PRESIDENT OF THE PGC - Sourabh DHOUNCHAK
I am Sourabh Dhounchak, a postgraduate student at department of civil and environmental engineering and pursuing masters in structural engineering. I am running for the position of President of post graduate council of UNSW. I want to play an active role in the ongoing improvement of our university and its many facets by improving and expanding the facilities and opportunities offered to students of the UNSW. I see the position of President as an excellent way to be a part of a team that is involved not only in current students lives but also the bigger picture of leaving a better place for future students. I can deliver a positive plan to improve your campus experience at UNSW with your vote.

PRESIDENT OF THE PGC - Zeeshan TARIQ
Hi, I'm Zeeshan, one of the councilor of PGC 2017.
I have been an active member of PGC for over 6 months. During the last few months, I've helped in events organized by PGC and provided input in areas that concern PGC and the university as a whole. I have made connections across university departments and more importantly great friends.
I am passionate about the advocacy work being carried out by PGC that affects every student at university. I enjoy all the social events organized by PGC. These events, I feel, are imperative for a cohesive and understanding social environment for postgraduates at university. With my previous representative experiences at IMechE and KIC InnoEnergy, I believe I can lead PGC 2018 as the President and build on all the hard work done by the existing council.

VICE PRESIDENT - Fadi ANTOWN
Working as a councillor with the PGC for the past year has given me the opportunity to work with very passionate postgraduate students who advocate for the needs of their peers. As a councillor, I was able to get involved in many events which allowed me to meet so many students and understand the needs of the postgraduates. Because of these experiences, I have been motivated to run for the vice president position. The experience as councillor has also allowed me to understand and appreciate the important work that is done by the PGC. This is important because the role of Vice president is to ensure the team works well. I will motivate the team and support them to ensure the PGC is best prepared to advocate and represent the postgraduate students of UNSW.

VICE PRESIDENT - Gaurav VATS
I introduce myself as a friend, companion, mentor and follower of the UNSW postgraduate community. Being a doctoral student and a member of ‘UNSW University Council’ I very well understand the issues, concerns and priorities of students and am quite familiar with the approaches to deal with them. This is also evident from the experience gained by me at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), where, I served as the general secretary of the student union and the coordinator for trainings and placements. To me, being a part of postgraduate council is not only a moral obligation but also a matter of trust and foresightedness. Given my experience and research accomplishments (‘IEI-Young Engineers Award (2016-17)’, ‘ISCA-Young Scientist Award (2015-16)’ and ‘IIT Bombay Postgraduate Research Award (2014-15)’), I firmly believe that you will not hesitate to support me in enriching the solutions for postgraduate community by shaping the strategic directions of the university towards a better environment in terms of opportunities and skill development.
COURSEWORK STUDENTS OFFICER (Uncontested) - Yo Han LEE
I would like to run for either the Coursework Students Officer and International Students Officer positions representing the UNSW postgraduate students. I have been a Councillor for the PGC UNSW from 1st December 2016 and my last day will be 31st November 2017. I have learned and experienced a lot during my term by being involved deeply with the Office Bearers and other Councillors of the PGC UNSW. I will have studied at the UNSW for 3 years and little more than 6 months by the time I start the job from 1st December 2017. I would like to continue to bring positive values to UNSW Postgraduate students by undertaking the role by focusing on inclusion of all the students as possible to be involved with other fellow students through many events and activities; I too will do my best to create opportunities for all the students.

EQUITY OFFICER (Uncontested) - Arun SAGOTRA
Hi everyone, my name is Arun Sagotra a graduate student at the School of Materials Science and Engineering, UNSW. I am passionate about enhancing the student experience. Personally, I believe that while universities do much to optimise the student experience, even more could be done to make this educational journey an exceptional one. I present myself as a companion, friend and adherent of the UNSW postgraduate council. Recently, I elected as a higher degree research student (Academic Board) UNSW. Prior to this, I elected as a student representative at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), where I tried to solve the problem of the students at the institute level. I believe that you will not hesitate to support me in enhancing the solutions for the postgraduate council by grooving the strategies towards a healthier environment in terms of development and opportunities.

