CONTEXT:
The University of Waterloo Graduate Student Association (GSA) is issuing several short-term research contracts to support the operations of the GSA Council.

The GSA Council is the body responsible for determining the official positions of the GSA as they relate to academic and political representation of uWaterloo Graduate Students. Council’s operations are regulated by GSA By-Law 7.

REQUIREMENTS:
The research topics listed in this document all have the same required deliverables. In order to receive payment, the required deliverables must be completed to the satisfaction of the GSA Vice President.

The requirements are as follows:
- Coordination meetings with GSA Vice President (~2 hours)
- Written report (5 – 10 pages not including bibliography/appendices, single spaced, 10 Arial, Chicago citation)
- PowerPoint presentation to GSA Council (10 – 15 minutes)

FORMAT:
All written reports and PowerPoint presentations must use the following format, modeled after public sector briefing note templates:
1. Purpose
2. Issue
3. Background
4. Key Considerations
5. Conclusions and Recommendations to GSA Council

RESEARCH TOPICS:
- Council governance models ($600)
- OSAP + SCI ($500)
- International graduate student issues ($500)

TIMELINE:
Research contracts are to be issued in February and completed between April and June (timing is flexible).

PUBLISHING NOTE:
The reports and presentation will be the property of the GSA, and will be posted on the GSA website.

APPLICATIONS:
Resumes/CVs, along with a brief statement of interest (2-3 paragraphs), should be sent to gsa-vp@uwaterloo.ca by **February 19, 2020 at 11:59PM**. Please specify which research topic you are apply for – and use the subject line “GSA Research Contract Application”.

OVERVIEW OF TOPICS

COUNCIL GOVERNANCE MODELS ($600):
The GSA Council and Board of Directors both operate using Robert’s Rules of Order. However, this governance process has been criticized as inefficient, as well as unsupportive of the GSA’s efforts to engage with the wider graduate student community. Accordingly, a review of alternative governance models applicable to the GSA Council and Board would be supportive for future operations.

*Research and recommendations are required on this topic in order to assist the GSA Council and Board with determining superior governance models focused on productivity and student engagement.*

OSAP + SCI ($500):
Research is required on the Government of Ontario’s recent introduction of changes to the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP), as well as the Student Choice Initiative (SCI). Research should focus on how changes to provincial post-secondary education policy has impacted graduate students within Ontario, and should provide an assessment of litigation against the SCI.

*Research and recommendations are required on this topic in order to assist the GSA Council with supporting existing political positions – and to support dialogue between the GSA, uWaterloo administration, and members of the Government of Ontario.*

INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT ISSUES ($500)
The University of Waterloo is home to a large number of international graduate students. International graduate students may face challenges with academia, increased student fees, language barriers, mental health, social integration, etc.

*Research and recommendations are required on issues faced by international graduate students at uWaterloo, and how the GSA can provide focused services to ensure these students succeed within and outside of their studies.*