

## Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Report



### President's Report

The new GSA executive committee started their roles in August 2012. The current GSA Executive Committee members are:

GSA President - Maryam Habibzay  
GSA Vice-President - Natasha Strydom  
GSA Secretary - Amy Hippard (Acting)  
GSA Treasurer - James Sudlow  
GSA Events Officer - Maija-lisa Han  
GSA Representation Officer - Sarah Percival  
GSA AWO (Academic & Welfare Officer) Medicine - Natalie Kempston  
GSA AWO Physical Sciences - Ross Webster  
GSA AWO Engineering - Nicholas Ng  
GSA AWO Business School - Simon Schillebeeckx (Acting)  
GSA AWO Life Sciences – Helen Pennington (Acting)  
GSA Sports & Activities Officer - Alex Wray (Acting)

The GSA executive committee has had 3 meetings (17Aug, 5 Sept and 17 Sept) for so mainly discussing Freshers' Fair and upcoming events for postgraduates (PGs).

We have organised free goodies to give out during the Freshers' Fair stand with the aim to promote GSA; for example, we have arranged for mugs with GSA logo to hand out to the new PGs.

For upcoming events, we will be organising a cinema night on 8<sup>th</sup> Oct. There will be regular pub quizzes for PGs at the Holland club every last Thursday of the month. We are currently working on arranging a Halloween party, possibly on 26/27<sup>th</sup> Oct and another major event during Xmas.

The GSA executive committee are working together in planning and organising events; therefore, very similar points will be raised in most of the reports below.

The GSA team will be active during the Welcome week to promote GSA to all the new PGs. GSA president and vice-president will be attending a number of Welcome talks with the Rector and the Union President.

We have ensured that GSA is represented at all if not most meetings.

Currently, services officer and publicity officer (GSA Services Officer and GSA Public Relations & Marketing Officer) positions are vacant and we will use November elections to fill these positions.

The team also contributed in putting together the new GSA Handbook with Robert Osborne.

## **GSA Vice-President's Report**

As GSA vice-president it is my duty to support the GSA president in all her duties e.g.

- Give presentations/ speeches when the president is otherwise occupied
- Attend Union meetings
- Help delegate work to the appropriate exec committee members during busy sessions such as in the weeks following up to fresher's fair.

Some other duties include:

- Organising committee meetings
- Taking meeting minutes and posting them on the Wiki
- Updating GSA social websites such as Facebook and Twitter.
- Answering questions asked by postgraduates on the Wiki forum.

So far this year the GSA has:

- Helped the Hammersmith Postgraduate community organise the hugely successful boat party. The profits from this event will be split between the Hammersmith postgrad community and GSA.
- Ordered handouts (business cards, flyers, mugs, chocolates) for our stands during fresher's week, namely; The research postgraduate stand on 01/10/2012 and our stand at the Imperial fresher's fair on 02/10/2012.
- The president and vice president will be giving welcome talks to new postgrads at the different campuses.
- Plan to escort new postgrads to Eastside on 29/09/2012 for postgrad mingle.
- Planned a movie screening of "the Dictator" at £5 a head on 10/10/2012.
- Currently planning a Halloween event for last week in Oct.
- Currently planning postgrad Christmas dinner.

## **Treasurer's Report**

- Together with the president I've been raising and approving various purchase orders and claims related to boat party and Freshers' fair events.
- Ordered GSA branded mugs for Freshers' fair.
- Uploaded budget for cinema night.

## **Secretary's Report**

Main role is to keep wiki updated with agendas and minutes of the GSA executive meetings.

## Event Officer's Report

Events organised to date:

- *Eastside Mingle* – on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September, following talks to PGs. This is an informal gathering, just to meet the post-grads. No drinks or food will be provided by GSA.
- *Post-Grad Mingle* on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October– this event is not run by GSA but ideally GSA committee will attend and show their presence
- *GSA Cinema Night* on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October, showing *The Dictator*. This is with liaison with IC Cinema. Pizza and soft drinks will be provided on the night, which are included in tickets. Tickets will be £5 online for GSA members. This event will be mainly promoted during Freshers' Fair
- *Pub Quiz* -(on-going – last Thursday of each month at The Holland Club) this is run by Maria Parkes, who is happy to do this on a monthly basis. No budget required from GSA SGI.

Events in the planning stage:

- *Halloween Party* – last week of October, in the Union building. Requires room booking - tbc
- *Transferrable Skills*– Excel Workshop, in mid November. This will be run by Maija, and is a free event for GSA members who wish to develop their Excel skills. Requires booking of an IT room - tbc
- *Christmas Dinner* in mid December, at The Living Room. It is a restaurant and piano bar, opens til late, and provides a 3 course Christmas dinner for £30 pp. Tickets to be sold online, and booking tbc

Publicity:

- All events to be promoted on the GSA website, Facebook, Twitter and on the What's On calendar
- Mailing list will be the most effective method for publicity, from previous committee's experience

Problems:

- Envisage issues with PGs' time and availability towards the end of term
- Plan is to work around their calendars to avoid planning events near big deadlines

Update:

- Events team recruitment after start of term– November elections to elect officer for Marketing, Sponsorship, and Publicity
- Boat Party run by HSC in September was a success – possibility of hosting this again next year, with more GSA support.

## AWO Life Sciences' Report

Recent Activity:

- Contacting the directors of postgraduate studies to ensure that Dep Rep positions are filled
- Contacting the previous AWO for Life Sciences to determine whether there are any known, unaddressed areas for concern

- Helping to increase awareness of the GSA and its activities within the department

Future Work:

- Ensuring that Dep Rep positions are filled for my faculty
- Helping to establish regular 'Life Sciences' social events

Issues that have been raised:

- The lack of socialisation/mingling between Life Sciences students
- Postgraduate Masters students not being allowed in the SCR

## **AWO Engineering's Report**

I have had a meeting with the Representation Coordinator Andrew Keenan to discuss the new representation system, including the newly established post of PG Dep Reps. I also referred a request for financial support to relevant departments from a new PG student. I have set up a website for GSA which will, in the coming weeks, contain useful information to PG students and events organised by the GSA.

In the coming weeks, I will

1. Meet up with newly elected PG Dep Reps in FoE as well as PG Year Reps
2. Help preparation of the GSA stand in Fresher's Fair

## **AWO Physical Sciences' Report**

Over the last few weeks, I have mainly been in contact with the incoming PG freshers, offering advice, ranging from postgraduate accommodation help to general inquiries. I have also been advertising the fresher's events for postgraduate students as well, as there's the impression that the events are mainly for undergraduates.

I've sat in on a Master's Quality Committee (MQC) meeting, and over the next few weeks I intend to be present (and introduce myself and the GSA) at all of the physical science PG introduction sessions within the relevant departments, and within Imperial as a whole.