gsa
graduate student association

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Strategic plan 2019-2024

Our vision

Inclusive, empowered graduate student communities that achieve meaningful and holistic university experiences.

Our values

- Empowerment
- Accountability
- Collaboration
- Community
- Respect

Our objectives

Representation

To harness graduate student representation and advocacy to influence policy change.

Academic Support

To provide activities that support gradate students to achieve their desired academic outcomes.

Transition to Work

To develop skills, opportunities and activities to assist graduate students to transition to work.

Engaged and Healthy Communities

To engage with graduate students to improve emotional health and well-being.

Sustainability

To ensure organisational excellence, stability and improvement.

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Who we are

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) is the peak representative body for graduate students at the University of Melbourne. We are an independent association led by a council of 15 elected graduate students and supported by a small team of professional staff.

Learn more, find us at
gsa.unimelb.edu.au

Meet our graduate leaders

01

Jeremy Waite
President

Jeremy is a student in the Juris Doctor at Melbourne Law School. As GSA President, he has strengthened the organisation's focus on advocating for graduate students, particularly due to the unprecedented challenges the COVID-19 pandemic has created.

Jeremy is a firm believer in member-driven advocacy, working in collaboration with Grad Groups, committee representatives and student advocates. He has ensured student concerns are amplified across all levels, both within and outside the University, and enhanced GSA's communication with its members through regular updates, outreach and increased organisational transparency.

Highlights for 2020 include Town Hall Discussions and the GSA Art Prize. Jeremy enjoyed leading an inspirational GSA Council through 2020 and appreciated the opportunity to work alongside an incredible CEO and team, to take GSA to new heights.

Lily Day
General Secretary

Lily is a student in the Master of Social Policy in the Faculty of Arts. As General Secretary, she has ensured that GSA stayed accountable to achieve optimal outcomes for graduate students during a challenging year.

Lily has helped GSA adapt to the challenges of 2020 through her commitment to supportive and informative communication and by updating policies to reflect changing needs. A highlight for her was creating new electoral regulations in-line with the 2021 governance structure. She has also relished the opportunity to learn from graduate students, student leaders and industry professionals, enabling her to represent graduate students on both a small and large scale.

Lily has found inspiration in the passion and dedication shown by fellow council members and staff at GSA, who have helped her grow and develop in this role. Her work has been guided by keeping graduate students at the forefront of everything she does.

Message from the President and General Secretary

Despite an unusual and demanding year, GSA has achieved so much with the support of our graduate student community. Working and studying remotely has had its challenges, but it has also encouraged us to consider new ways of doing things. GSA has worked tirelessly to secure support from the University of Melbourne, including the WAM Amnesty Policy, IT and financial support, and COVID leave and stipend extensions for graduate researchers. Although we have accomplished some hard-fought wins in 2020, we have not lost sight of the many issues and challenges our students continue to face. In particular, the concerns around offshore study, financial insecurity, online learning, and a lack of access to university services and facilities.

GSA's staff adapted quickly to delivering high-quality online events and services. A highlight was a series of semester 2 orientation events held over Zoom, which encouraged students to connect with each other, while showcasing activities on offer from GSA and the University.

GSA has also been looking inwards, as we prepare for changes to the governance structure in 2021. Feedback from students and council members helped inform the development of new electoral regulations, to align with our updated constitution.

This year also saw the establishment of new working groups, which have been invaluable for informing GSA's work. These groups were able to gain valuable feedback from graduate students through Town Hall discussions, surveys and Grad Chat sessions. We are very grateful to everyone who participated in these conversations, as they have given us greater insight into the issues students are facing, along with potential solutions. Protecting the rights of international students has always been an important part of what GSA does; no year has highlighted the importance of continuing this work, or the value of our International Graduate Student Committee, as much as 2020. Similarly, the Student Resilience Steering Committee was able to provide advice, support and strategic direction for our Student Resilience Project.

Our wins and experiences gained in 2020 put GSA in an even better place to advocate for graduate student rights in 2021 and beyond. These successes would not have been possible without the work carried out collaboratively by all of those in the graduate community.

We want to sincerely thank everyone who has been involved with GSA this year. Every contribution has helped us to achieve our goals and work towards a better future. To all GSA's councillors, thank you for being passionate representatives for your graduates. To Rachna, our CEO, thank you for your endless dedication and experience to guide the organisation through such a turbulent year. Thank you, GSA staff, for tirelessly working for graduates throughout incredibly trying times. And finally, thank you to the graduate community – we truly value your continued support and engagement with us throughout the year.

GSA Council

Jeremy Waite
President

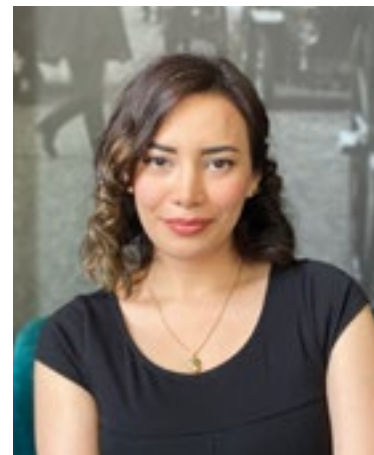**Emily De Wind**
Vice President

Lilian (Lily) Day
General Secretary

Matthew Harper-Gomm
Activities Officer

Catherine Allingham
Women's Officer

Afsaneh Seifinaji
International Officer

Ruby Gardner-Russell
Health & Welfare Officer

Isadora Reynolds
LGBTIQ Officer

Mia Zentari
Education & Research Officer

Lia Fernanda Grimmer Perez
Council member

Lynton Gunn
Council member

William Kabira
Council member

Stefan Joksic
Council member

Further thanks to these previously serving 2020 Council Members

Emily Roberts
Ex-President

Sachetha Bamunusinghe
Ex-Vice President

Madeleine Johnson
Ex-General Secretary

Jeremy Waite
Ex-Activities Officer

Eliza Colgrave
Ex-Women's Officer

Hiruni Walimunige
Ex-Health & Welfare Officer

Ying Hu
Ex-International Officer

Radhika Agarwal
Ex-International Officer

Megumi Hui Ai Lim
Ex-International Officer

Fia Hamid-Walker
Ex-Education & Research
Officer/Council Member

Lauren Taylor
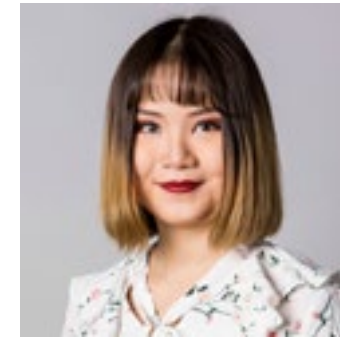Ex-LGBTIQ Officer

Sally Guo
Ex-Families Officer

Lubna Meempatta
Ex-Families Officer

Tessa Gould
Ex-Council member

Vinu Gunetilleke
Ex-Council member

Katherine Wang
Ex-Council member

Theodora Wong
Ex-Council member

Working Groups

In 2020, the GSA Council established several Working Groups to support the strategic advocacy and program delivery for graduate students. These Working Groups are empowered to provide strategic advice and support and to ensure that the desired outcomes of GSA's Advocacy and program delivery/services were met within specified timelines with proper input and advice.

