



From: GRO Co-Chairs Michael Wilkinson and Ali Siddiqui

Date: September 11, 2023

Subject: A Welcome Letter to The Johns Hopkins University Graduate Students from the GRO

To all incoming KSAS and WSE Graduate Students,

On behalf of the Graduate Representative Organization (GRO), congratulations on joining the Johns Hopkins community! Graduate life at Hopkins is a rich and rewarding experience that will shape your life for years to come. We welcome you to the campus and want to give you a little bit of information about the GRO and what we do. The GRO is the primary representative group for both PhD and Masters students on the Homewood campus and consists of two bodies: a General Council (GC) of representatives selected by each department on the Homewood campus and an Executive Board which is elected by the GC. Members of GRO act as liaisons between graduate students and the administration, host and support social events, and advocate for graduate student needs and concerns.

You are welcome to attend GRO General Council meetings! These meetings *usually* occur every other Monday at 6PM in Olin Hall 305 with a hybrid Zoom option. Agendas for the meetings are sent out one week before the meeting. Our GC 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](#) and our social media pages. You can join the **GRO Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter pages @jhugro**. Questions on upcoming events can be emailed to gro@jhu.edu.

If you have a unique academic problem, idea to improve campus, or an 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
- A bi-weekly happy hour

- Off-campus and inter-campus events such as happy hours, game nights, inter-campus graduate formals, 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 acknowledge that we are living in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are committed to providing our graduate community with continued social programming and support, both virtually and in socially-distant settings.

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

Sincerely,

Michael & Ali

Website: <https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/gro/>

E-Mail: gro@jhu.edu

Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn: @jhugro