



University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association

GSA's Report to the University Council, March 2023

Dear Members of the University Council,

In this report, we present some initiatives that the GSA has completed or has been working on, which include:

1. Health and Dental Plan Coverage Expansion

The GSA is committed to expanding existing health and dental plan coverage to serve graduate students' needs best. The GSA has shortlisted two preliminary estimations of the health plan coverage expansion and associated premium increase. The GSA is currently reviewing dental plan coverage expansion opportunities. Thus, the GSA executive requested that the student care representative propose dental plan coverage expansion scenarios and potential insurance premium increases at the discussion table for review by the GSA executive. The GSA is expected to receive potential dental coverage expansion scenarios by March 20, 2023. Upon receiving the dental plan coverage scenarios, the GSA executives will conduct the cost-benefit analysis of both health and dental plan coverage and associated premium increase.

2. Winter Term GSA-CGPS Need-Based Bursary

The GSA awarded winter term GSA-CGPS need-based bursaries to 20 graduate students, each worth \$1000. A second call for nomination is underway to award some additional bursaries.

3. GSA Tax Clinic March 15 and 16

The GSA has scheduled two free tax clinic sessions: a) [March 15, 2023 \(5:00 pm to 7:00 pm\) for graduate students with no spouse and kids](#), and b) [March 16, 2023 \(5:00 pm to 7:00 pm\) for](#)

[graduate students with spouse and kids](#). In these tax clinic sessions, a hands-on demonstration will be provided to graduate students to help them file their taxes using **UFile software**.

4 GSA Annual Awards 2023

The GSA is currently accepting nominations for the GSA Annual Award 2023. The purpose of the GSA Awards is to celebrate graduate students and honor faculty that have generously supported graduate students in research, scholarly and artistic pursuits. Graduate students and faculty members are encouraged to nominate themselves or their students for the following awards.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

2023 GSA ANNUAL AWARDS



- ADVISING EXCELLENCE
- EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE
- MARK KROEKER EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD
- PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE
- RESEARCH EXCELLENCE IN HUMANITIES, ARTS, SOCIAL SCIENCES, LAW OR EDUCATION
- RESEARCH EXCELLENCE IN INDIGENOUS STUDIES
- RESEARCH EXCELLENCE IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES
- RESEARCH EXCELLENCE IN STEM
 - STEM MEDICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC HEALTH
 - STEM NATURAL SCIENCES
 - STEM TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING

DEADLINE

17

MONDAY, MARCH 06, 2023 @ 11:59 PM.

ENROLL
NOW



If you have any questions, please contact gsa.external@usask.ca.

Please visit <https://gsa.usask.ca/events/annual-awards.php> for further information regarding the Awards and the nomination process.

5. GSA Sustainability Committee Events

The GSA sustainability committee is organizing two events: 1) a Guided tour to Canada's only synchrotron research center, the Canadian Light Source tour 2) Sustainable Graduate Research Challenge where students will showcase their sustainable research ideas.



TAKE A TOUR OF CANADA'S ONLY SYNCHROTRON RESEARCH FACILITY!

CANADIAN LIGHTSOURCE TOUR

3, 7, 10
MARCH

ON YOUR TOUR, YOU'LL LEARN ABOUT:

CLS history, how machines work, and examples of how researchers have used CLS facility to conduct groundbreaking research in the fields of health, agriculture, the environment, and advanced materials.



REGISTER
NOW



GSA Sustainability Committee is organizing



SUSTAINABLE

Graduate Research Challenge

Showcase sustainable research
ideas with multimedia to
inspire a greener future!

Scan to Enroll Now!



**Graduate Students Association
Sustainability Committee**

**Share your sustainable research
practices through:**

- Photos
- Videos
- Contexts

**Submission Deadline
24 Feb - 21 March 2023**

5. GSA Diversity Committee Event Postponement

Unfortunately, the GSA diversity committee event: International Mother Language Day (February 21, 2023) Celebration event was postponed at the last minute because many invited guests reported seasonal flu and COVID-19 illness. This event aims to emphasize the importance of mother language conservation, the marginalization of mother language by colonial rulers across different parts of the world, and the significance of receiving an education using the mother language. The diversity committee is currently working to announce a new date for the event.

6. GSA Executive Election 2023-2024

The GSA Executive Election 2023-2024 will start on the week of March 13, 2023.

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I acknowledge that I live and work on Treaty 6 Territory and the homeland of the Métis. I pay my respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.