EVENTS OFFICER (Uncontested) - Arslan KHALID
My name is Arslan Khalid, a 3rd Ph.D student from school of Materials science and engineering. I have ability to organise all kind of events. I worked as event organiser during my undergraduate in my department. I worked for postgraduate students as vice president.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS OFFICER - Memoona ARSHAD
As an international, female, postgraduate student from a developing country, thousand of miles away from family and friends, I understand the hurdles associated with being “foreign” to Australia. It was the student support network which guided me through this cultural shock and alien system of education. My past two years at UNSW have been very positive and constructive. I feel now is the time to give back to the community of international students.
As a representative of international students, I would ensure that our community is adequately supported and represented by working with the PGC and the wider university. My goal would be to increase awareness about available services surrounding arriving in Australia, academic support and career development. I also want to take an active stance to improve the engagement of students from diverse backgrounds to combat prevailing prejudices and stereotypes so we can learn and celebrate each other’s cultures.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS OFFICER - Ishpreet Singh CHAWLA
Hi, I’m Ishpreet Singh Chawla, an international Masters of Photovoltaics and Solar Energy Engineering student. I am nominating my name for the position of the International Students Officer at the PGC. I would like to tell you that I might not have much experience but I do have the spirit to serve people. As most of you know, that a huge number of international students are doing post grad courses here at UNSW and hence effective representation is required. As an international student, I have had the same personal experiences of the various problems and inconveniences as all of you out there. So, as a friend of all you international PG students, I would like to be your common voice on various issues and hence ensure that all of us have a more pleasant study and social environment, here at UNSW.
Thank You!
RESEARCH STUDENTS OFFICER - Uttam KUMAR
I am a Materials Engineering graduate from IIT Delhi and currently pursuing PhD at school of Materials Science and Engineering. After completion of my graduation, I won Future Unlimited scholarship (out of 37,000 students from 190 countries) to pursue a master degree at UNSW. I have been actively involved in a variety of mentorship and student engagement activities at IIT Delhi and UNSW in various capacities. My involvement in the Cultural Mentoring program at UNSW was recognized by the ‘Most Inspirational Mentor Award’ in 2015 and I was invited to share my experience with 1000+ students at Lord Mayor’s Welcome to International Students at Town Hall.

Being a postgraduate student, I can very well relate to the issues my fellow postgraduate friends may face. I believe that with my academic and vast volunteering experience, I am well equipped to support them in making their time at UNSW a memorable one.

RESEARCH STUDENTS OFFICER - Steve YEONG
My name is Steve Yeong and I’m self-nominating a position on the UNSW PGC. I graduated from UTS with a Bachelor of Business (First Class Honours with University Medal) in July 2016. I specialised in Economics and Econometrics which gave me the tools required to write my honours thesis on the 2014 NSW Alcohol Reforms (Lockout Laws). I was the first find a significant displacement of alcohol related assaults into Newtown from the city as a result of the policy. After graduating I started working at the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) as a Senior Research Officer. The most interesting project I have worked on was an evaluation of the 2015 NSW Domestic Violence Evidence-in-Chief Reforms on conviction and guilty plea rates for Domestic Violence assaults in NSW.

WOMEN’S OFFICER (Uncontested) - Emma GIBSON
Hi, I’m Emma. You may have already met me: I’m the PGC 2017 Vice President and I was the 2016 International Officer.

Over the past two incredible years, I have become involved in representing postgraduate students both at our university and across Australia. In particular, my passion for representing and supporting women has grown following my active participation and advocacy work regarding consent and assault, most recently at Parliament House.

I’ve built strong connections within the university, which I would like to continue to build upon to enhance the lives of our woman-identifying students. I want to encourage all postgraduate women to take up new opportunities, empower themselves and support others.

Over the past two years, I have learnt and grown as a representative. I am to familiar in dealing with delicate and personal situations without judgment; I’m always welcoming and happy to take time to talk and resolve issues.