

Chiara Avancini

PhD in Psychology

*Application for Graduate Student Representative
on the Council of the School of the Biological Sciences*



The Council is responsible for the financial and strategic management of the School of the Biological Science. I am motivated to work alongside with the other members of the Council to ensure that graduate students' needs and priorities will be met at a School level.

My experience of student councils includes being social officer for the Gates Cambridge Scholar Council 2015-2016. While the obvious aim of such a position was to organize leisure events, several different aspects came into play. Firstly, I had to tailor events that would foster networking and connections between students with the ultimate goal of building a strong and vibrant community. Special care was put into supporting gender, cultural, and religious diversity. Secondly, the position came with the responsibility of dealing with a substantial amount of money; budgeting and resource allocation was a key aspect of such work. Thirdly, as part of the council I was involved in the decision process whenever policy changes were put forward by the executives or by the Trust. Finally, I served as Election Officer in 2016 on the same council. My duty was to ensure that elections were run smoothly and transparently.

The Cambridge graduate community is known for its active interdisciplinary exchange and its diverse pool of students. I believe that the skills I have developed through my previous positions make me a valuable candidate for representing graduate students coming from different backgrounds, both cultural and academic.