

Graduate Student Constituency

(ONE to be elected)

The following graduate students have been nominated for membership on the Board of Governors for the July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028 term.

1. **CHUNG, Cherin** – PhD / French Studies
2. **KAMAL, Rayyan** – PhD / Anatomy and Cell Biology
3. **YAN, Haiyi** – PhD / Curriculum Studies

Candidate statements are provided below.

CHUNG, Cherin

PhD / French Studies

I am a PhD candidate at Western University serving as President of the Society of Graduate Students and as a Graduate Student Senator. In these roles, I work closely with students, faculty, and senior administrators to advance students' academic, social, and economic interests while contributing to responsible institutional decision-making. Through my service on Senate committees including OAC, SCUP, SUPR-G, GEC, Navitas Ad-Hoc Committee, and Provost Review Committee, I have developed a strong understanding of academic planning, quality assurance frameworks, and institutional governance. This experience has reinforced the Board's fiduciary responsibilities, particularly the importance of financial sustainability, risk management, and strategic oversight in supporting Western University's long-term academic mission. As a first-generation Korean-Canadian university student, I bring an equity-informed perspective to governance, recognizing how institutional policies and resource decisions can affect members of our community differently. I view equity, diversity, and inclusion as integral to sound governance and institutional resilience, and I am committed to research based inclusive decision-making that reflects Western's values and supports its academic and research excellence. As a member of the Board of Governors, I would bring a graduate student-informed, equity-conscious, and institutionally focused perspective grounded in accountability and commitment to the long-term success of Western University.



KAMAL, Rayyan

PhD / Anatomy and Cell Biology

I am Rayyan Syed Kamal, a PhD candidate in Anatomy & Cell Biology at Western's Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. I'm seeking election as the graduate student representative on Western's Board of Governors because Board decisions on strategy, finances, risk, and infrastructure shape the conditions in which graduate students learn and do research. I bring governance-relevant experience from leading large teams and advising decision-makers. As President of the Western South Asian Dance Team, I led a 56-member organization, managed a \$29,000 annual budget, and negotiated priorities at province-wide council meetings. In national advocacy, I appeared as an expert witness to Canada's Senate Committee on Human Rights during the review of Bill C-59, an experience that strengthened my ability to synthesize complex issues, weigh trade-offs, and communicate clearly. My work is grounded in improving the experience of oncology patients and caregivers in receiving culturally competent and equitable care, so I'm attentive to equity, accessibility, and real-world impact. As an active student at Western University for the past 10 years, on the Board, I bring an evidence-informed graduate perspective and communicate back to students, while meeting the responsibility to act in the best interests of Western as a whole.



YAN, Haiyi

PhD / Curriculum Studies

I am a doctoral student in Education Studies, with experience as a teaching assistant, research assistant, and graduate researcher across multiple Canadian universities. I bring substantial experience in academic governance at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. During my undergraduate studies, I served as the Faculty of Arts student representative on the University of Ottawa Senate, where I participated in university-wide discussions on academic policy and student affairs. During my master's studies, I further served as a Graduate Student Representative on the McGill University Senate's Committee on Student Services (Standing Committee), contributing to deliberations related to student support, services, and institutional policy. My academic interests focus on language policy, multilingualism, and equity in education, particularly regarding international and linguistically diverse students. These interests, together with my governance experience, have strengthened my understanding of how institutional priorities, resource allocation, and policy decisions directly affect students' academic experiences and well-being. I am seeking election to the Board of Governors to contribute a graduate student perspective to the University's strategic and fiduciary decision-making. As a Board member, I would bring a thoughtful, policy-informed, and



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student-centered perspective, grounded in prior governance experience, cross-cultural awareness, and a commitment to transparency, accountability, and responsible institutional stewardship.