



GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

University of Southern California

Fall Newsletter

WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings from Graduate Student Government!

To both returning and new students, it is my pleasure as President of Graduate Student Government (GSG) to welcome you to the University of Southern California for another exciting academic year. GSG has been hard at work over the summer planning out numerous events, programs, and initiatives to help make

your experience here as a graduate student the best it can be, and we are excited to share with you some of the fruits of our labor.

This newsletter will provide an overview of GSG, explain some of the programs we administer, and describe opportunities for students to get involved. While no single organization serving over 20,000 students can meet everyone's needs all the time, our goal is to provide a diverse array of benefits to our equally diverse graduate student body. There's a little something for everyone, so please read on to find out how GSG can help you!

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, our contact information is on the last page of this newsletter. There, you can also sign up to receive our weekly newsletter so you can stay up-to-date on everything GSG has to offer.

We hope to see you see or hear from you soon, and as always, fight on!

Sincerely,

Kris Coombs, Jr.

USC Graduate Student Government
President, 2017-2018

GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

GSG 101

Graduate Student Government *is an organization run entirely by your fellow graduate students, and is responsible for the proper management of use of the Graduate Student Activities Fee.* The Executive Board of GSG has over two dozen members, and this board of leaders works closely with administrators and other student leaders and organizations to sponsor social events, advance interests, and administer programs that target and benefit the entire graduate student population.

To help guide the E-board and to assist in communicating with the hundreds of graduate programs that USC has to offer, GSG also has a Senate made up of over 70 student representatives from the

various schools and departments across USC. The Senate meets monthly to discuss different graduate student issues, and votes on how GSG should best move forward.

If you'd like to learn more about the Senate or the Executive Board, please contact our Director of Elections and Recruitment at gsg@usc.edu. Please note that Senators are sent by the individual departments or schools, so if you'd like to learn how to become a senator, please contact the student organization that represents your program to learn about their selection processes.

USCGSG

GSG'S ACTIVITIES CAN BROADLY BE DIVIDED INTO THREE PILLARS: ADMINISTRATION, ADVOCACY, AND PROGRAMMING.

- The **Administration team** handles the operation of GSG as well as the many services GSG provides, such as reduced-cost public transportation U-Pass stickers, supplemental travel grants for academic conferences, and funding for graduate student organizations to host their own events.

- The **Advocacy team** meets with USC administrators to find ways to address the various needs that graduate students have in an ever-changing University environment, ranging from issues of diversity, equity, inclusion, and access to issues such as mental and physical health.

- The **Programming team** plans events to provide an opportunity for graduate students from various disciplines to get to know one another, such as through happy hours, community service events, and tailgates.



SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT FUNDING SOURCES

GSG FUNDING SOURCES

GSG has a number of different funding sources available to students for a variety of uses. If you have questions about any of our funding sources that cannot be answered by the appropriate director, please contact our Vice President of Administration at gsgvpadm@usc.edu.



STUDENT ORGANIZATION FUNDING

GSG provides limited funds for Recognized Student Organizations (RSOs), and the processing of these funding requests is handled by the GSG Finance team. Funding is primarily available to Umbrella, Sub-umbrella, and Independent Graduate Student RSOs, but other RSOs with graduate student membership may also apply. On our website, students can find finance updates, application forms, an online orientation, and finance guides to help with event planning. RSOs interested in funding must complete the online finance orientation and submit budget requests at least six weeks in advance of their events. Once approved, expense requests (which detail the payment method) must be submitted at least three weeks in advance. To stay on top of updates and opportunities, please review the Organizational Funding, Finance Policies, and Finance Orientation pages on our website, and follow the GSG Facebook page. Please direct any questions and concerns to the GSG Director of Finance - Education and Approvals at gsgfinea@usc.edu, or to the HSC Director of Finance gsghscfi@usc.edu if you are primarily located at the HSC Campus.

TRAVEL GRANT

This program provides limited reimbursements for students participating in conferences. Reimbursement requests may only be made for conference registration fees, airfare, and lodging expenses. Grant applications are approved on a first-come-first-served basis, subject to qualifying criteria and availability of funds. GSG will reimburse up to 50% of the combined cost of these expenses, with a yearly \$1,000 limit per applicant. The program is intended to be a last-resort source of funding, and students must demonstrate that they have exhausted other possible sources (department or advisor funds, external grants, etc.). Updated guidelines and policies will be available on the GSG website in the coming weeks, and all question and concerns not answered there may be directed to the GSG Director of Travel Grants—Education & Approvals at gsgtgea@usc.edu.



GSG PROGRAMS & RESOURCES



METRO U-PASS PROGRAM

The Universal College Student Transit Pass (U-Pass) program upgrades your USC student ID card into a transit pass. To qualify for the U-Pass program, you must be a graduate student enrolled in at least six units. Passes must be purchased online and picked up in person at the GSG office. Once you have purchased a U-Pass, you will receive a sticker featuring smart-chip technology to place on your USC student ID card. Passes are good for unlimited rides on Metro rail and bus lines for the entire semester.