Audit & Risk Committee Working Group

Jeremy Waite (Chair)
Lilian Day
Emily De Wind
Tessa Gould
Lynton Gunn
Stefan Joksic
William Kabira

Higher Education Advocacy Committee

Emily De Wind (Chair)
Jeremy Waite
Stefan Joksic
Mia Zentari
Matthew Harper-Gomm
Lauren Taylor

Electoral Regulations Working Group

Lilian Day (Chair)
Jeremy Waite
Radhika Agarwal
Xinyang Fan
Tessa Gould
Matthew Harper-Gomm
Madeleine Johnson

Student Resilience Steering Committee

Fia Hamid-Walker (Chair)
Catherine Allingham
Ruby Gardner-Russell
Mia Zentari

International Graduate Student Subcommittee

Megumi Hui Ai Lim (Chair)
Radhika Agarwal
Katherine Wang
Ying Hu
Behannis Jasmin Mena Chalas
Theodora Wong
Tian Nie
Yau Chung Low
Ke Lin
Afsaneh Seifinaji
Piran Tarapore

A word from our graduate student leaders

With the challenges and precarity of the past year, my inspiration to advocate on behalf of the graduate community was as strong as ever. Whether I was campaigning to support students with the difficult navigation to online classes and back again to campus, or for the important issues facing my LGBTIQ+ colleagues, I felt heartfully moved at how wonderfully encouraging the GSA team were, and how we managed to make great strides for the issues that matter to the graduate community.

Stefan Joksic,
GSA General Councillor

I have always had a keen interest in student representation and advocacy. A thriving student community is something I know is crucial to keeping university as a place that students can look forward to being. GSA is at the heart of that for graduates and I am extremely proud of the way we stepped up to provide for that community, despite the challenges of COVID-19. Helping coordinate our online engagement with graduate students through such a gruelling pandemic, is something I will look back on with a sense of achievement!

Matthew Harper-Gomm,
GSA Activities Officer

Last year was challenging, but with challenge comes the opportunity to grow and learn. GSA stepped up in 2020, adapting to online events and working tirelessly to represent students in uncertain times. I learned so much from the organisation and my fellow councillors, channelling my energy into supporting graduate students. Highlights included the Town Hall discussions and online events.

Mia Zentari,
GSA Education and
Research Officer

The Council finally meet in person at the Christmas Lunch.

Prior to joining the council at the end of 2020, I knew little about GSA. Being a councillor has exposed me to the incredible scope of GSA's advocacy and student engagement. I joined the council at a time when there were proposed structural and leadership changes, and when the graduate community faced uncertainties on the repercussions of the pandemic. I have progressively found my voice on the council, particularly lending my 'expertise' to GSA's financial management function while on the executive team.

William Kabira,
Executive Council Member

Being a general council member in 2020 has allowed me to participate in areas I'm passionate about, namely supporting student wellbeing and advocating for students with chronic illness and disability, while still having the opportunity to engage with other council work. I have particularly enjoyed the opportunity to discuss future changes to current student equity and disability services with the Director of Wellbeing Services and the chance to participate in the University Mental Health Advisory Group.

Lia Fernanda Grimmer Perez,
GSA General Councillor

Graduate representatives

A vital part of GSA's representation work is ensuring that graduate students have a direct say in how the University develops and operates. One way we do this is through nominating graduate students to sit on University committees. Every major University decision impacting students will be discussed on a committee and it is important to have graduate student representatives involved in these conversations.

GSA relies on our nominated committee members to keep us informed about discussions and decisions made by the University, so that we can continue to support and represent the interests of all graduate students.

Thank you to all of our graduates who supported Student Misconduct Hearings

Adrian Ee
Alex Guerin
Alice Kim
Bree Booth
Caroline Bui
Deniz Tuncer
Emily De Wind
Emily Roberts
Gayda Mutahar
Gemma Smith
Hannah Hunter-Smith
Hayley Kebbell
Helen Argyris
Hiren Vagh
Ioannis Sidiropoulos
Jeremy Waite
Junaid Rasool
Lily Day
Lynton Gunn
Madeleine Johnson
Megumi Lim
Mia Zentari
Monica Bradford
Qing Zhao
Sajid Hassan
Sid Mandlik
Sindhusha Veluguleti
Tahlia Downie
Tessa Gould
Theo Wong
Xiaoyu Feng

Thank you to all our graduate representatives of 2020

Ai Tam Le - Higher Degree Research Committee
Alex Guerin - Research Ethics Integrity Strategy Committee
Alice Kim - Occupational Health and Safety Committee
Alice Yang - Selection Procedures Committee
Beryl Were - Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance Committee
Corey Cribb - Arts Research Training Committee
Divyangana Rakesh - Higher Degree Research Committee
Djamila Eliby - Melbourne Statistical Consulting Platform User Committee
Emily Crisafulli - Committee of Graduate Research Associate Deans
Fia Hamid-Walker - Scholarly and Digital Capabilities Working Group
Fiona Macklin - Academic Programs Committee
Gio Fidelito - Central Human Research Ethics Committee
Gladys Lomotey - Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences Teaching and Learning Strategy
Christian Ainsworth - Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences Academic Programs Committee
Hannah Savage - Medical School Graduate Programs and Executive Education Committee
Ioannis Sidiropoulos - Faculty of Fine Arts and Music Student Enrichment Advisory Group; Library and Scholarly Services Advisory Group
Ivy Ziqian Wang - Arts Graduate Studies Committee
Jay Ryder - Arts Faculty Board
Jessie Downey - Mental Health Advisory Committee
Laura Ruaux - Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences Academic Programs Committee

Lauren Taylor - Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences Teaching and Learning Strategy
Leiah Kwong - Faculty of Fine Arts and Music Student Support Committee
Lynton Gunn - Arts Education and Students Committee
Maita Subba - Science Graduate Research Committee
Marc Katzef - Scholarly and Digital Capabilities Working Group
Mariam Hachem - Academic Programs Committee
Martha Wamithi - Science Graduate Academic Programs Committee
Matthew Jiwa - Selection Procedures Committee
Mohini Mehta - Arts Graduate Studies Committee
Monica Sestito - School of Languages and Linguistics Research and Research Training
Niles Zhao - School of Languages and Linguistics Research and Research Training
Nina Zapedowski - Fairtrade Steering Committee
Paola Villaneuva - Researcher Professional Development Portal Steering Committee
Roshan Karri - Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences Clinical Placements Committee
Saeid Charani Shandiz - Sustainability Executive Committee
Stefan Joksic - Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance Committee
Tamara Richardson - Academic Consultation and Coordination Committee
William Arnel - Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences Clinical Placements Committee
Xiaofang Yao - Arts Library Committee

Meet our staff

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Message from the Chief Executive Officer

The past year has brought many global challenges for humanity and, at GSA, we have faced similar changes as an organisation. It has been a period of uncertainty, isolation and fear of the unknown for our graduate community. At GSA, we needed to take the time to regroup, refocus, and re-identify how we deliver our key programs to fulfil our organisation's purpose.

