



Graduate Students' Association
University of Alberta
1-49 Triffo Hall
Edmonton, AB T6G 2E1

Email to:
gsacroff@ualberta.ca
CC gsaca@ualberta.ca

Nominations Close: Wednesday, April 2nd at 12:00pm (noon)

GSA Vice-President Indigenous Relations By-Election: Role Description

Vice-President Indigenous Relations (VPIR) – The Advocate for Indigenous Graduate Students and Ally for Indigenous Communities

Time Commitment: 20-30 hours per week

Remuneration: Approximately \$33,000 per year

Other Benefits: Reimbursement for the U-Pass & the GSA Health and Dental plan; Reduced thesis fee for thesis-based students

The Vice-President Indigenous Relations (VPIR) is a pivotal leadership position within the GSA, responsible for advocating for Indigenous graduate students both on-campus and within broader external spaces. If you are passionate about Indigenous issues, student advocacy, and building respectful relationships with Indigenous communities, this role provides a unique opportunity to be a strong voice for Indigenous students and help shape policies that support their academic and personal success.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Advocacy for Indigenous graduate students:** The VPIR is responsible for advocating for the needs, interests, and rights of Indigenous graduate students, ensuring they have equitable access to academic, cultural, and financial support.
- **University engagement:** The VPIR works closely with University administration, faculty, and staff to ensure that Indigenous graduate students are adequately supported. This includes working on initiatives related to academic success, mental health and wellness, and addressing any barriers faced by Indigenous students in graduate education.



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- External advocacy and representation: The VPIR plays an important role in external advocacy by representing Indigenous graduate students at a broader municipal, provincial, and national level, working with various Indigenous organizations, student bodies, and government entities to support policy changes that benefit Indigenous communities in higher education.
- Cultural awareness & educational initiatives: The VPIR leads efforts to increase cultural awareness on campus, fostering respectful, inclusive spaces for Indigenous students and communities. This includes advocating for initiatives that support Indigenous knowledge, cultural practices, and reconciliation within the University environment.
- Consultation and collaboration: The VPIR regularly consults with Indigenous student groups, leaders, and organizations, ensuring that the perspectives and concerns of Indigenous students are heard and addressed in GSA initiatives. Collaboration with the GSA Board is essential in building inclusive strategies and programs that support the Indigenous graduate student experience.

Committees & Leadership Roles:

- University committees: The VPIR serves as a representative for Indigenous graduate students on relevant University committees that address issues such as academic support, student wellness, and equity, diversity, and inclusion. This ensures that Indigenous perspectives are integrated into University policies and services.
- GSA representation: The VPIR is a member of the GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee and may serve on other committees related to student services, student conduct, and graduate student success.
- GSA Council: The GSA holds a monthly Council meeting to discuss graduate student issues, usually on the third Monday from 5:00PM to 7:00PM.
- GSA Board: The GSA Executive Team meets every Wednesday from 10:00AM to 12:00PM to discuss GSA business and initiatives.

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- Cultural & outreach initiatives: The VPIR leads efforts to increase outreach to Indigenous communities, facilitating the creation of culturally relevant student services and programming that helps Indigenous graduate students thrive at the University.

Time Commitment:

- The VPIR role typically requires 20-30 hours per week, with a combination of meetings, consultations, and outreach. This includes attending formal and informal meetings, working on strategic initiatives, responding to emails, and participating in advocacy opportunities (travel may be involved, particularly for outreach or networking with external Indigenous organizations).
- As this role requires close involvement with Indigenous communities, there may be additional hours spent on community-building activities, attending cultural events, and engaging in reconciliation-focused initiatives.

Qualifications:

- Experience with Indigenous issues: A strong understanding of Indigenous cultures, worldviews, and the challenges faced by Indigenous graduate students is essential. Experience in Indigenous advocacy or community engagement is an asset.
- Relationship-building skills: The VPIR must have a demonstrated ability to build meaningful, respectful relationships with Indigenous students, communities, and organizations.
- Commitment to Reconciliation: A commitment to reconciliation, cultural awareness, and promoting Indigenous inclusion is a critical aspect of the role.
- Eligibility: The VPIR is open to Indigenous graduate students only. Applicants must remain an active graduate student for the duration of the position's term.
- Candidates must attend the Elections All-Candidates Meeting and Forum events, otherwise they will be disqualified. Please see the Elections Timeline for details.



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The Vice-President Indigenous Relations (VPIR) role offers an exciting opportunity for those committed to Indigenous advocacy, cultural inclusivity, and student leadership. If you are passionate about ensuring Indigenous graduate students feel seen, heard, and supported within both the University and the broader community, this is your chance to make a significant difference.