



## Get to know University Councillor Sari Ohsada, BSc'19:



BSc (Environmental Science, Global Development Studies) '19, Canmore AB, Banff National Parks Attendant. QUAA Calgary Branch Volunteer. Currently completing MSc (Environmental Change & Management) at University of Oxford. STUDENT EXPERIENCE: Trip Leader to Ecuador ('19), Queen's Cares Program. Communications Intern ('17), UNDP Kosovo. Environmental Program Officer ('17-18), Environment and Climate Change Canada. Killam Fellow at Arizona State University ('16-17), Fulbright Canada. NSERC-USRA Researcher ('16), PEARL Biological Lab at Queen's. AT QUEEN'S: Rotary International, Queen's Engineers Without Borders, Queen's International Affairs Association, Queen's Backing Action on Climate Change, Queen's Japanese Program, Queen's Karate Club. Current term: 2024

### 1. Why did you select Queen's University?

The courses offered at Queen's were perfect for my interest, but the great reputation from my high school peers who have already been there were very encouraging to boost my confidence. They loved being there, especially for the beautiful campus and active student community.

### 2. Most memorable moment as a student?

Traveling to Havana, Cuba, for two weeks with a class of 25 students and 2 professors as part of a Global Development Studies course. It was astonishing to get a glimpse of the Cuban way of life and to bear witness of the socioeconomic and political reality written and expressed in academic journals and Cuban music and culture. This opportunity would not have been possible without the help of the Department and dedicated individuals.

### 3. What is your job?

I am an MSc student in Environmental Change and Management at the University of Oxford (Wolfson College), where I study peace and conflict issues through a broad appreciation of the local and global processes of environmental change, and the stakeholders involved in environmental management. Upon graduation, I hope to return to Canada to contribute to solidarity projects that address COVID-19, climate change, and political polarisation.

### 4. What's the best career advice you've ever received?

There are no shortcuts in life.

**5. What's the career highlight you're most proud of?**

Working for the United Nations Development Programme in Kosovo. As an intern, I traveled to five municipalities with the communications team and published two articles based on my interviews with a local ethnologist in Pristina and rural producers and entrepreneurs in Štrpce.

**6. How do you spend your free time?**

I love to connect with people who have diverse backgrounds. They always inspire me with new ideas and make me humble. And it is simply fun!

If I am not having a coffee or not Zooming with people, I would be hiking in the Rocky Mountains near my hometown.

**7. What motivated you to stand for election for University Council?**

I got in touch with a Queen's University Councillor to ask her experiences being on Council. She told me while there are limitations of influence as a Councillor, she described how it has been an eye-opening journey for her. Her realistic input then motivated me to get in touch with as many Queen's alumni I knew, asking them what changes they want to see for our University. The month of campaigning turned into an incredible experience reconnecting with the people who helped me throughout my Queen's journey, and for that I am deeply grateful to pass their knowledge and represent their voices as a new Councillor.

**8. Your aspirations for being on University Council?**

There is a great need for younger voices on University Council, and for different generations to understand and respond to them in meaningful, concrete ways. I aspire to be the voice of these students in this ever-changing world while keeping the impressive Queen's heritage.

**9. Anything else you would like to add/highlight?**

I am honoured and excited to begin my term as a University Councillor. Please keep in touch!

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