I feel so proud and privileged to have led GSA with the support from our wonderful staff, council members and graduate community. We have been agile, as we quickly and seamlessly adapted to a new virtual service delivery model. GSA offered strategies to assist with remote learning and kept graduates connected by developing the Transition to Work program. We also undertook advocacy and representation work, both with the University of Melbourne and with external policy bodies, to address the diverse needs of our graduate population. We can proudly say we rose to the challenge of 2020 and offered graduates a range of successful student engagement and advocacy activities.

Working with energetic and aspiring Council members, who have had a challenging year too, has continued to be a rewarding experience. In the last 12 months, GSA has undertaken major governance reforms. These include constitutional changes, development of new electoral regulations and effectively conducting all governance responsibilities online – including a virtual general election. Council members have provided strategic advice to support new service delivery models and programs, managed the finances efficiently through prudent budgeting, and engaged with graduates to meet their needs. Indeed, it has been a pleasure to work with such an enthusiastic GSA Council, who have put in a lot of work this year, continuously grown and offer GSA countless hours of support. I am deeply indebted to their work.

The Policy and Advocacy Team (formerly known as Representation) have undertaken a range of advocacy and policy campaigns to support our graduates during the COVID-19 pandemic. The work they have undertaken has been highly regarded and appreciated by the graduate community. Through a nimble and determined approach, the team has had remarkable success to bring about policy change – particularly for our graduate research community and despite

some ongoing setbacks. We have consulted, listened to and acted upon feedback from graduate students, and we are determined to continue doing so. Thank you, Natasha, Vibol, Jonathan and Ally, for all of your work.

The Student Engagement Team have once again excelled and delivered many successful activities, events and academic support workshops. We launched new social events and programs, while continuing to refine our existing activities – adapting our marketing strategies as we moved online. Over the last year, the team has delivered over 200 activities and offered many students material and financial aid to support their health and wellbeing. Student participation in our events and services has increased significantly this year, as has student satisfaction. Our innovative and interactive virtual programs included a re-run of LEAD, new innovative internship programs, Town Hall discussion forums and well-attended orientation week events. Thank you to Tevita and his team, both past and present; we are incredibly grateful for your hard work.

The Grad Groups have continued to grow and inspire increased participation in the UoM community. Their work has supported GSA to ensure various engagement platforms, groups and innovative ideas were developed to improve social connection, engagement and cohesion. GSA staff have developed

great policies and procedures to improve the systems maintaining the Grad Groups program. Subah and Clare have worked tirelessly to make many effective changes and ensure Grad Groups are very well supported.

Sajal, our Manager Business Operations, has managed our finances, human resources, IT and OHS responsibilities and functions efficiently with his team. They have assisted the rest of GSA's staff with their work from home arrangements and both staff and council a variety of programs to improve wellbeing.

Our President, Jeremy Waite, and General Secretary, Lily Day, have shown extraordinary leadership and courage in leading the council through a complex journey of organisational change at GSA. We are building the foundations for an even stronger and more effective GSA in the years ahead.

A big thank you to all the staff who have worked hard to deliver many interesting and innovative programs. GSA strives to be 'the heart of graduate student life' at the University of Melbourne, and, in 2021, we will continue to make every effort to create even more value for all graduate students.

GSA's Leadership Team, from left: *Rachna Muddagouni, CEO; Tevita Lesuma, Manager Student Engagement and Communications; Sajal Goundar, Manager Business Operations/Finance; and Natasha Abrahams, Senior Policy Coordinator.*

A word from our staff

GSA instilled in me the knowledge and skills to work productively in a crisis. Even when things looked down, management at GSA gave clear and concise communications to its staff and students. The values of supporting each other and collaborating are the needle and thread that enables GSA to shine and progress its advocacy in higher education. While 2020 was a hard year for many people, I truly valued my work in supporting students, as well as seeing the incredible output of empowered students fighting for a fair and equitable education.

Vibol Hy,
Project Officer

When I packed up the essentials to work from home in March 2020, I expected it would not be long before the GSA team would be back to working on campus. While the year did not turn out as I imagined, working from home has allowed us to continue to support graduate students virtually. We have been making good use of software to facilitate opportunities for engagement with students and to create a pleasant online working environment where we can be a team despite the distance.

Natasha Abrahams,
Senior Policy Coordinator

2020 was a challenging year but with a positive that I got to start as the Student Engagement Officer of Grad Groups in November. It was strange to have the tech equipment sent to my house, with my bedroom also becoming my home office. It was exciting – but definitely not a normal – introduction to a new work place and team. I prefer working in an office where you can have casual chats and brainstorm ideas naturally, and I really looked forward to meeting my new colleagues in-person at the Christmas party. Now that I have met part of the team, it's working well currently to be half in the office and half at home as both have their pros and cons.

Chelsea Ryan,
Student Engagement Officer – Grad Groups

I started at GSA online and have yet to go onto campus and see the workplace. Despite this, I feel that as a team we have been able to stay connected and collaborate to create some wonderful student experiences. The broader team across the University of Melbourne has been extremely willing to work with GSA to provide graduate students with a varied and exciting Training and Development Program in 2021 and it has been a pleasure to get to know people virtually. Personally, the flexibility of working from home has been a great experience and the lack of commute has given me 2 hours back a day!

Nicola Cullen,
Training and Development Officer

Thank you to all the staff of 2020

Christine Rathjens, Felicity Ford, Louise Ryan, Rachna Muddagouni, Stuart Ellis, Subah Kamal, Suzanne Griffin, Tevita Lesuma, Jonathan Wedgewood, Ally Phillipou, Clare Fuery-Jones, Vivien Bong, Jessica Dunn, Andrew Le, Chelsea Ryan, Jill Chou, Marnie Higgs, Natasha Abrahams, Nicola Cullen, Pradeepa Panneerselvam, Sajal Goundar, Vibol Hy, Reuben Dyer, Sorcha Delahunty

Meet the Grad Group community

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Grad Groups

Grad Groups are all about providing a community for students to get together and participate in shared interests and academic pursuits. The disruptions and uncertainty of 2020 proved difficult for the wide range of Grad Groups affiliated with GSA.

Through FAQs, guides and personal communication, we supported over 140 Grad Groups with their shift from traditional, in-person activities to meaningful, virtual communications.

Grad Groups held their AGMs, conferences and Town Halls online. They also came up with innovative ways to stay connected, such as starting podcasts, sending care packages and online movie parties.

GSA supported groups by creating resources like the COVID 19 Grad Group How to Guide, which provided information and ideas on running and engaging groups. To facilitate the move to a remote environment, we also offered funding for premium access to

software and platforms such as Zoom and Slack, and for web design services.

The Grad Groups team ran our committee members' training sessions virtually, made ourselves available for one-on-one meetings via Zoom and Skype and attended to Grad Group queries via the new 1800-GSA-HELP phoneline.

