



# Northern British Columbia Graduate Students' Society

BC Federation of Students Local 20

NBCGSS GENERAL ELECTION 2026 - Candidate List and their bios.

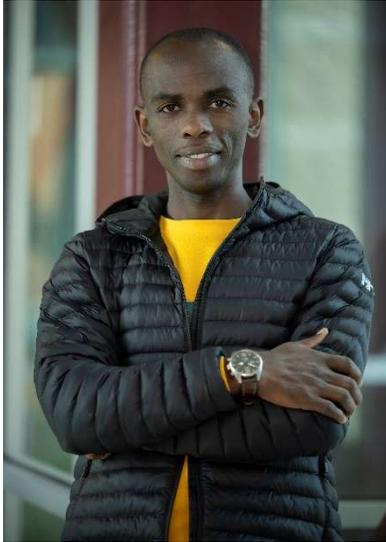
The following candidates have met all eligibility requirements and are confirmed as qualified for nomination for the NBCGSS General Elections for the 2026/2027 term.

Nominations officially closed at 4:00 PM on March 18, 2026. All nomination form submissions were received before the deadline and have been reviewed and validated in accordance with the applicable guidelines.

Positions Competed for:

1. Chairperson
2. Director of Events and Communication
3. Director of EDI and Welfare
4. Director of External Relations and Partnerships
5. Director of Indigenous Students' Affairs
6. Director of Internal Relations and Strategic Management

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## **Chairperson**

### **Candidate 1 - Taremwa Sam Rwabwehare**

UNBC/NRES/PhD Program

I am Taremwa Sam Rwabwehare. Global citizen, born and raised in Uganda, East Central Africa.

I hold a bachelor's degree in business administration (Accounting) from Makerere University class of June 2005, Master's degree in Environment and Management from Royal Roads University class of March 2023, a NRES/PhD student

University of Northern British Columbia class of Sept 2025 and a Globalink Mentor with Mitacs Canada.

A competent sustainable materials resource management with 11 years of learning, networking and asking critical questions related to people and resource recovery systems.

I have a foundational experience in accounting, finance, and auditing from Uganda. I conducted feasibility studies and engaged in sustainability and circularity research that led to my passion for materials resource recovery systems development & implementation.

I am currently a student member of UNBC Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute (NRESi), NBCGSS, Cost Waste Management Association (CWMA), Solid Waste Management of North America (SWANA) Pacific Chapter, Member of the UNBC Sustainability G-Force and also connect to participate with Northern BC Maker Collective and Everyone at the Table Prince George.

### **Why NBCGSS BOD Chair position?**

I aim to contribute and build further from the previous regimes a very streamlined, all-encompassing and collaborative NBCGSS with all the stakeholders. Thus using this opportunity to call on all the UNBC Graduate Students to support and task me to serve as BOD Chair (April 1st, 2026, through March 31st, 2027) with gratitude.



## **Chairperson**

### **Candidate 2 - Md Navid Bin Islam**

I, Md Navid Bin Islam, am a graduate student at UNBC and the current Administrative Assistant for NBCGSS. In this role, I have had the privilege of working at the heart of our student society; supporting governance, managing financial processes, organizing events, and directly assisting students with their concerns.

This hands-on experience has given me a clear understanding of how NBCGSS operates and, more importantly, how it can better serve you.

Through my work in finance and administration, I have developed a strong commitment to transparency, accountability, and efficiency. By engaging with students and organizing events, I have learned the importance of accessibility, communication, and fostering a sense of community.

These experiences have shaped my leadership style, which is practical, collaborative, and focused on real impact.

If elected as Chairperson, I will prioritize clear and open communication, strengthen financial responsibility, and work to expand meaningful services, events, and opportunities for graduate students. I am committed to ensuring that every student feels heard, supported, and represented.

As one of you, I understand the challenges we face, and I am ready to work with you to build a stronger, more inclusive, and student-focused NBCGSS.



## **Chairperson**

### **Candidate 3 - Mohammad Oveisi**

My name is Mohammad Oveisi, and I am an MScBA (Marketing) graduate student at UNBC. My academic and professional journey has been shaped by a strong interest in understanding organizations, supporting people, and contributing to meaningful change within communities.

