**Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students Questionnaire
DSU 2019 Elections**

The Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS) is the faculty society for Dalhousie’s graduate students. There are currently 3538 graduate students enrolled at Dalhousie across 90 Masters programs and 45 PhD programs. Graduate and professional students have specific needs that have historically overlooked. This questionnaire is to provide an opportunity for all candidates to demonstrate how they plan to address graduate student needs.

Please return completed questionnaires to president@dags.ca. The responses will be posted on our website to share with members. **Please return questionnaires before 5pm on Thursday, March 7th to be read at the DAGS AGM (5:30pm, March 7th)**. Late questionnaires will be posted on the website if received before the campaigning deadline. Motions to endorse candidates and Referenda Questions will be brought forward at the AGM.

Candidate Questions

1. What do you see as the top 3 issues for Dalhousie’s graduate and professional students?

Based on what I’ve heard from grad/professional students in my life, it seems as though the top three issues are

* + Lack of accessible information about research funding and grants.
	+ Work-school-life balance – especially for students with full-time work or families.
	+ Student loans –students often have to put themselves in precarious financial positions in order to achieve their academic goals.
1. How do you plan to engage graduate students to communicate information and get direct student feedback?

I want to connect with graduate student societies and assist them in engaging with their constituencies and fellow students – I believe that many in student societies already have the ideas and skills to reach more of the students that they represent. I aim to adapt DSU communication strategies to best adapt to the needs of each student group (and use these same channels to collect feedback on DSU initiatives, services, and decisions) by working directly with graduate students on building these strategies together.

1. How would you improve the DSU to better serve graduate students?

I would work directly based on the input of students within graduate programs to create specific supports together – with this I also want to ensure that students are appropriately compensated for their time and/or can develop professional skills in the process. I also want to immediately act on issues that we already know affect the most or all student body – such as tuition, food insecurity, accessibility, and more.

1. How would you ensure graduate students are a priority for decision makers in Government, Dalhousie University, and the DSU?

Student representative positions are currently underutilized – I want to communicate regularly with graduate student representatives and societies to get feedback on current services, input in potential changes/initiatives/lobbying, and to create more leadership/decision-making opportunities for graduate students.

1. Is there anything else you want to share with Dalhousie’s graduate and professional students?

Good luck with the busy time of the semester!