

LILY JIAQIU CAI FOR EXECUTIVE ACADEMIC OFFICER

My vision: responsible student governance that uphold the academic interests of all graduate students.

I am a 4th year student in the Doctor of Education (EdD) program specializing in Adult Learning, with research focuses on immigrants and sense of belonging development. With a MA in Intercultural Communication and BSc in Biology, I bring interdisciplinary academic experiences and empathy for diverse student pathways. Recognizing the holistic nature of academic journeys and the importance of good governance for all students to succeed, I decided to run for GSA to promote transparent communication, meaningful engagement, and student-centred advocacy.

ACADEMIC AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant <i>Entrepreneurial Thinking Micro-credential</i>	2024 – 2026
Teaching Assistant <i>Werklund and CSM</i>	2023 – 2025
Research Assistant <i>Prairie Ethnocultural Project</i>	2023 – 2024
Researcher <i>Anti-Racism Curriculum Development</i>	2023 – 2024
Treasurer / VP Academic <i>Graduate Programs in Education Student Association</i>	2023 – 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2025 GRC Initiative Award Winner• 2025 Tapestries of Learning Symposium Chair• 2024 & 2025 Werklund Holiday Food Baskets Organizer• 2024 Bylaw Revision Committee Chair	
Strategic Development Coordinator <i>Foothills County Immigration Partnership</i>	2021 – 2023
Board President <i>Calgary Justice Film Festival</i>	2018 – 2023

PRIORITIES AND INITIATIVES

TRANSPARENT COMMUNICATION

- Improve GSA communication transparency and accountability to students
- Enhance graduate student understandings about student governance, advocacy work, how academic decisions are made

MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT

- Organize ongoing events for academic discussions and development, including but not limited to the 2027 Peer Beyond conference and publication
- Create inclusive and accessible opportunities for graduate students to share input and feedback on academic matters that reflect their lived experiences
- Generate innovative opportunities for student participation in GSA

STUDENT-CENTRED ADVOCACY

- Active participation on committees to bring forward student perspectives on policies, program requirements, supervision practices, and academic supports
- Ensure the voices of diverse graduate students are heard by key stakeholders at the University, provincial, and federal levels