Before coming to Canada, I completed my master's degree in Composite Engineering, where I developed strong analytical, research, and problem-solving skills, along with experience working in collaborative academic environments. I also served as a board member of the Polymer and Petrochemical Institute (PPI), where I contributed to organizational activities and worked to represent members' perspectives by communicating their ideas and concerns. This experience strengthened my skills in teamwork, communication, and representation.

Since joining UNBC, I have become part of a diverse and dynamic academic environment, which has helped me better understand the challenges graduate students face, including the need for stronger support systems, better communication, and more opportunities for engagement.

I am running for the position of Chairperson of NBCGSS because I believe I can help build a more connected, supportive, and responsive graduate student community. My experiences have taught me the importance of listening, representing others fairly, and working collaboratively

toward meaningful outcomes.

If elected, I will focus on:

- Ensuring graduate students' voices are heard quickly, clearly, and respectfully
- Advocating for stronger funding and financial support
- Supporting improvements in health and dental coverage
- Expanding on-campus employment opportunities
- Promoting mentorship and academic support initiatives

I believe in building a community where every student feels heard, supported, and connected.

Connect + Support + Advocate

I would truly appreciate your support and your vote.

Kind regards,  
Mohammad Oveisi



## **Director of Events and Communications**

### **Candidate 1 - Syeda Taarin Ishraat**

I am a graduate student in Chemistry at University of Northern British Columbia. My research focuses on natural products, microbiology and analytical chemistry, but beyond the lab, my graduate experience has taught me something just as important how much connection and communication shape our journey.

When I started grad school, everything felt new and sometimes overwhelming. Between research, deadlines, and expectations, it's easy to feel disconnected or unsure where to go for support. Over time, I realized that having the right information, the right people, and the right environment can completely change that experience.

I am running for Director of Events and Communication because I want to help create that kind of environment for all graduate students. I believe that good communication is not just about sharing information, it's about making sure everyone feels included, informed, and heard. In the same way, events are not just activities; they are opportunities to build connections, share experiences, and create a sense of belonging.

Like many students, I am still figuring things out as I go. I understand the challenges we face balancing research and life, finding our place, and staying motivated. That's why I want to contribute in a way that makes this journey a little easier and more connected for everyone.

I don't claim to have all the solutions, but I am committed to being part of the solution. I want to be a bridge connecting students to opportunities, resources, and to each other. I want to ensure that every graduate student feels informed, included, and represented.

If elected, I want to focus on improving how we communicate as a graduate community and organizing events that are meaningful, inclusive, and engaging. My goal is simple: to help create a space where students feel supported, connected, and part of something bigger.

Graduate school is not just about the work we do; it's about the community we build along the way.

I would love to be part of building that with NBCGSS



## **Director of Events and Communications**

### **Candidate 2 - Imad Ullah**

I, Imad Ullah, am currently pursuing a PhD in the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (NRES) program at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC).

Alongside my academic journey, I bring a strong background in leadership, communication and event management through active involvement in student societies.

Previously, I served as President of the Literary and Debating Society at UET Peshawar, Pakistan, where I led initiatives to enhance student engagement, promote critical thinking and create platforms for effective expression. This experience helped me develop strong leadership skills while organizing impactful events and managing teams.

I also served as Chief Organizer of Events at the NUST Debating Society, where I planned and executed large-scale events, coordinated with diverse groups and ensured smooth communication among participants and stakeholders.

Currently at UNBC, I am motivated to contribute to a more engaging and connected graduate student environment. My experience in leadership and event coordination has prepared me to effectively take on the role of Director of Events & Communication.

I am committed to creating meaningful events, strengthening communication and fostering an inclusive and vibrant graduate community where students feel engaged, supported and connected. Statement:

Bringing people together, creating meaningful events and building a strong, connected graduate community is my goal. With experience leading societies and organizing major events, I turn ideas into impactful experiences.

This is about more than just an event-It's about creating a space where graduate students feel included, engaged and connected. Through strong communication and active engagement, I aim to foster a vibrant and supportive environment.

Expect energy, creativity and events that people genuinely look forward to. Let's make our graduate community more active, more connected and better than ever.



