

## **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](mailto: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.

**Renayre Forbes**  
**Running for VP Student Life**  
**2nd Year Applied Computer Science Student**

### Candidate Questions

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

**As an undergraduate student I am unable to understand the unique experiences of Graduate Students; however, through consultations with graduate students I've heard:**

- **stress (relating to academics and personal life);**
  - **Lack of**
  - **the lack of programming and representation from DSU are some of the biggest issues for Dalhousie Graduate Students.**
2. How do you plan to engage graduate students to communicate information and get direct student feedback?

**I plan on attending AGM's to listen to student's concerns directly and having a physical presence at Graduate student events. I will focus on how approachable I**

**seem to others, as I would love for students to be comfortable to talk with me directly on issues. I will also make sure that action is taken or a follow up is made for an explanation on issues brought up.**

**I will use a predetermined measurement (determined by the President of DAGS and I) to assess student engagement. This metric may be the amount of Graduate Students Present, which events are most popular among Graduate Students, was there an overall positive, open and comfortable energy etc.**

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

**Offering more programming to be inclusive to graduate students, such as restructuring O-Week to include faculties and societies. As many Graduate Students are involved in their academics and faculties, this allows for the DSU to reach out to more Graduate Students. This also allows for new students to have a better introduction to their program, faculty, student union and university.**

**I will program events to recognize exceptional student advancements, and allow for interactive project presentations of various disciplines in the SUB. One of Dalhousie's biggest initiatives is research; however, very little student life programming reinforces this initiative and the gap between the DSU and Graduate Students will continue to grow.**

**I will also work with DAGS and other societies to establish workshops and discussions surrounding Health, especially Mental Health. This can include cycling trips, Checking in, diet etc.**

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

**I will determine 3 questions or areas of interest, pre-determined by the President of DAGS and I, to critically analyze how accessible an event is for Graduate Students. These questions will be used during planning and throughout event execution. This allows me to be held accountable for making events accessible to Graduate Students.**

**If elected, I will cherish and nurture the relationship between DAGS and my position to make Student Life for Graduate Students unique and progressive.**

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

#### Referendum Questions

1. What are the top three ways you see this fee benefit Dalhousie's graduate and professional students?
2. How do you plan to engage graduate students to communicate information and get direct student feedback?
3. How would you improve your organization to better serve graduate students?
4. How would you ensure graduate students are a priority for your organizations?
5. Is there anything else you want to share with Dalhousie's graduate and professional students?