



SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES
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August 30, 2021

Dear Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows,

On behalf of the School of Graduate Studies, I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all new and returning students, faculty and staff. I hope that you were able to take time to enjoy the summer with family and friends and are looking forward to the new academic year that is upon us.

A year ago, I wrote to you expressing my belief that the 2020-2021 experience at Queen's would look different, yet still afford new opportunities for growth as a community. In reflecting on the experiences of the past year and the changed landscape of teaching and learning, I feel deeply proud of our SGS members for having bravely navigated the multitude of challenges we faced. You have inspired me with your creative adaptations to research plans and methods and program delivery, your resilience and, critically, your willingness to support one another. While the forthcoming year, much like the last, is one with uncertainties, my confidence in our ability to continue to grow, evolve, and operate with empathy and integrity has not wavered. The university will continue to work exceptionally 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 your success.

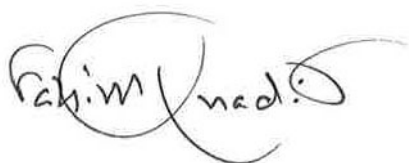
At SGS, it is our mission to create a learning and research culture that inspires graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to lead the way towards a better future. One of the many ways in which we seek to advance this mission is through our innovative programming. This includes professional and academic development workshops, the [PhD-Community Initiative](#), virtual and in-person [writing retreats](#), opportunities to showcase your research, such as [Grad Chat](#) and [3 Minute Thesis](#), and our newly launched [Individual Development Plan](#). These opportunities have been designed to complement your degree progress and goals, as well as to create openings for you to expand your skillset and build community. I hope that you will take the time to consider these avenues to connect with fellow students and take advantage of the resources available to support your academic, professional, and personal development.

Building an inclusive and collaborative community remains a key priority of SGS. We will continue, alongside the University as a whole, to invite the often difficult and uncomfortable,

but remarkably important, conversations on issues on campus that must be redressed in order to foster a culture of inclusivity at Queen's and embed equity, diversity, inclusivity, and indigeneity as cornerstones of SGS and its operations. In the last year, we introduced a new Graduate Inclusivity Fellows program to this end and evaluated our core programming with EDII in mind. If you would like to participate in the ongoing dialogue to help build an inclusive campus and enable Queen's to become part of the solution to global EDII challenges, please email sgscomms@queensu.ca. Your voice matters, and we will be here to listen to you and offer you our unfaltering support.

You have my best wishes for a year of tremendous personal, professional and academic growth.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fahim Quadir". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "F" and a stylized "Q".

Fahim Quadir, PhD
Vice-Provost and Dean
School of Graduate Studies
Professor of Global Developmental Studies