Grad Groups focus on a vast number of topics, such as:

- Academic
- Business & enterprise
- Creative, media & performance
- Faith & spirituality
- International & cultural
- Physical activity, sports & games
- Political, campaigning & social justice
- Professional development
- Representation & inclusion
- Special interest
- Sustainability & the environment
- Welfare & wellbeing

180 Degrees Consulting Melbourne (180DC)
African Studies Group (ASG)
Agrifoodies
Animal Welfare Science Students of the UoM (AWSSUM)
AntiTHESIS
The Architecture Lobby - Victoria Chapter
Asia Institute Postgraduate Group (AIPG)
Ausdriod
Australia Awards Scholars Club (AASC)
Australian Students' Society of Haematology (ASSH)
Bengali Cultural Club (BCC)

Biochemists and Molecular Biologists at the Bio21 Institute (BAMBII)
Bioinformatics Graduate Student Association (BGSA)
Biosciences Postgraduate Society (BioPS)
Built Industry Group (BIG)
Burnley Campus Postgraduate Group (BCPG)
BusinessOne Consulting
Cancer Society of Melbourne University (CSM)
Chemistry Postgraduate Society (CPS)
Chilean Research Group of Australia (CREGA)
Chinese Data Science Society (CDSS)

Chinese Students and Scholars Association Graduate (CSSA Grad)
Chinese Studies Research Group (CSRG)
Classics & Archaeology Postgraduate Group (CAPG)
Climate College Graduate Student Group (CCGSG)
Computational Biology Postgraduate Sports Group (CBPSG)
Computing and Information Systems Graduate Research Student Group (CIS GReS)
Crossing Borders Melbourne (CBM)
Culture and Communication Graduate Committee (CCGC)
Data Science Postgraduate Society (DSPS)
De Minimis
Dermatology Interest Society (DermIS)
Ecuadorian Research and Entrepreneurship Network (EREN)
Earth Science Postgraduate Group (ESPG)
Enable Prosthetics Melbourne
Enactus
Ethnoforum
FBE PhD Student Society (FBEPSS)
Film and TV Graduate Students Group (FTV Grad Group)

Film, Art, Media and Entertainment Law Students Association (FAME LSA)
Forest Ecosystem Student Society (FESS)
Geography Postgraduate Society (GPS)
Global Consulting Group (GCG)
Global Law Students Association (GLSA)
Global Origins Magazine
Graduate Agriculture and Food Society (GAFS)
Graduate Backyard Cricket Club (GBCC)
Graduate Education Society (GES)
Graduate Group of Student Parents (GGSP)
Graduate House Student Group (GHSG)
Graduate Infrastructure Engineering Society (GIES)
Graduate Organisation of Development Students (GOODS)
Graduate Power Shuttlers (GradPS)
Graduate Research Association MSPGH (GRAM)
Graduate Researchers in Psychological Sciences (GRIPS)
Graduate Yoga Society (GYS)
History Postgraduates Association (HPA)
Indian Graduate Students Society (IGSS)
Indian Institutes Graduates (I2G)

"It is important for PILN to stay affiliated with GSA for three key reasons: support, resources and community, all of which are inter-connected. Being affiliated with the GSA helps all of us in PILN to feel like we are, at a higher level, part of a bigger community at the University of Melbourne; one that provides opportunities and safe spaces for graduate students, while also advocating for their interests.

It [financial support] allows us to host our events and run our projects and initiatives ... this means we can fully and truly represent the interests of the students we represent without having to make value-based concessions to receive support.

We thrive on being an inde-pendent, alternative voice at the law school and this would not be possible without the GSA's support.

- PILN (Public Interest Law Network)

Indigenous Graduate Student Association (IGSA)

International Graduate Student Wellbeing Group (IGSWG)

International Melbourne Uni Graduate Volleyball Group (IMUGVG)

Interprofessional Education and Practice Health Students Network (IPEP-HSN)

Korean Medical Society (KMS)

Later Law Students' Network (LLSN)

Law Students for Refugees (LS4R)

MD Choral and Acapella Society (MDCAS)

MD Diverse Educational Backgrounds Society

MD Queer (MDQ)

MEDitate

Medleys - The Med Revue

Mechanical Engineering Research Student Association (MERSA)

Med Moves (MM)

Medical Creatives Collective (MCC)

Melbourne Business School Student Association (MBSSA)

Melbourne Children's Campus Research Students Association (MCCRSA)

Melbourne Dental Post-Graduate Group (MDPGG)

Melbourne Dental Students Society (MDSS)

Melbourne Emergency Student's Society (MESS)

Melbourne Energy Students Association (MESA)

Melbourne Graduate Music Society (MGMS)

Melbourne Information Systems Graduate Association (MISGA)

Melbourne International Property Students (MIPS)

Melbourne Latin Community Association (MLCA)

Melbourne Interdisciplinary Students' Society of Neuroscience (MISSioN)

Melbourne Population and Global Health Students' Society (MPGHSS)

Melbourne Postgraduate International Relations Organisation (MPIRO)

Melbourne South Asian Law Society (MSALS)

Melbourne University at Mercy Students (MUMs)

Melbourne University Chinese Debating Group (MUCDG)

Melbourne University Civil and Structural Society (MUCSS)

Melbourne University Genetics Postgraduate Society (MUGPS)

Melbourne University Geomatics Society (MUGS)

Melbourne University Graduate Christian Union (MUGCU)

Melbourne University Law Students' Society (MULSS)

Melbourne University Nepalese Students' Society (MUNSS)

Melbourne University Nursing Students' Society (MUNSS)

Melbourne University Obstetrics and Gynaecology Society (MUOGS)

Melbourne University Physiotherapy Students Society (MUPSS)

Melbourne University Planning Student Society (MUPSS)

Melbourne University Taiwanese Postgraduates Association (MUTPA)

MSD Research Students Association (MSD RSA)

Music Therapy Graduate Student Group (MTGSG)

Navigators, The

Neuropsychology Students Society (NSS)

OCULUS

One Health Research Society (OHRS)

Outlook Rural Health Club (Moovin Health)

OVS Research Crew

Paraguayan Student Association (PSA)

Persian Art and Culture (PAC)

Philosophy Postgraduate Group (PPG)

Physiology Student Society (PSS)

Postgraduate Association of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering Researchers (PACBER)

Postgraduate Environment Network (PEN)

Postgraduate Physics Students' Society (PPSS)

Postgraduates at Werribee (PAWS)

Postgraduates of Veterinary Science (POVS)

Postgraduate Student Society for Infection and Immunity (POSSIIM) (Formerly: Special Postgraduate Association for Students of Immunology and Microbiology (SPASIM))

Public Interest Law Network (PILN)

Public Policy Grad Group (PPGG)

Rogue Crims

School of Health Sciences Graduate Group (SHSGG)

Sri Lankan Graduates' Society (SLGS)

School of Languages and Linguistics (SOLL) Postgrad Group

Social Work Association of Graduate Students (SWAGS)

Society of Marketing and Communications (SMAC)

Speech Pathology Students' Society (SPSS)

St Vincent's Student Society (SVSS)

Statistics and Mathematics Postgraduate Society (STAMPS)

Strive Student Health Initiative Inc. (STRIVE)

Student Conservators @ Melbourne (SC@M)

Student Conservators for Timor Leste (SCTL)

Students in Primary Care Research (SPCR)

Students in Primary Care Research Publishing Group (SPCR-P)

Students of Landscape Architecture (SOLA)

Students in Orthopaedic and Musculoskeletal Academia (SOMA)

Students of Neuropsychiatry Research (SONR)

Students of Neuroscience and Anatomy (SONA)

Students of Pharmacology (StOP)

Students of Royal Melbourne (STORM)

Students of the Florey Institute (SOFI)

Surgical Students' Society of Melbourne (SSSM)

SYNAPSE

Unimelb Journalism Society (MJS)

Unimelb Pride Community (UPCC)

University of Melbourne Medical Students' Society (UMMSS)

University of Melbourne Optometry Students' Society (UMOSS)

University of Melbourne Space Program (UMSP)

Victorian Environmental Law Student Network (VELSN)

Wellbeing Arts Graduate Student Group (WAGSG)

Wilderness Medicine Students' Society (WMSS)

Womendeavour

Get involved with Grad Groups

Any University of Melbourne graduate student can set up a Grad Group!

