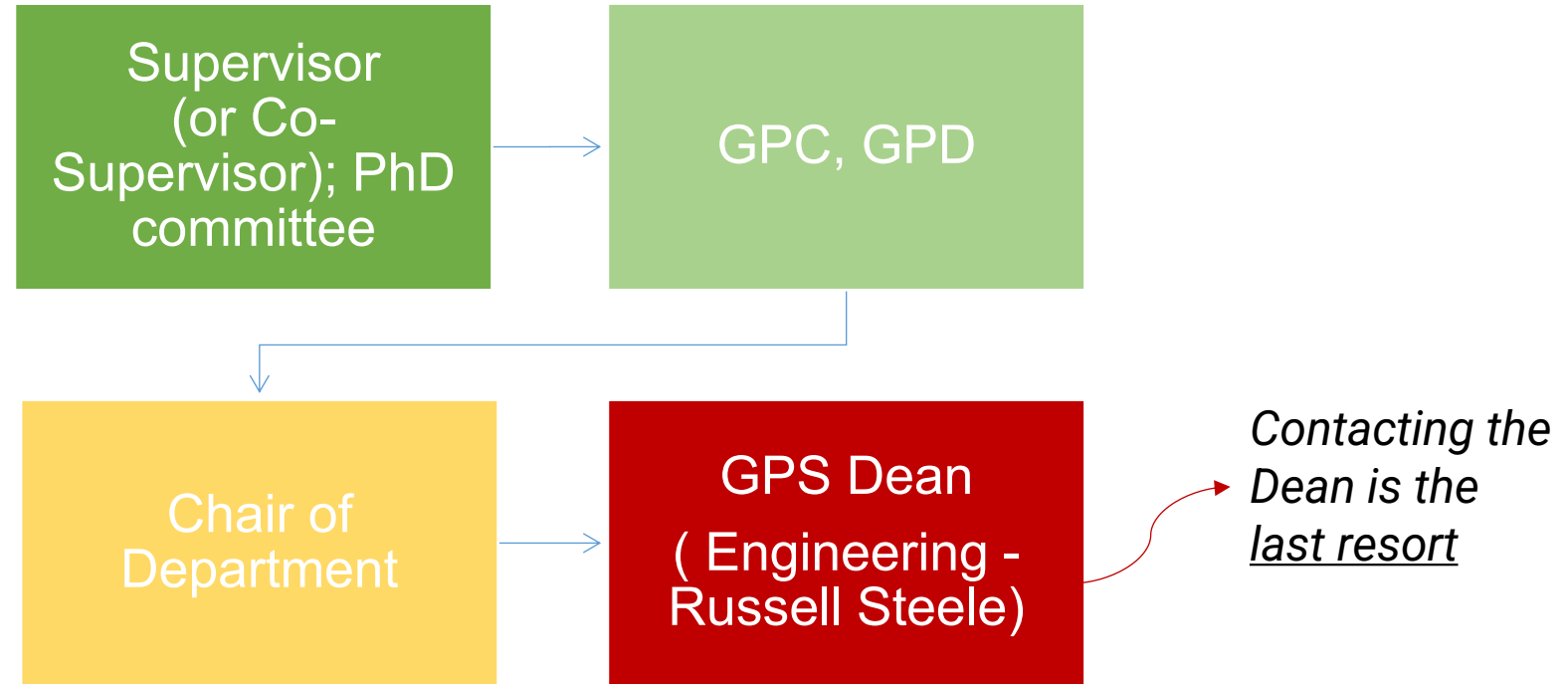
Yours

- Your **academic integrity**
- Keeping track of your **roadmap**
(www.mcgill.ca/civil/grad/roadmap-your-degree)
- Ensuring your **Minerva Registration status** is in good standing
- Engaging in the **academic community**



Navigating Supervisory Problems

Whom to contact



Staying informed and adjusting to difficult situations is important for your mental health and the completion of your degree!

