

Senate Elections: Graduate Students

The following graduate students have been nominated for Senate (term from July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016). The statements and photos of candidates, if available, have been included below.

1. **DIAZ**, Ileana – Social Science/Geography
2. **ENGINEER**, Anish – Schulich/Phys&Pharm
2. **McMURROUGH**, Thomas – Schulich/Biochemistry
2. **ROSEN**, Laura – ACB/Neuroscience
2. **ST-PIERRE**, Paul G. – FIMS

DIAZ, Ileana



I am excited to represent graduate students in the Senate. Social Sciences is the largest faculty in the University and I am the only candidate running from this faculty. However, I am interested in representing ALL graduate students on campus, especially those whose needs are often overlooked such as students who have accessibility issues, international students, students with families and low income students to name a few. I believe that the grounds of Western need to be accessible to all students and I will advocate for more timely and thorough snow removal among other measures, so that all students can enjoy our beautiful campus without barriers. I will support initiatives for students that allow for greater flexibility for students who care for family members including children or have full-time jobs.

ENGINEER, Anish



Hello Graduate Students! My name is Anish Engineer and I would like to represent you on the Western Senate! I am a first year Masters student in Physiology and Pharmacology. During my undergrad here at Western, I was involved in student politics and advocacy. I was a councillor and voting member on the University Students' Council and sat on the Provincial and Federal Affairs Standing Committee. I was also a councillor on the Science Students' Council and tried my best to voice the concerns of my fellow students and make lasting changes to benefit all aspects of student life. I will continue my advocacy efforts and defend your interests if given this opportunity.

McMURROUGH, Thomas



Do you know that our graduate student stipend is not insured or guaranteed during a medical leave of absence? Last year I had an emergency appendectomy and developed complications that forced me to take two months away from my studies. Although my funding eligibility is now extended, my only option was to take a non-paid medical leave of absence. Since my return I have been working to develop a mechanism that will guarantee pay to a graduate student during medical leave. We do not get a “leave of absence” from paying rent and I want to ensure that no other graduate student has to go through this trying experience (Note: I cannot prevent appendicitis). Please RE---ELECT THOMAS McMURROUGH to represent you as a Graduate Student Senator and I will continue this important work on your behalf.

ROSEN, Laura



Western consistently boasts the best student experience in Canada. This, along with its reputation for research excellence drew me here for my doctoral studies in 2013. I believe Western’s top tier student experience encompasses excellence across all aspects of our time here: academic, social and interpersonal. Western students are touted as bright, engaged and supported. Unfortunately, many students struggle to find fulfillment in one or more of these areas while pursuing their degrees. If elected, my number one priority would be to ensure that the Western experience lives up to its reputation for every single graduate student. We are all members of the Western community, and deserve to experience the best that our school has to offer.

ST-PIERRE, Paul G.