

Anjali Desai

**SUO ✓ GENERAL
ELECTION 2023**

**College of Graduate Studies Student
Representative Candidate**





I am Anjali Desai, a current graduate student pursuing my Master's degree in Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies (IGS) under the theme of Sustainability. I am grateful and excited to announce my candidacy in the SUO elections this year for the position of the College of Graduate Studies representative.

My previous experiences of being positioned in a leadership role as a part of the J.P Morgan Graduate cohort of 2020 and diplomatic experience working as a student representative with the Consulate of (PR) China and Bangladesh in India, has inspired me to apply the learnings to drive change and address the unique challenges faced by the graduate students on campus.

Throughout my time here at UBC Okanagan, I have had the pleasure of interacting with various campus partners and community members in capacity of conducting research as a part of the Sustainability Scholar program, as the News writer for The Phoenix, and engaging in climate action initiatives like the "Fridays For Future" and the City of Kelowna Youth Working group.

I would love to utilize this opportunity to inspire the leaders in the fellow students around me and entrench their voices to pave the way for advocacy in matters which impact the personal as well as the academic experiences of the Graduate students on campus and provide a platform to voice their concerns and take tangible steps to address the sustainability and accessibility challenges and much more on campus.

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Platform Points:

1. Go Green: Transit and Waste
 - Support the ongoing student initiatives to work with the transit workers, the city of Kelowna and the University to make bus routes more accessible leading to the reduction in personal vehicle travel emissions.
 - Reduce the waste stream generated on campus by providing discounts and incentives on the use of reusable cups and containers.
2. Graduate Study Spaces and Centralized Discussion Forum
 - Address the issue of scarcity of dedicated graduate study spaces on campus.
 - Explore the idea of establishing a Graduate Student Forum for UBCO Graduate students, to facilitate better interaction between students from different faculties and provide opportunities for networking and mutual knowledge sharing through conferences, seminars, dialogues and talking circles.
3. Healthy and Affordable food
 - Promote the consumption and availability of locally sourced organic foods by organizing weekly farmer's market.
 - Facilitate the availability of healthier and affordable food options on campus throughout the year, especially during the summer.
4. Accessibility and Inclusion
 - Provide a platform to voice the challenges faced by the differently-abled and LGBTQ+ community members on campus and provide tangible solutions.
 - Address the need for dedicated study spaces for students having accessibility needs.

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