Hello Graduate Students of University of Calgary family. My name is Kartik Sehajpal and I am running to be your next VP Academic!

For the past one year, I have had the honour of serving as member of Governance Committee for GSA (thank you!). I have volunteered across campus and represented graduate students on university committees. I am passionate and concerned about improving academic matters, that mean the most for our Graduate students’ community of University of Calgary. I am the right person to advocate for you by fostering an inclusive, diverse and accessible support to students. Serving my role as VP Academic following will be my main goals for the graduate students.

1. **Student Internships**

   I will be making the possibility of taking Co-op/Internship for international students a reality by coordinating with International students’ services at University. International students can then take up co-op or internship as a part/ optional of their degree requirements in the company of their choice. Students can learn and apply the knowledge gained from their study on solving real world challenges. This will even help students in industrial networking and getting insights of Canadian work-culture. Ultimately, it will prepare student to get job-ready right after they graduate from University.

2. **Student – Industry Tie ups**

   I will be forming a committee which will be responsible for Student- Industry tie up. This committee will focus on periodic interactions between students and industry representatives. Interactions will result in student securing a relevant project, based on the specific field of study related to the student. This will not be part of internship project but will help student to take up project for their course they are studying in the University. This committee will in-turn increase the possibility for students to get internship in the industry. Mixer events will help in promoting this idea.
3. On Campus Hiring

I will be coordinating with career services, to focus on bringing more organisations to participate in the career fair (Held in Fall and Winter every year). This will create awareness among students to prepare for their next step in life after graduating. Directing the students in right direction with provision of all support sources (within guidelines) is what my main aim will be while serving the role.

In the end, I would like to say that I had started my journey with the student’s association from grass root level and then, I had worked hard to become a member of governance committee and I am struggling for the position of VP Academic (2019-2020). I am aware about major short comings/loopholes which graduate students face every year, which needs immediate strategy to be worked upon for their improvement/elimination. I will be eliminating academic concerns and will provide my support to students, once I am elected for the VP Academic. Thank you for reading my platform! Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have. (Contact: kartik.sehajpal@ucalgary.ca)