Practical Guidelines & Departmental Procedures

If you need to:

- Request a leave of absence
- Change your research supervisor
- Prepare your M.Eng Project report
- Fast-track from your master's thesis to a Ph.D. (for exceptional cases only)

Consult the following links for more info:

- <https://www.mcgill.ca/civil/grad/departamental-procedures> &
- <https://www.mcgill.ca/civil/grad/practical-guidelines>

Scholarships, TAs, Invigilation

Additional ways of supplementing your income



McGill

Scholarships

- For Master's Students: www.mcgill.ca/gps/funding/opportunities/masters
- For Doctoral Students: www.mcgill.ca/gps/funding/opportunities/phd
- Departmental Financial Assistance: <https://www.mcgill.ca/civil/grad/financial>
(Includes travel grants – GREAT awards – Graduate Research Enhancement and Travel)
- Graduate Mobility award (<https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/funding/travel/grad-mobility-award>) - mobility activity funded by this award is meant to contribute to the completion of a student's thesis or research project

Other Part-Time Jobs Available on Campus

Teaching Assistantships

- Help Undergraduate students understand material better, grade homework and exams
- Masters and PhD may apply
- Every semester, you will receive an email to apply on Workday

Invigilation

- Help maintain exam integrity during finals period
- Masters and PhD may apply
- Opportunities available on Workday and Glassdoor, no email sent

Additional Services

Engine, McGill Writing Center, Mental Health Resources, Campus
Emergencies



McGill

The **McGill Engine Centre** in the Faculty of Engineering focuses on **stimulating and supporting technological innovators and entrepreneurs** at McGill University in collaboration with the McGill Dobson Centre for Entrepreneurship and the Office of Innovation and Partnership.

OUR PILLARS

Collaborative, co-working space
and [bookable rooms](#): seminar,
conference, meeting

Co-curricular programming:
workshops, seminars, lectures,
events

Coaching, mentoring,
connecting

Project funding

Industrial R&D
collaborations



McGill Engine Centre
Frank Dawson Adams Building, Room 5

Learn more at: www.mcgill.ca/engine

[LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

McGill Writing Centre

- Through Graphos, a subsection of the McGill Writing Centre, you can take interesting classes and workshops tailored for graduate students' writing needs!
- Tutorial services are also available
- Call (514) 398-7109 for more info or browse their website:
<https://www.mcgill.ca/graphos/>

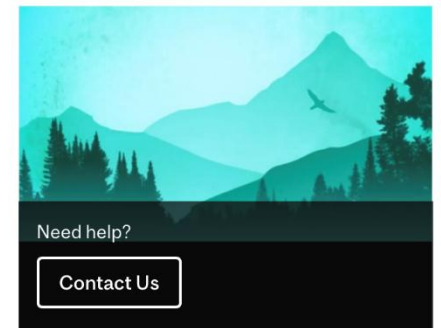
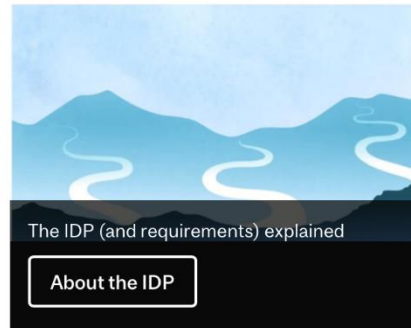
Mental Health Resources

- Peer support
 - Learn more here: <https://www.mcgill.ca/wellness-hub/get-support/mental-health-support/peer-support>
- Student wellness hub
 - Check out all the available resources here: <https://www.mcgill.ca/wellness-hub/get-support/mental-health-support>

McGill MyPath

- Service that helps graduate students meet their goals and needs!
- Workshops, tools resources etc.
- For more info or to book an appointment visit [their website](#)

Resources offered:



McGill CaPS

- Service offering career fairs, advising, workshops etc.
- Portal for current job openings is found through the link below
- For more info or to book an appointment visit [their website](#)

Resources offered:



McGill Sports Complex

- Offers a multitude of sporting activities including intramurals, fitness classes, swim classes, sport lessons (tennis, badminton, karate etc.)
- Great opportunity to meet people!
- Purchase a gym membership through here
- The pool is included in your tuition fees!
- Find more information [here](#)



Emergencies

Serious emergencies: Call 911 immediately

Then, inform campus security services at 514-398-3000



Graduate and
Postdoctoral Studies

Supporting Graduate student *well-being*

Graduate studies can be hard on your well-being. Our goal is to ensure that you have all the tools and information you need to make your experience an unbridled success. This document features many support services that are readily available to you.