You just need six members, a common interest and some documentation that we can help you with! To talk through the benefits of affiliating, find out what funding opportunities there are and discuss the affiliation process, feel free to book in with the Grad Groups team here. You can also email us at gradgroups@gsa.unimelb.edu.au to get started.

We represent you

04

What our representatives do

The team authors briefings, reports and policy submissions to support GSA's advocacy efforts. We also provide training, capacity-building activities and ongoing support to empower our network of graduate representatives to raise issues with the University.

We undertake both discrete and more regular consultation with graduate students. This work includes proactive surveys and the collection of feedback on the University's policy changes, to ensure our advocacy is supported by evidence and aligns with current and material student issues. Further evidence is collected through action research projects that investigate graduate student issues in more depth.

Policy

Throughout 2020, we have actively engaged with University policy consultation processes. These have included preparing responses to the University's initiatives, such as UniPlus and the Graduate Student Experience paper. We have also responded to proposed or enacted policies, including changes to the assessment policy in Semester 1 and the Weighted Average Mark policy and Emergency Support Fund in Semester 2. Our policy work is supported by targeted consultation with graduate students.
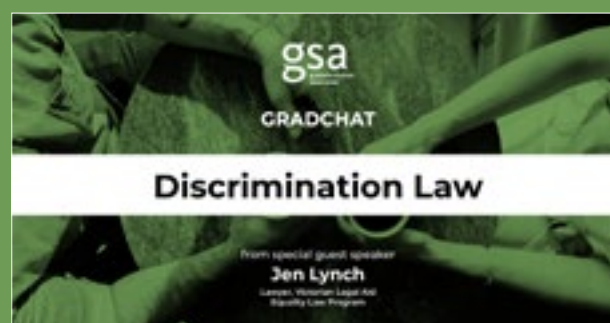
COVID-19 campaign

The COVID-19 pandemic and government response measures affected graduate students' lives and their engagement with their studies. We conducted a rolling survey of graduate student issues, as well as several targeted consultations addressing placements, subject cuts and graduate researcher issues.

Based on the evidence collected, we advocated for the University to provide appropriate support and policy adjustments. We successfully lobbied the University to create a policy that ensures poor grades gained during the pandemic do not adversely affect students' Weighted Average Marks.

For graduate researchers, we represented the need for leave and extension policies during COVID-19. We also highlighted

privacy concerns during the application process for extensions, which lead to changes to these procedures. Additionally, we successfully secured financial support for both graduate students experiencing hardship and those requiring technology upgrades to access online learning. The University's Emergency Support Fund provided this support.

Submissions

GSA makes written submissions to government and external stakeholders to ensure they capture the graduate student voice in their consultation processes. In 2020, we responded to seven calls for submissions, with topics covering public transport fares, free speech, wage theft and temporary migration.

Action research

Our action research projects enable us to investigate issues of importance to graduate students and provide direction for our proactive advocacy.

The Parents on Campus report, released in August 2020, aimed to understand and improve the educational experiences of graduate student parents. The research involved a survey of students and staff with children and a desktop review of existing policies and support for student parents. The report highlighted factors that hamper the ability of students with children to participate in the University community and succeed in their studies. We also put forward recommendations for change, which have been put forward to the University and the Government through our policy and submissions work.
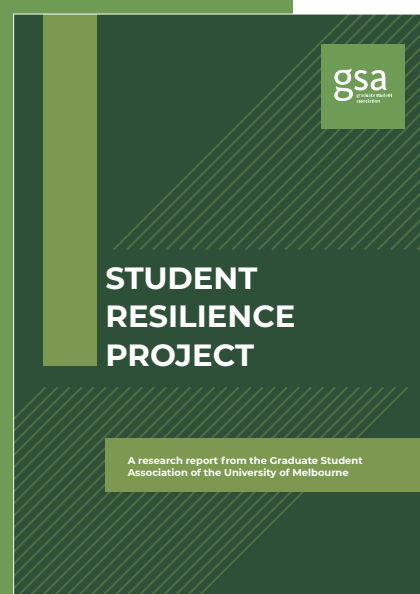
The Student Resilience Project was undertaken to improve our understanding of factors that impact graduate student wellbe-ing and success. We surveyed 624 graduate students, with key findings including that support services are crucial yet difficult to access and that some students do not feel connected to the University community. We also found that the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated existing difficulties experienced by students.

> " GSA have been extremely helpful in a challenging environment and very important to my wellbeing as a student at UniMelb.
>
> – Participant,
> Student Resilience Survey 2020

Town Hall meetings

GSA conducted a series of virtual Town Hall meetings to bring graduate students together and facilitate discussion on higher education and international student issues. We used the feedback collected in these Town Halls to inform our campaign and submission activities. We acknowledge the participation of external stakeholders, including the Council of International Students Australia (CISA) and the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA).

Parents on campus
A research report from the Graduate Student Association of the University of Melbourne

STUDENT RESILIENCE PROJECT

A research report from the Graduate Student Association of the University of Melbourne

Join us for our
Town Hall Discussion
Transition to Work for International Students
5pm, Thursday 15 October 2020

Town Hall Discussion
Placement Students Town Hall

GRADCHAT
Know your rights
Young People and the Police
From special guest speaker
Mark Tregonning
Lawyer, Victorian Legal Aid
Community Legal Education team

PUBLIC POLICY
GRADUATE GROUP

REPRESENTATION & GRAD GROUPS

GRADCHAT
Engaged & healthy communities
Support for International Students
Yuyang Liu

GRADCHAT
Workplace Rights
Annette Herrera   Tim Kariotis

How we engage

05

Student engagement

Faced with an abrupt shift to online delivery, GSA's Student Engagement Team worked extremely hard to quickly move our activities online. We adapted our strategies, moving to support our graduates with engagement and resources through Zoom. GSA invested additional resources to support the online service delivery, increased the training and development activities and restructured the communications team to improve information dissemination.

With very few opportunities for in-person events last year, our team took a different approach to meet the needs of the graduate students. We instead focused on providing COVID-19 related support webinars, as well as sessions on 'Transition to Work', 'Academic Excellence' and 'Healthy and Engaged Communities'.

Overview of events

The year started with in-person activities, including our Thesis Bootcamp at Southbank Campus, annual Pride March, Semester 1 Orientation around the 1888 Building on Parkville Campus and International Women's Day in the Doug McDonell Atrium foyer.