## **Director of Events and Communications**

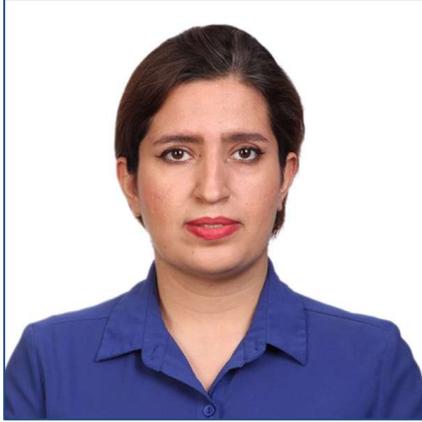
### **Candidate 3 - Salina Maharjan**

MSc NRES, First semester

I am a graduate student at the University of Northern British Columbia with over five years of professional experience in research coordination, workshop facilitation, and program management. My previous role as an Assistant Research Officer involved organizing workshops, focus groups, and training sessions, supervising interns, and ensuring projects were executed efficiently, which strengthened my skills in logistics, team coordination, and communication. I also facilitated training for over 25 farmer groups and helped establish 30 community groups, strengthening my ability to lead impactful initiatives.

I recently completed a Project Management Post-Degree Diploma at Douglas College, which further enhanced my capacity to plan, execute, and evaluate initiatives with clear, measurable outcomes. I have contributed to student and community engagement as a volunteer with the Northern British Columbia Graduate Students' Society Student Week 2026, as well as with Douglas College, Fraser Valley Conservancy, and Agri-Fair Canada, creating inclusive and participatory events that foster connection and collaboration.

As Events and Communications Director, I will leverage my professional experience, project management training, and volunteer background to deliver well-organized, engaging, and impactful events. My goal is to strengthen graduate student connections, increase participation, and build a lasting sense of community at UNBC.



## **Director of EDI and Welfare**

### **Candidate 1 - Golnoosh Hosseini Pooya**

My name is Golnoosh Hosseini Pooya, and I am a Master's student in Business with over six years of management and event-organization experience.

In my roles as a Research Assistant, Student Assistant, and Teaching Assistant representative at UNBC, I have worked closely with students, gained clear insight into the challenges they face, and enjoyed collaborative teamwork while building strong connections across our campus community.

As an international student from Iran, my experiences with inequality in my home country have strengthened my commitment to fairness, equity, and inclusion. I believe every student deserves to feel respected, supported, and represented on campus.

I am running for Director of EDI & Welfare to promote inclusion, build meaningful partnerships, organize impactful events, and address key student needs such as food insecurity. I am committed to listening to your ideas, collaborating effectively, and ensuring that all student voices including women, Indigenous students, international students, and students with disabilities are heard and valued.

Your support would mean a great deal to me.

Let's work together to build a more connected and inclusive UNBC community



## **Director of EDI and Welfare**

### **Candidate 2 - Nazanin Parvizi**

Nazanin Parvizi is a Master's student in Computer Science at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC), originally from Kurdistan, Iran.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering, during which she built a strong foundation in IoT networks, smart grids, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence.

Nazanin serves as a Research Assistant in the INFORM Lab under Dr. Sajal Saha at UNBC, where she collaborates on innovative projects exploring the intersection of machine learning, cybersecurity, and distributed systems.

She is particularly passionate about creating practical solutions that seamlessly balance high performance with robust privacy protections, ensuring technology serves people responsibly and effectively.

Deeply committed to creating inclusive, respectful, and supportive environments for graduate students, Nazanin blends sharp analytical thinking with genuine empathy and practical problem-solving.

She loves building community and championing student wellbeing. Driven by a real passion for research, innovation, and lifelong learning, she brings collaboration, adaptability, and creativity to everything she does.

Her dedication to academic excellence, peer mentorship, and making a genuine impact continues to shape her contributions both on campus and in the wider community."



## **Director of EDI and Welfare**

### **Candidate 3 - Shahrzad Sarrami Foroushani**

My name is Shahrzad Sarrami, and I am a Master's student in Research in Environmental Studies at UMBC. I currently live on campus and actively engage in both academic and community life.

I hold a Bachelor's degree in Tourism Management and have prior experience in the tourism and hospitality industry. I also have experience working as a Research Assistant.

In addition to my academic and professional background, I have a strong passion for sports, particularly gymnastics.

I previously worked as a gymnastics coach in Iran, where I combined my interest in physical activity with mentorship and teamwork.



