



DAGS
Dalhousie Association
of Graduate Students

2020 Election Nomination Form

DEADLINE – June 23rd – 5:00pm

Filled electronic forms should be submitted to cro@dags.ca

Instructions:

Please fill out the following questionnaire and email in digital copy to cro@dags.ca by June 23rd – 5:00pm. **DAGS will be posting your answers (except your B00#) on the website to interduce your campaign platform.**

Support letters:

Please either direct or forward **a minimum of two** graduate student [DAGS members] emails to support your nomination (@dal.ca email required). These must have the senders' name, B00#, and articulate their support.

An email attestation can only count as a signature from the student's Dalhousie email address.

Questions or Concerns?

Contact the DAGS President – president@dags.ca / cro@dags.ca

Name: Farzaneh Hamed Azad

B00 #: 810580

Program: Civil and Resource engineering

Year of Study: 2019-2023

QUESTIONS:

Please introduce yourself (100 words):

I am a mining engineer by training who has been privileged to study in two continents. I started my Ph.D. studies in the Civil and Resource Engineering Department after 3 years of practical experience as a geotechnical engineer. I worked as the Director of Engineering, Planning, and Architecture during the winter and summer semesters (2020) where I have learned a lot about graduate students' issues. My desire to take part in academic and educational programs begun when I was a member of the Engineering Student Society during my undergraduate studies. I also was the executive manager of the Iranian geoscience elite's documentary from 2016 to 2018 which gave me the chance to enhance my leadership, teamwork, and communication skills.

Please identify your top five (5) platform points:

1. Try to discuss and resolve COVID-19 related issues for graduate students

A new way of living and learning due to the pandemic has had a significant effect on students' lives in our university. Some students have gotten the support they needed, either financially or mentally while many of us are dealing with unprecedented issues. In addition to the financial difficulties, especially for international students, online learning may not be satisfactory for all the programs and all students. Therefore, a well-thought-out plan is required to be made in all academic decisions in the upcoming semesters. My voice would be the voice of students worrying about their academic lives during the pandemic.

2. Providing free educational programs

In my opinion, in addition to research and academic activities, a graduate student needs to broaden her/his view on different subjects and gain skills as much as possible during the program. This matter is usually neglected by students who cannot afford their desired programs or since they are not aware of them. Paying the high tuition fee always is challenging for students which have them refusing to attend any courses in addition to the required credit. I would like to open

the discussion of free and high-quality educational programs on some useful topics like programming, English proficiency, research methods etc. specifically for engineering students.

3. Taking care of students' mental issues

I believe that students are dealing with mental problems everyday cautiously or incautiously. This not only influences their efficiency in their educations, but also could affect their daily lives significantly. The issue mostly rises when they are not aware of their situations and do not response to their needs properly. Therefore, one of the DAGS' focus could be on providing resources for informing graduate students about their mental health.

4. Improving the student-supervisor relationships

One of the main concerns among both professors and students is the misunderstanding of each other. This happens due to the lack of experience or confidence, cultural difference etc. which may even lead to the student's program suspension. A professor may learn how to communicate with students gradually in years and gets experienced. However, students do not have much time for that. Those students who are supervised by an inexperienced supervisor loses the chance of good communication. I believe, professors are more responsible for this issue and should be obliged to enhance their knowledge of their students by the help of a specialist.

5. Providing equal opportunities

Since I started my program in Dalhousie, I faced many unfair situations. Starting in the winter semester ruined my chance of being evaluated for several scholarships. Besides, I was not considered for the new tuition fee drop only because I started one semester earlier. Nevertheless, students like me have the same chance of winning any scholarships as other students who are paying less. In addition to these, I think funding, facilities, learning opportunities are not equal in all programs which may affect the students' motivation and the project's prosperity.

What are your qualifications and/or experience that relates to the position you're running for?

Member of Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum - CIM (Since May 2020)

Director of Engineering, Architecture and Planning-Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (Since, Jan 2020).

Member of Mining Industry Organization of Tehran, Iran (2013-2018).

Member of Engineering Student Society of University of Tehran, Iran, (2010-2012).

Executive manager of publishing the Iranian geoscience elite's documentary (2016-2018).

Educational director of BZP consulting group in the field of geoscience (2017).

Collaboration with UNESCO Chair on Engineering Education of the University of Tehran (Dec 2016 and Dec 2017).

Executive Committee of Celebrating 45 years of professor Akasheh services, A prominent pioneer of seismology in Iran (2013).

Volunteer, "7-sang" and "Rokhnemoon", Student Magazines of Scientific Society of Mining Engineering, University of Tehran (2010-2012).

Why do you think you are a good candidate?

I have learned a lot about academic issues and heard students' concerns when I worked as the Director of Engineering, Planning and Architecture. I have been involved in several academic and educational programs during last ten years of my studies and works. Those experiences have enhanced my skills in directing and communicating in a group. Besides, I have learnt to deal with unexpected situations and resolving problems a group may face in its lifetime.

What are the top three (3) things you'd like to accomplish during a term at the DAGS?

1. Find proper solutions to the current and the upcoming students' issues during the pandemic and concerns I mentioned earlier
2. Build new connections and meet people from other societies and the industry
3. Advance my skills and get experienced by involving in different programs

What issues matter most to you?

Equal opportunity and free education

Mental health

Please List any Campaign Links (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Website): A reminder that campaigning should NOT be started before the campaign period as announced by DAGS. PLEASE refer to our election policies for further information.

<https://www.facebook.com/farzaneh.hamed>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/farzaneh-hamed-azad-14820866/>

https://www.instagram.com/farzaneh_h_a/?hl=en

CONSTITUENT SUPPORT: TWO (2) EMAILS REQUIRED

In light of COVID-19, the requirement for ten constituent signatures will be waived for this election. Nominees will instead require a minimum of two emails from Dalhousie graduate students who are DAGS members to support their prospect of governance. Emails should include the name and B00# of graduate student emailing, and be sent from Dal email address [within the domain of @dal.ca]

Thank you for your application