From April 2020, all GSA events and activities moved to online delivery, which also meant that our 'freebies', or material aid, needed to be accessible online. Over the year GSA was able to do this through providing over 1500 online Coles grocery vouchers, 150 food delivery vouchers, and multiple subscriptions.

Snapshot of events across the year

Over the year, GSA events showed successful student engagement with our GradChat webinars, forums, Town Halls, Thesis Bootcamps and streamed live music sessions. One of the most popular events was our SWOTVAC Study Support Program, which supplied almost 3000 coffees from Melbourne cafes to graduates in 2020.

February
- Midsumma Pride March
- Thesis Bootcamp

Our first **Bootcamp** for the year was held at Southbank Campus. We hosted 23 (at-risk) research students for 3 days, as they produced almost 200,000 words.

March
- GSA Orientation
- International Women's Day

About 50 students attended GSA's **International Women's Morning Tea**. Our Women's Officer, Eliza Colgrave, addressed the attendees.

April
- Town Hall – Racism Impacting International Students
- Forum on GSA Constitutional Changes

May
- Refugee Week celebrations

June
- GSA AGM
- SWOTVAC

August
- GSA Graduate Orientation (virtual)

Semester 2 Orientation was held across three days of Week 1, with each day supporting one of GSA's Strategic Plan themes – Representation, Transition to Work, Academic Excellence, and Healthy and Engaged Communities. Additional activities also provided social connections for students.

The entire GSA team and Council were involved and hosted a total of:
- 21 partners (9 external and 12 internal to UoM)
- 29 information seminars
- 17 student-led sessions (including Councillor Mixer and Grad Groups Showcase)
- 13 social events

September
- Transition to Work – International Students Town Hall
- Internship Program

Every workshop was ... deliberately designed to help us improve our skills and for that, I enjoyed attending each one of them.

October
- GSA Art Prize

I have really enjoyed being a part of this exhibition over the last three years. This year seems particularly special and it feels like people have been able to heal and express themselves.

November
- SWOTVAC
- Special General Meeting

December
- Town Hall – Higher Education

LEAD

GSA's Leadership Program (LEAD: Leadership Exploration and Development) moved online in 2020, adapting to meet the new needs of graduates by being online. With its new format and refined content, LEAD welcome and supported 33 graduate students through the 12-week program. The combination of content and coaching sessions allowed the participants to reflect on a deeper level about what they had learnt; discussion with other participants gave them the opportunity to explore new perspectives and ideas.

On completion of the program, we hosted a farewell dinner as COVID-19 restrictions

" The program itself also taught me that leadership is more than just managing a group of people but also leading yourself and understanding other people.

- Program participant

had lifted – enabling the participants to meet each other face-to-face for the first time.

Thank you to our LEAD Facilitator, Kirsten Brown, and LEAD Coaches, Emily Roberts and Eliza Colgrave, for their commitment to supporting the graduates through their leadership journey.

Art Prize

The GSA Art Prize is an annual event that forms part of our Engaged and Healthy Communities mandate. The event champions creativity and reflects the diversity of students' interests outside their area of study. Now in its fourth year and, for the first time, held virtually, the GSA Art Prize has continued to showcase graduate student's creative flair.

This year's theme for the competition was: *Travel – what sparks your wanderlust? Where have you been? Where do you want to go? We can travel to places real or imaginary.* With a record number of entrants and attendees to the award ceremony, GSA's first virtual Art Prize was a huge success.
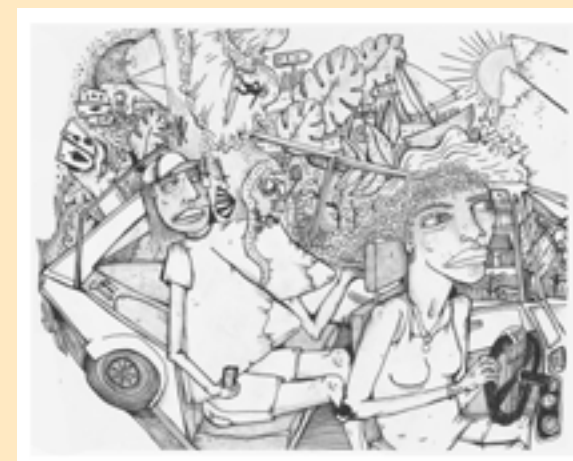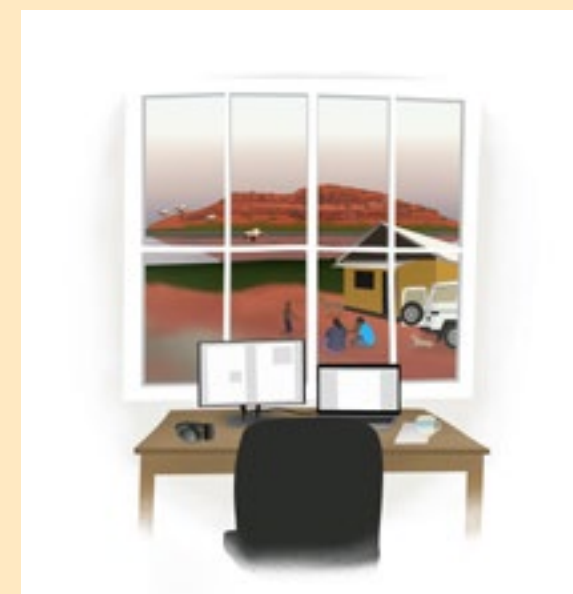

First Place, left: *Gunbalanya Dreamin*, Cam Raw

Second Place, above top: *Road Trip at the End of the Tunnel,* Alice Coates

Third Place, above lower: *Petrol Station In Mongolia*, Zoe Scotland

People's Choice, page 2: *The Moments of my Dream*, Mirudula Mohankumar

Internship Program

Initially known as the Volunteering Program, the Internship Program demonstrated the value of having passionate and committed students in a formal program dedicated to contributing to the graduate community.

Through peer to peer messaging, volunteers can encourage their cohort to participate in various GSA events and programs, achieving increased engagement, attendance and overall brand awareness for the organisation.

" This program gave me the opportunity to understand not only GSA as an organisation, but to make sure that I was prepared for my future careers as well.

– Program participant

Webinars

To keep us connected to our members, our Student Engagement Team needed to quickly adapt to meet the new virtual environment. Within days, we had created an online platform to support graduates – GradChat. Consisting of a series of webinars, workshops and forums, GradChat provided support for issues facing students. Sessions focused on topics including mental wellbeing, employability, academic support and student advocacy.

