



SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES
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Dear Graduate Students,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you—those who are returning to Queen's and those who have newly joined the School of Graduate Studies. I hope that, despite the challenges we have faced over the last several months, you were able to take time to enjoy the summer with family and friends. This academic year will certainly feel different than what any of us have experienced before. Yet, I trust that it will afford new opportunities for us to grow as a campus community. The landscape of higher education has changed, but the university has come together, working hard to provide you with the same high quality educational experience that you expect from Queen's.

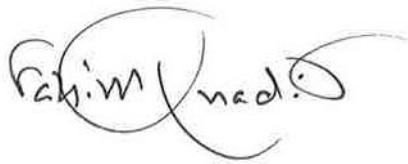
At the School of Graduate Studies, we are committed to nurturing the success of our graduate students. To help realize this mission, we offer a range of support for your academic, professional, and personal well-being and development. In partnership with other units across the university, we will continue to offer [professional and academic development workshops](#) and other programming, such as the [PhD-Community Initiative](#), [3 Minute Thesis](#) competition, [writing retreats](#), and [Grad Chat](#). These opportunities are meant to complement your academic journey, creating openings for you to expand your skillset and build community regardless of the path you choose to take after the completion of your degree. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of the wealth of such programs at your disposal.

Building a robust, supportive and inclusive community remains another key priority of SGS—particularly in light of renewed conversations on racial injustice. At a time when discussions around issues of race, ethnicity, and culture are gaining new momentum in the world around us, Queen's is taking a hard look at how such issues are playing out on our own campus. I seek to address these challenges head on and have committed to an evaluation of how better to address and incorporate equity, diversity, inclusivity, and indigeneity within SGS and its operations. I invite you to participate in the ongoing dialogue to help us build an inclusive campus and take any necessary steps to make Queen's part of the solution to challenges being tackled globally. To that end, if you have any ideas that you would like to share, please do not hesitate to reach out via email at sgscomms@queensu.ca. Your voice matters, and we are here to listen and to support.

Let me also take this opportunity to remind you that Queen's will continue to offer campus [Counselling Services](#) through Student Wellness Services for anyone facing challenges that require confidential support. There are counsellors specifically dedicated to graduate students who are here to support you in addressing a range of challenges, including resolving personal difficulties, dealing with crises, and coping with distressing situations related to your personal or academic life.

I hope the guidance above proves to be helpful in spurring your thinking on how to make the most of an unconventional—but no less promising—academic season. You have my best wishes for a productive and rewarding academic year.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fahim Quadir". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Fahim" and last name "Quadir" clearly legible.

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