



Representative Election Packet

Welcome to the Graduate Student Association (GSA), a student government organization. Each year, 15 elected representatives from each department/program vote on GSA issues, represent graduate student interests in their respective departments, and serve on both GSA and University-wide committees.

This packet contains information about the Graduate Student Association, a description of the role of a "Representative" and nomination forms for office.

Fall 2009 Election Schedule

Nominations Begin	September 16
GSA General Assembly	September 23
Nominations End	September 23
Elections Begin	September 28
Elections End	October 2

Departments/Programs Represented

1. Architecture and Urban Systems
2. Biological Sciences
3. Biomedical Engineering
4. Chemical, Biological, and Pharmaceutical Engineering
5. Chemistry and Environmental Science
6. Civil and Environmental Engineering
7. Computer Science/Bioinformatics
8. Electrical/Computer Engineering and Telecommunication
9. Information Systems
10. Management
11. Materials Science and Engineering
12. Mathematical Sciences and Statistics
13. Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
14. Physics
15. Professional and Technical Communication



Frequently Asked Questions

What is GSA?

The Graduate Student Association at NJIT is a student government organization that represents the graduate students' interests at departmental, University and National levels. As members of the National Association for Graduate and Professional Students (NAGPS), GSA can motivate change in the University as well as in Washington, DC.

What does GSA do for the students?

In addition to acting as a student government, the GSA also sponsors various organizations and events on and off campus. GSA currently funds twelve clubs, exclusively for graduate students. In addition, the GSA sponsors and organizes various social and academic events including research day, Thesis/Dissertation writing workshop, and various trips throughout the year. The GSA also funds other campus initiatives such as The Vector and The Nucleus, the school newspaper and yearbook respectively. Most importantly, GSA prides itself on funding individual graduate students who represent NJIT at conferences across the nation and the world.

What types of offices can I hold at GSA?

Each year, the GSA elects fifteen department representatives, fifteen alternate representatives and six executive board officers.

What does a Representative do?

The Representatives play a crucial role as the primary contact for students in their department. Students bring problems and concerns about a program to the Representative as well as seek advice on academic issues. It is the responsibility of the Representative to then take these concerns to the Department Chairs and/or to the GSA for further deliberation. Representatives also serve as GSA's most active members, serving on various GSA and University committees that make decisions and recommendations.

If elected, what will be expected of me as a Representative?

At a minimum, GSA representatives must hold one feedback session for their program each semester. They also must attend two General Assembly meetings each month (in addition to one or two representative meetings each



semester). Representatives are also expected to become voting members of two committees and hold a minimum of one office hour per week.

I don't think I can be a good Representative because I am a new student.

Since the tenure of most full-time graduate students at NJIT is two years or less, most GSA representatives are new students and do an outstanding job! As a new student, you have great potential to represent your program well and at the same time get to know more students and work closely with faculty in your department.

Will participating in GSA because negatively affect my schoolwork?

Between coursework, research, and careers, graduate student life can become very overwhelming. Time management is a key skill graduates must have to be successful. GSA representatives should expect to spend, on average, 3-5 hours per week on GSA business including office hours, feedback sessions, committee meetings, and GSA meetings and other tasks that might arise throughout the year. If that is manageable in your schedule, GSA is a perfect opportunity to serve your fellow students while further developing indispensable management and leadership skills.

What do I get for serving on GSA?

GSA does not offer monetary compensation to any representatives or officers. However, the fulfilling sentiment of serving your fellow student is unlike any other. Each semester GSA does award a single Representative the title of "Representative of the Year" which comes with a plaque along with a generous gift certificate and our thanks.

Are there any other advantages?

Of course! Representatives are not only working with students in their department, but also with Department Chairs and other key administrators. Strong relationships such as these can be priceless to your career at NJIT.

What will be my term in office?

All representatives are elected for a term of one year and may not serve more than two terms in the same office.

I am interested in becoming a Representative! What do I do?

Fill out the nomination form (<http://gsa.njit.edu/Html/form-election.html>) and



submit it in a sealed envelope marked “GSA – Supervisor of Elections” to the Campus Center Front Desk. Your name will be added to the ballot after verification.

Where can I go for help?

For more information or guidance about becoming a Representative, contact the Vice President of Administration, who is also the Supervisor of Elections.