GSA reached out to partners from the University of Melbourne, community organisations, State Government and commercial entities to help support graduates through the challenging year.
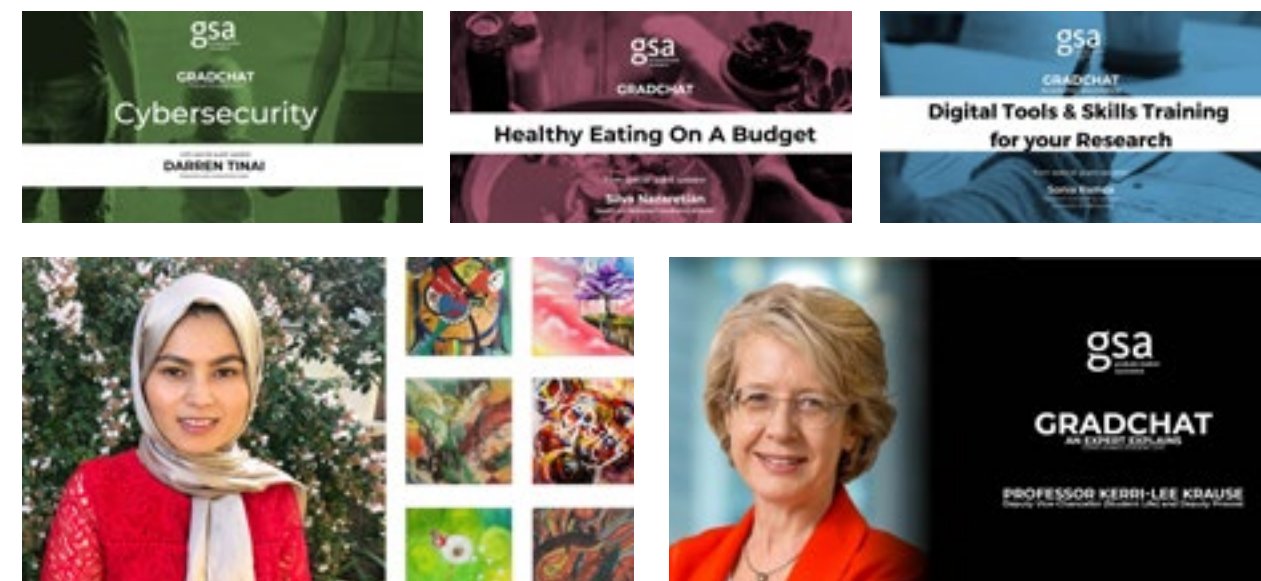
Highlights

Our most popular webinars in 2020 related to GSA's strategic theme of supporting students to 'Transition to Work', or employability. These webinars were mostly in partnership with organisations that specialised in providing resources and programs for job readiness.

GSA partnered with SEEK to deliver webinars on writing strong CVs and cover letters, the best methods of job searching and current industry trends in the job market (as a result of the pandemic).

Another valued webinar partner was people-2people recruitment, who provided webinars helping graduates to find their next opportunities. Sessions included 'Nailing your job interview: how to answer questions well' and 'Job searching - where do I start?'.

GSA also welcomed GradConnection, who delivered webinars that not only supported graduates with their job searches, but also provided insights into the graduate positions on offer along with their recruitment processes.

Each of our 2020 webinars fell under a theme from our Strategic Plan:

Policy & Advocacy
20
webinars held
and
187
registrations

Transition to Work
27
webinars held
and
1483
registrations

Academic Support (Excellence)
33
webinars held
and
618
registrations

Engaged & Healthy Communities
207
webinars held
and
4410
registrations

Job Market Insights

Thank you to all of the individuals and organisations who offered their expertise and time to present at our webinars

Aimee Burton, people2people

Alan Yang, UMSU Legal

Annette Herrera, UniMelb Branch, NTEU

Ashley Sutherland, UoM Library Services

Cath Sedunary, UoM Financial Aid

Darren Tinai, Lead of Cybersecurity, UoM

Dr Sarah-Ann Tay, UoM Counsellor, Psychological Services Coordinator

Dr Erica Frydenberg, author and clinical psychologist

Erin Devlin, people2people

Gabrielle Marchetti, Principal Lawyer, JobWatch

George Habib, Associate Director, Wellbeing Services

Georgia Young, Senior Account Manager, SEEK

Hilary Dolan, UoM Academic Skills Advisor

Jen Lynch, Victoria Legal Aid

Jennifer Warburton, UoM Library Services

Jessica Hickey, people2people

Jo-Ann King, UoM Academic Skills Advisor

Kerrie-Lee Krause, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Life)

Laura Kennan, UoM CAPS

Mallika Abbott UoM Counsellor, Psychological Services Coordinator

Mark Tregonning, Community Legal Education Coordinator, Victoria Legal Aid

Mary Savova, people2people

Megan Dench, Manager of UoM Careers and Employability

Naomi Evans, UoM Careers and Employability

Paul Hornsby, UMSU Advocacy

Persia Hegarty, UoM Counsellor, Psychological Services Coordinator

Professor Steve Trumble, UoM Head of Medical Education, MDHS

Raveena Grace, Sustainability Engagement Officer, Sustainable Campus

Rogan Sturrock, GradConnection

Silva Nazaretian, Dietician, Southern Migrant and Refugee Centre

Sonia Ramza, UoM Research Computing Services

Sophie Bryant, Manager of UoM Careers and Employability

Steven Thurlow, UoM Academic Skills

Tim Kariotis, UniMelb Branch, NTEU

Vanessa Stanton, UMSU Financial Counsellor

Yuyang Liu, UoM CAPS

Zara Morton, people2people

Communications

GSA's overall student engagement relied heavily on innovative and strategic use of communications in 2020. It was imperative that we systematically used social media channels to promote our activities and campaigns, ensuring we stood out in what became our only source of engagement.

We had successes through the addition of new online content which boosted engagement on the GSA YouTube Channel; a new Facebook Group (Connection in Isolation) that provided tailored resources; greater engagement with vibrant images for Instagram; and employability focus and support through our LinkedIn page.

In addition to vast improvements to social media engagement, the GSA Newsletter mailing list increased from 12,000 to 17,000 subscribers.

Our online communications for 2020 resulted in:

12,787
likes

1,022,828
impressions

33,387
engagements

2,334
followers

184,740
impressions

723
profile actions

680
followers

13,652
impressions

712
engagements

223.9
watch hours

5,091
views

4,980
unique visitors
and

13,943
page views
on average, per month

19
newsletters
sent to over

17,000
subscribers

229,509
impressions

Acknowledgements

THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Time
for
numbers

06

Financial report

Statement of profit or loss
For the year ended 31 December 2020

	2020 $	2019 $
Income		
Student services and amenities fee (SSAF) funding - core	2,546,537	2,856,947
SSAF - other	123,333	296,342
Other grants/contributions	-	60,000
Event income	1,026	50,083
Interest income	12,378	27,033
Training and workshops	559	5,267
Venue hire income	-	26,156
Other income	298,402	48,379
Gain on disposal of fixed assets	8,110	-
	2,990,345	3,370,207
Expenditure		
Depreciation expense	88,026	96,071
Employee benefits expense	1,395,377	1,875,329
Other operating expenses	13,722	85,623
Honoraria	161,719	147,310
Program / project activity costs	77,684	415,074
Administration expenses	114,349	298,350
Audit fees	11,700	15,200
Computer / ICT expenses	120,886	55,650
Graduate groups support	123,662	212,221
Marketing and communications	14,692	113,554
Occupancy expenses	220	210
	2,122,037	3,314,592
Profit/(loss) for the year	868,308	55,615
Retained profits at the beginning of the financial year	1,642,712	1,587,097
Retained profits at the end of the financial year	2,511,020	1,642,712

