

Mahnaz Tajik

Dear GSA members and McMaster graduate students,

I am excited to run for the position of **Vice President Internal** at the McMaster Graduate Students Association (GSA). As a dedicated member of the McMaster community, I have been actively involved in student leadership, advocacy, and mentorship, and I am eager to bring my experience to this role to improve graduate student experience.



I am currently pursuing a **Ph.D. in Medical Sciences at McMaster University** and previously completed my **Master's in Biomedical Engineering (BME) at McMaster**. During my time here, I have gained a deep understanding of the challenges graduate students face, from funding security to academic and professional development. I believe the GSA plays a crucial role in addressing these challenges, and I am committed to making it a more effective and responsive organization.

My leadership experience includes serving as **Co-President of the Biomedical Engineering Graduate Association (BMEGA)**, where I worked to enhance student engagement and professional opportunities. I have also served as a **Mitacs Mentor**, supporting international students in research and career planning. Currently, I am the **Health and Safety Officer at CUPE 3906**, advocating fair working conditions and ensuring a safe and supportive environment for graduate students. These experiences have strengthened my ability to represent and support the needs of my peers effectively.

If elected as **Vice President Internal**, I will prioritize:

- **Improving communication and transparency** within the GSA so that graduate students are always informed about policies, opportunities, and services.
- **Enhancing advocacy efforts** to ensure fair funding, mental health resources, and improved working conditions for graduate students.
- **Fostering a strong, inclusive community** by organizing networking events, mentorship programs, and initiatives that promote student well-being.
- **Streamlining administrative processes** to make GSA services more accessible and efficient.

With my leadership background, advocacy experience, and strong organizational skills, I am confident in my ability to serve as an effective **VP Internal**. I am committed to ensuring that every graduate student at McMaster feels supported and empowered.

I would be honored to have your support in this election!

**Thank you,
Mahnaz Tajik**