Need further support? Contact your Graduate Program Director (mcgill.ca/x/iNf) or GPS Associate Dean (associatedeans.gps@mcgill.ca).



Need immediate support?

Reach out to us by scanning the QR code or through the link below
mcgill.ca/x/icZ



Student Wellness Hub

A range of services to support the well-being of McGill Students with a focus on awareness,

- Local Wellness Advisors
- Self-directed Care
- Healthy Living Annex
- Peer Support



Peer Support

Resources for McGill students by McGill students.

- PGSS Mental Health Resources
- GuardMe Student Support Program
- Peer Support Centre at McGill
- McGill Students Nightline
- McGill Legal information Clinic



Academic and Community Support

Excel in your studies at McGill while getting the support you need.

- Supervision: Graduate and Postdoctoral Support
- Graphos Writing Support
- Student Accessibility and Achievement
- International Student Services
- First Peoples' House
- Graduate Student Study Spaces
- SKILLSETS
- Office of the Ombudsperson



Dean of Students

A McGill office dedicated to promoting students' academic and personal success.

- Building Wellness
- Sexual Violence Support
- Support and Guidance



Financial and Career Support

Feel secure in your finances while planning for the future.

- GPS Graduate Funding
- Scholarships and Student Aid
- Career Planning Services
- Doctoral Internship Program
- myPath Individual Development Plans



Get Involved

Make friends, build community, and stay active at McGill.

- Campus Life & Engagement
- Student Clubs and Services
- Graduate Peer Mentorship & Support
- McGill Recreation
- Office of Religious and Spiritual Life



Security Services

Downtown: 514-398-3000
Mac Campus: 514-398-7777



View this resource page on the web:
mcgill.ca/x/wpV

Source: GPS



Civil Engineering Graduate Students Society (CEGSS)

Your chance to get involved!



Mandate & People

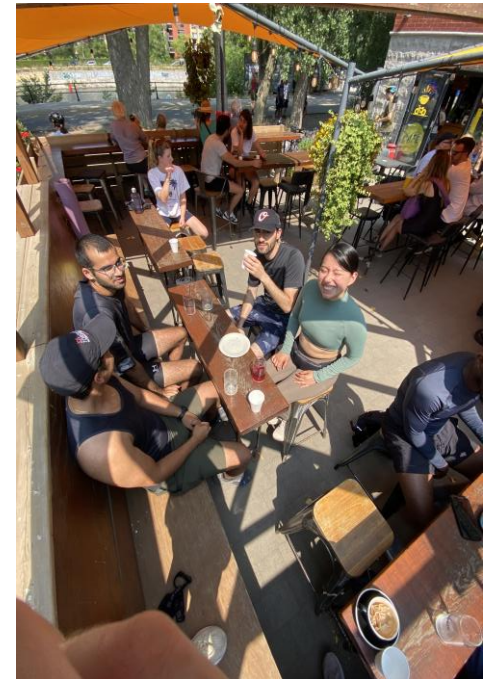
- To serve, represent, and advocate for graduate students
- To provide leadership, socializing, and professional development opportunities





Events (2024-2025)

- Banquet, BBQ, kickball, trivia nights, outdoor games, café run, yearly conference, skating night...
- We try to have fun together!





Important Things to Remember

- Join the Whatsapp group
- Come to our events
 - Main one this semester: Banquet (December!)
- Read your emails (please)!
- Subscribe to the Instagram!
- Read this Grad Guide we crafted