Statement of financial position
As at 31 December 2020

	Note	2020 $	2019 $
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	2,654,683	1,858,753
Trade and other receivables	3	39,285	5,826
Prepayments		8,972	6,506
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		2,702,940	1,871,085
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Plant and equipment	4	35,680	126,289
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		35,680	126,289
TOTAL ASSETS		2,738,620	1,997,374
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	5	143,514	139,124
Employee benefits	6	63,660	82,797
Income in advance		-	63,333
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		207,174	285,254
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee benefits	6	20,426	69,408
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		20,426	69,408
TOTAL LIABILITIES		227,600	354,662
NET ASSETS		2,511,020	1,642,712
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Retained profits		2,511,020	1,642,712
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		2,511,020	1,642,712

Statement of changes in equity
For the year ended 31 December 2020

2020

	Retained Earnings $	Total $
Balance at 1 January 2020	1,642,712	1,642,712
Profit for the year	868,308	868,308
Balance at 31 December 2020	2,511,020	2,511,020

2019

	Retained Earnings $	Total $
Balance at 1 January 2019	1,587,097	1,587,097
Profit for the year	55,615	55,615
Balance at 31 December 2019	1,642,712	1,642,712

Statement of cash flows
As at 31 December 2020

	Note	2020 $	2019 $
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Other receipts		1,585	135,683
Proceeds from student services and amenities fee funding		2,866,711	3,411,566
Receipts from COVID-19 stimulus		264,943	-
Interest received		12,378	27,033
Payments to suppliers and employees		(2,360,380)	(3,643,511)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	7	785,237	(69,229)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment		12,135	-
Purchase of plant and equipment		(1,442)	(28,461)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		10,693	(28,461)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		795,930	(97,690)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		1,858,753	1,956,443
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	2	2,654,683	1,858,753

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2020

The financial statements cover University of Melbourne Graduate Student Association Inc as an individual entity. University of Melbourne Graduate Student Association Inc is a not-for-profit Association incorporated in Victoria under the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*.

Basis of Preparation

In the opinion of the Executive Committee, the Association is not a reporting entity since there are unlikely to exist users of the financial statements who are not able to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. These special purpose financial statements have been prepared to meet the reporting requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission* (the Act) and the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations, and the disclosure requirements of AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*, AASB 107 *Statement of Cash Flows*, AASB 108 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors* and AASB 1054 *Australian Additional Disclosures*.

1   Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a)   Income Tax

The Association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

(b)   Property, plant and equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Items of property, plant and equipment acquired for nil or nominal consideration have been recorded at the acquisition date fair value.

Depreciation

Property, plant and equipment, excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the assets useful life to the Association, commencing when the asset is ready for use.

(c)   Employee benefits

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be wholly settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Employee benefits expected to be settled more than one year after the end of the reporting period have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may satisfy vesting requirements. Cashflows are discounted using market yields on high quality corporate bond rates incorporating bonds with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cashflows. Changes in the measurement of the liability are recognised in profit or loss.

Employee benefits are presented as current liabilities in the statement of financial position if the Association does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting date regardless of the classification of the liability for measurement purposed under AASB 119.

1   Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(d)   Revenue and other income

Revenue is recognised when the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Association and where performance obligations exist, those performance obligations have been satisfied.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is presented net of returns, discounts and rebates.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(e)   Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payable are stated inclusive of GST.

Cash flows in the statement of cash flows are included on a gross basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

(f)   Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

(g)   Comparative amounts

When necessary, comparative information has been reclassified to enhance comparability in respect of changes in presentation adopted in the current year.

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2020

2 Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2020 $	2019 $
Cash at bank and in hand	1,164,865	383,246
Short-term deposits	1,489,818	1,475,507
	2,654,683	1,858,753

3 Trade and Other Receivables

CURRENT		
Trade receivables	550	3,000
Other receivables	38,735	2,826
Total current trade and other receivables	39,285	5,826

4 Property, plant and equipment

PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Student furniture & fittings		
At cost	23,679	24,318
Accumulated depreciation	(18,684)	(15,991)
Total plant and equipment	4,995	8,327
Office fixtures & fittings		
At cost	35,822	43,731
Accumulated depreciation	(25,233)	(23,054)
Total furniture, fixtures and fittings	10,589	20,677
Service improvements		
At cost	5,304	23,836
Accumulated depreciation	(5,304)	(22,401)
Total service improvements	-	1,435
Office equipment & computer hardware		
At cost	414,339	563,721
Accumulated depreciation	(394,243)	(467,871)
Total computer equipment	20,096	95,850
Total property, plant and equipment	35,680	126,289

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2020

5 Trade and Other Payables

	2020 $	2019 $
Current		
Trade payables	50	7,397
Sundry payables and accrued expenses	143,464	131,727
	143,514	139,124

6 Employee Benefits

Current liabilities		
Annual leave	63,660	82,797
	63,660	82,797
Non-current liabilities		
Long service leave	20,426	69,408

7 Cash Flow Information

Reconciliation of result for the year to cashflows from operating activities

Profit/(loss) for the year	868,308	55,615
Non-cash flows in profit/(loss):		
- depreciation	88,026	96,071
- net gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	(8,110)	-
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(33,459)	5,798
- (increase)/decrease in other assets	(2,466)	1,394
- increase/(decrease) in income in advance	(63,333)	(123,334)
- increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	4,390	(21,531)
- increase/(decrease) in employee benefits	(68,119)	(83,242)
Cashflows from operations	785,237	(69,229)

The Association has no significant stand-by or financing facilities in place. There were no non-cash financing or investing activities during the period.

8 Contingencies

In the opinion of the Executive Committee, the Association did not have any contingencies at 31 December 2020.

9 Economic Dependence

The Association is economically dependent on continued funding from The University of Melbourne. In 2020 Student Services and Amenities funding received from The University of Melbourne was 87.28% (2019: 95.34%) of its income.

Statement by the executive committee

The Executive Committee has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The Executive Committee of the Association declares that:

1.   The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 1 to 8: are in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013* and:

(a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards as stated in Note 1; and
(b) give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 31 December 2020 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of is in accordance with the accounting policy described in Note 1 of the financial statements.

2.   In the Executive Committee's opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that University of Melbourne Graduate Student Association Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Executive Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Executive Committee by:

President ....   General Secretary ....
Jeremy Waite   Lillian Day

Dated 15 March 2021

Independent audit report
to the members of University Graduate Student Association inc

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of University of Melbourne Graduate Student Association Inc (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2020, the statement of profit or loss, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by the executive committee.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Association is in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not- for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

(i)   giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 31 December 2020 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and

(ii)   complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report is prepared to assist the Association to fulfil the financial reporting responsibilities under *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the Association and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than the Association. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the Association   is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with *Australian Charities and Not- for-profits Commission Act 2012,* and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Executive Committee is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Executive Committee is responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

Independent audit report
to the members of University Graduate Student Association inc

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgemental and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Executive Committee.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Executive Committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial reporter, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Executive Committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

ACCRU MELBOURNE (AUDIT) PTY LTD   C J FLYNN
                                                   Director

Dated 15th March 2021

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