

MEET THE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Conversations on Graduate Student Life

JUNE 24TH

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MERCED | GRADUATE
DIVISION

1PM PST

Join us today for our next virtual webinar **Meet the Graduate Student Association: Conversations on Graduate Student Life**.

During this 1.5 hour webinar, representatives from [UC Merced's Graduate Student Association \(GSA\)](#) will share their experiences on life at UC Merced and how you can best balance your academic and personal life as a graduate student. Webinar attendees will also have the opportunity to ask the panel questions during a live Q&A.

Access the webinar [here](#).

[About the UC Merced Graduate Student Association](#)

The GSA is the official student government of the graduate student population at UC Merced. Among their many roles, the GSA advocates on behalf of the graduate student population both on campus and through membership with the University of California Graduate and Professional Council (UCGPC). The GSA also organizes graduate student representation among various campus committees, encourages graduate student life, and organizes small travel awards for graduate and professional students. The GSA is dedicated to serving the needs of the graduate and professional student population at UC Merced. [Get involved today!](#)

[Meet the Panel](#)



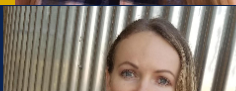
Ritwika Vallomparambath Panikkass - "Ritu"

Ritu is the GSA's International Affairs Officer. She is a fifth year PhD candidate in Physics and is an international student from India. She wants to use her experience navigating graduate school as an international student as well as her experience with student government to advocate graduate student needs and concerns, with a focus on issues that are important for international student welfare.



Aislinn Beam

As the Psychological Sciences delegate, Aislinn represents the needs of her department to the rest of the GSA.



Larisa Gavrilova



Larisa Gavrilova will be starting her fifth year as a PhD student in the Psychological Sciences Department this summer. Her research focuses on mind-body connections with the goal of developing effective interventions aimed at improving health and promoting healthy lifestyle. Her background as a first-generation student born and raised in Russia has provided her with awareness and passion about issues related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. At the GSA, she serves as the Climate, Diversity, and Equity Officer. Some of the issues Larisa works on include promoting a culture of mental and emotional well-being among graduate students and improving access to mental health services, building a strong sense of belonging and community within the graduate students population, and making the voice of underrepresented students heard at the UC-wide level.



Adam Binswanger

As the Applied Math GSA delegate assembly member, Adam's role in the GSA is to serve as a liaison from the greater GSA to the Applied Math graduate department by ensuring clear communication of GSA activities, participating in GSA meetings, and advocating for the needs and desires of Applied Math graduate students at UC Merced.



Taylor Fugere

Taylor Fugere (she/her) is a second year PhD student in the Management of Complex Systems department and serves as the Academic Affairs Officer for the GSA. Her primary functions are to engage graduate students around academic issues as well as appoint graduate students to over a dozen academic and administrative committees.



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