GSA ELECTION
VICE PRESIDENT
STUDENT LIFE
VOTE
ABDULWADOOD AL-ALI
Who Am I?

My name is Abdulwadood Al-Ali, I am second year PhD student at the Department of Electrical and computer Engineering. I have been at UofC for 4 years now as I got my MSc in Electrical Engineering. I am running for VP student life position, as I believe that with my 2 years experience at the GSA, I can make sure that the graduate student life has much more to it than research.

What’s My Experience?

- Current chair of the GSA Newcomers and International Students Subcommittee (NISS).
- Member of the GSA Events committee.
- Executive board member of university of Sharjah Student Council (Student union)
- Executive board member at the IEEE Student branch at the University of Sharjah
- Executive board member at the Iraqi culture club for 3 years.

Why should you vote for me?

- **Let’s talk Mental health!**
  *Have you ever felt that you or a friend need help, but you didn’t know where to get it from? Or it was a bit hard for you to go and ask for it? Many of us did at some point in our graduate studies!*

  To tackle this, I will continue working with the wellness center to offer a series of workshops (monthly or bi-weekly), like those currently offered by NISS in collaboration with the wellness center. We will not only spread awareness about mental health, but we will also offer people the chance to chat with the wellness center consultants to break the barriers and know more about the services and the kind of help that’s offered for you as a graduate student.

- **Embrace diversity!**
  *I once read a quote that says, “Diversity is the one true thing we all have in common”. We are blessed to live in a community that not only respect diversity, but also embrace it. Nevertheless, I believe that we can further utilize this diversity that we have at our graduate community. I will be working on some cultural events (like a global day/international students’ week) and themed social gatherings. I will also get the GSA more involved in the diversity week at the university. Those events aim to bring students with different ideas, believes, culture and nationalities together to exchange knowledge and experience.*

- **Getting the GSA Closer to you!**
  *I will continue working on getting the GSA closer to the students since I believe that it is our duty to come and hear from you and instead of waiting for you to approach us. I will continue working on the Building Bridges initiative which was presented last year, and improve on it by making it more often and get the Departmental Graduate Associations (DGAs) more involved in it, so you get to see us everywhere and we get to hear from your more!*  

- **Getting you more involved!**
  *We all have things in common and we would love to be able to have groups based on our research, culture, or special interests. Graduate Student Groups (GSGs) are designed for that, they are just like the student clubs we all loved back in our undergrad years. I will work on the structure of the GSGs and their requirements to make it easier for students to form their own GSG or opt-in the one that they like.*