



From: GRO Co-Chairs Eugenia Volkova and Elliot Wainwright, gro@jhu.edu
Date: 5 July 2019
Subject: A Welcome to Johns Hopkins from the GRO

To the incoming KSAS and WSE Graduate Students,

First and foremost, congratulations to you on joining the incoming class of Blue Jays! Graduate life at Hopkins is a rich, tough, and rewarding experience that will shape your life for years to come. We are your Graduate Representative Organization (or “GRO” for short), and we want to welcome you to campus and give you a little bit of information about who we are and what we do. The GRO is the primary graduate representative student group on the Homewood campus and is comprised of a General Council of representatives selected by each department on the Homewood campus, and an Executive Board of chairs the General Council elects. Members of GRO act as liaisons between graduate students and the administration and advocate for graduate student needs.

You are welcome to attend GRO General Council meetings, which occur every other Monday at 6PM in the Levering Hall Great Hall. These meetings provide a forum for graduate students to discuss, formulate, and implement policies on any and all issues affecting their welfare. For more information about the GRO we encourage you to check out our website at gro.jhu.edu and our [GRO Facebook](#). Further, join the Facebook group [JHU Homewood Incoming Graduate Students—Fall 2019](#), managed by the Welcome and Guide Chair. We will be hosting welcome events for incoming students this fall which will be posted to the Facebook group, or feel free to fill out this [Google Form](#) to get updates via email. Further questions on welcome events can be emailed to welcome.gro.jhu@gmail.com.

The GRO serves as a one-stop-shop for policy, advocacy, and social initiatives on campus. If you have a unique academic problem, idea to improve campus, or event you’d like to plan, contact us! If we can’t help you ourselves, we will find someone who can. Ultimately, we want to provide a sense of community for graduate students through the organization of social functions and to support graduate students in need of assistance. Some of our most popular events and resources are:

- A weekly coffee hour (Monday afternoons, 3PM, Levering Lounge)
- A happy hour every other week (Thursday evenings, 6PM, Levering Lounge)
- Off-campus and inter-campus events such as happy hours, game nights, graduate formals, hiking trips, sporting events, scavenger hunts, a summer sports league, etc.
- Monetary grants for graduate students traveling to conferences
- Funding for graduate student events and assisting with new graduate student group formation

We hope to see you at our events in the coming year(s)!