## **Director of External Relations and Partnerships**

### **Candidate 1 - Mahmoud Shehata**

I am a Master of Applied Science (MASc) student in Engineering at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC), focusing on Virtual Reality applications in dam break simulation to improve emergency preparedness and infrastructure safety.

I have a strong background in engineering, data analysis, and GIS-based modeling.

I have demonstrated leadership from an early stage, serving as President of my high school student council and later as a member of the Civil Engineering Student Committee during my bachelor's degree. At UNBC, I contribute as a Teaching Assistant and active volunteer, supporting student engagement and academic success.

I am committed to representing graduate students, fostering an inclusive community, and enhancing the overall student experience through NBCGSS.

## **Director of Indigenous Students' Affairs**

No Candidate Nominations received.



## **Director of Internal Relations and Strategic Management**

### **Candidate 1 - Mohammad Hossein Asadi Jafari**

The Director of Internal should be a platform for practical, tangible change, not just a title. Mohammad Hossein Asadi Jafari is running because every graduate student at UNBC deserves to leave not only with a degree, but with the skills, support, and resources that open doors and save lives.

Mohammad Hossein is a PhD Candidate in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies at UNBC, where he has been conducting research since 2023 on the vibroacoustic performance of mass timber buildings, at the intersection of structural engineering, acoustics, and sustainable construction. Also, serves as a peer reviewer

for a Q1 Elsevier journal.

Beyond research, he has invested consistently in the graduate student community. He serves as an Invigilator at the Access Resource Centre, ensuring equitable examination conditions for students with accommodation. He contributed to the Valedictorian selection committee, helping ensure fair and inclusive representation at convocation.

As an international student and Teaching Assistant, Mohammad Hossein understands firsthand what it costs (in time, money, and confidence) to arrive in a new country, begin a demanding PhD, and find your footing without a roadmap. That experience is not background detail. It is the reason he is running.

### **Five Concrete Commitments**

#### **1. First Aid and CPR certification for every graduate student**

He will organize certified First Aid and CPR workshops on campus, giving every student a life-saving skill and a meaningful credential for their CV, at no cost to them.

#### **2. More opportunities to connect, collaborate, and support each other**

Graduate life can be isolating. He will organize regular social events and structured peer mentorship programs so that every student whether they are in their first semester or their fifth year, has a community to lean on.

#### **3. Extended graduate health insurance coverage**

He will negotiate with UNBC to extend graduate health benefits to include services such as massage therapy recognizing the real physical and psychological toll of graduate study.

#### **4. Evidence-supported stress reduction during examinations**

Certified animal-assisted therapy sessions during peak examination periods are a low-cost, research backed intervention for student anxiety. He will make this a regular feature of exam season at UNBC.

#### **5. Institutional access to AI research and writing tools**

Every student should benefit from modern academic technology regardless of their funding level. He will advocate for UNBC to provide access to AI research and writing tools at no cost to graduate students



## **Director of Internal Relations and Strategic Management**

### **Candidate 2 - Ayed Anowar**

I am Ayed Anowar, a graduate student in Civil Engineering at UNBC and currently serving as an Administrative Assistant with NBCGSS. Through my role, I have gained firsthand experience in how our organization operates behind the scenes, understanding both its strengths and the areas where we can improve to better serve graduate students.

In addition to my administrative responsibilities, I have actively supported the Chairperson and Board of Directors in organizing events, managing budgets, tracking progress, and contributing to strategic planning alongside the executive team. This experience has given me practical insight into coordination, decision-making, and the importance of efficient internal systems within NBCGSS.

My academic background and experience as a Teaching and Lab Instructor have strengthened my ability to stay organized, communicate effectively, and approach challenges with a structured, solution-oriented mindset. I believe that when internal processes are clear and well-managed, it directly improves the experience of every graduate student.

I am committed to strengthening internal communication, improving coordination among board members, and ensuring greater transparency and accountability in NBCGSS operations. My goal is to build a more responsive and efficient organization where students feel informed, represented, and supported.

As a graduate student myself, I understand the value of a well-functioning student body. I am running for Director of Internal Relations & Strategic Management to strengthen the foundation of NBCGSS, so we can deliver better outcomes, foster collaboration, and create a more connected graduate student community.

A stronger system means a stronger student community, and that is what I am committed to building.