Fall semester passes will cost \$107, and the passes will be valid from Aug. 14, 2017 to Jan. 21, 2018. Sales will begin on Aug. 14.

Please visit our website at <http://gsg.usc.edu/resources/tap-program> for additional information.

CHILDCARE SUBSIDY GRANTS PROGRAM

GSG provides \$1,400 awards to eligible students to assist with childcare costs. Students must be enrolled in a full-time graduate program at USC, and must provide proof of their child's dependency and enrollment in a licensed childcare facility. Students are eligible for a maximum of two semesters of support.

Although applications for Fall 2017 are now closed, the application process for Spring 2018 will open in September and will be announced via our weekly newsletter (sign-up information on the last page).

If you have further questions please contact the GSG Director of Campus Affairs at gsgcamp@usc.edu.

EMERGENCY FUND FOR UNDOCUMENTED AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

This program was originally established to assist fellow graduate students negatively impacted by the federal travel ban. Through this program, GSG will provide limited funding students requiring additional support for visa renewal fees, DACA renewal fees, legal fees, and other costs associated with emergency travel and accommodation. Students must be enrolled in a USC graduate/professional degree program and must provide financial documentation. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.

Due to the ever-changing political climate and the needs of graduate students, Emergency Fund policies are likely to change in order to provide assistance to students most in need. Updates will be posted on our website.

If you have further questions please contact the GSG Director of Campus Affairs at gsgcamp@usc.edu.

GSG EVENTS & INITIATIVES

GSG EVENTS

GSG is proud to sponsor a variety of events this upcoming semester. Major events this semester include:

- **Back to School Happy Hour**
The Edmondson Faculty Center @ HSC
Thursday, August 31 | 5:30-7:30pm
- **L.A. Dodgers Game**
Wednesday, September 6
- **Back to School Happy Hour**
The Edison @ DTLA
Thursday, September 7
- **USC Football Tailgate w/ La Taquiza**
Saturday, September 16

You can also expect to see the following events:

- Outdoor and indoor group exercise classes
- Community service events targeting LA's homeless community and at-risk youth
- Singles Mixer
- Disneyland

In addition, GSG sponsors dozens of events put on by other graduate student and University organizations. Information about these events will be sent out in our weekly newsletter. If you have questions or ideas for future events, please contact Vice President of Programming at gsgvppro@usc.edu.

BE AN ADVOCATE



GSG ADVOCACY INITIATIVES

Our advocacy team reaches out to graduate students to better understand the current challenges they are facing in order to work with administrators to provide the support students need to complete their education and thrive at USC. Upcoming projects include:

- E-mail and official USC name changing protocols to support professional communication efforts of international, trans*, and recently married students
- Assisting students in understanding renter's rights in California and various parts of Los Angeles
- Diversity, equity, access, and inclusion barriers in University admissions as well as in representation among faculty (both tenure and non-tenure), staff, and administrators
- Resources for graduate students dealing with sexual assault and sexual or gender-based violence
- Improved access to mental health support and care
- Creating a more environmentally friendly and sustainable campus

GSG Executive Board members participate in many University committees tasked with addressing these various issues. If you would like to get involved, have questions, or have a suggestion for an issue GSG should tackle, please contact our Vice President of Advocacy at gsgvpadv@usc.edu.

CONTACT INFORMATION

In order to stay up-to-date on GSG policies, programs, and initiatives, we invite you to sign up for our weekly newsletter at the following link: <http://eepurl.com/cfthgD>. The newsletter is our primary way of actively contacting the graduate student body, so we hope you'll sign up!

Additionally, GSG is moving offices this semester! While our base of operations has been in TCC 224 (down the hall from Lemonade), we are moving upstairs to SKS 410 with the Office of Campus Activities. We anticipate that the move will be completed by the end of the Fall 2017 semester.

Finally, we hope you follow us on our various social media platforms for additional news and fun! Find us at USCGSG on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



Subscribe to our Newsletters: <http://eepurl.com/cfthgD>

UNIVERSITY PARK CAMPUS (UPC)

Ronald Tutor Campus Center
Steven & Kathryn Sample Hall
(SKS) 410 - Los Angeles, CA 90089
Hours: M-F 9am-6pm
Phone: 213-740-5649 *
Email: gsgcomm@usc.edu

HEALTH SCIENCES CAMPUS (HSC)

1969 Zonal Avenue
(Next to Starbucks)
Los Angeles, CA 90033
Hours: M-F: 12pm-1pm
Phone: 323-442-1257 *
Email: gsghsc@usc.edu

Phones only staffed during office hours



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