

**From:** GISA Communications gisa@graduateinstitute.ch  
**Subject:** Platforms: GISA Spring Elections Candidates  
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**To:** GISA The Graduate Initiative gisa.thegraduate@graduateinstitute.ch



### Alexa Burk for GISA President

I'm Alexa Burk, 2<sup>nd</sup> year PhD candidate of International History, and I would like to serve you in the position of GISA President.

My platform will be an extension of the one I've been building on campus for the last 1.5 years. It's the kind of platform where, when advocacy was needed, I founded the IHEID Parent Initiative and created the first "IHEID student parent guide" which provides long requested information to student parents. Where I saw community action was necessary, I worked with the VP for PhD's to disseminate a statistic infographic on the "facts about the new student residence." I'm proud of the stance many IHEID initiatives and students subsequently took, which supported GISA negotiations for lowered housing costs. As with the statistics I believe that honest and open communication about our shared experience at IHEID unifies us as a community we are proud to share. This is why I developed the findings of GISA's microaggression survey from last year into the **microaggression campaign** for Gender and Diversity month. The series was engaged by 8000 people throughout Switzerland and spread to University of Geneva and University of Zurich campuses.

Most recently, with the COVID-19 crisis I created the **Solidarity Initiative** thread on our Facebook group. With the support of the Welfare Committee, we then put our heads together and created the institutes COVID-19 mutual aid network.

Praxis and inclusivity are my foundations, and I hope my record at IHEID shows my willingness to take action when necessary, lean into the support and strength of our wonderful community when needed, and provide the tools and space for others to also take the lead. I am a community maker, an information disseminator, an avid researcher, and a wholehearted "leader from the back."

While not an exhaustive list due to the word limit on platforms, here are some big goals I'd like to achieve:

- 1) **Reduce the cost of student housing** and encourage the allowance of 10-month leases.
- 2) **Reduce cost of meals at the cafeteria:** The price of the plat de jour is on average 5 chf more at our cafeteria than for the **same exact plate** at the University of Geneva. Novae runs them both.
- 3) **Increase access (and transparency) to scholarships and financial aid.** I have a comprehensive understanding of the Institute's finances. The new Director will certainly propose some funding reform and this is a perfect chance to advocate for what students have consistently requested for 8 years.

Further goals include on campus amenities for students, increased French classes and bilingual communications, increased engagement with the student body, and the creation of a "state of the institute" report to be given to the new Director in September on behalf of student interests. I look forward to the debates where I can go into more specific solutions to the goals of my presidency. 😊 **Much respect and solidarity, my fellow colleagues!**

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### Sargun Kaur Lalia for GISA President

Hello everyone!

I hope you and your loved ones are safe and healthy. These unprecedented times have been trying but I do hope everyone manages to find a ray of sunshine in the midst of it all.

My name is Sargun. A few quick points about me: I am a first-year MIA student who loves cooking, making Spotify playlists and dancing to them, and Bollywood. In a leap of faith, I moved to Geneva from a little town in India called Chandigarh last year. Luckily, I have found myself loving every moment of my new life. IHEID has given me many experiences and friendships for which I am extremely grateful. I have decided to run for GISA President as I am passionate about recreating these opportunities – and much more – for the student body.

I am passionate about elevating individuals and communities through bottom-up initiatives. I have experience in this regard. In Chandigarh, founded a Human Rights and Legal Awareness campaign in my hometown, worked with an NGO in Jammu (India) which rehabilitates women and children affected by militancy. I also served as the Youth Ambassador for Sustainable Development at a Geneva-based non-profit which promotes bottom-up leadership in developing countries like Zambia and the Philippines.

Incorporating this philosophy, I want to establish student-led reading and writing groups to promote intellectual exchange and cross-learning. I would also like to set up an annual IHEID Event wherein members of the student community will have the opportunity to organise and lead different segments (like art exhibits, open mics, panel discussions, art exhibits etc.) to celebrate the diverse IHEID Community.

In this current situation, we are all discovering and exploring new ways to learn, work, and connect. If elected, I will focus on ways to strengthen and reintegrate our student body as we emerge out of the crisis. I will focus on the question of securing greater career and networking opportunities within these new challenging conditions.

With your support, I vow to continue the amazing work that GISA is already doing and help our student body thrive.

#### **Kingdom Fungai Karuwo for GISA President**

Life at IHEID, to say the least, has and continues to be a total surprise, albeit a beautiful one. Dwelling on what I have done, archived and acquired will be to render and indeed undermine the hundreds of equally amazing stories which are the lived experiences of the diverse population at IHEID because I think everyone's experience warrants them to be their own leader. To bid, therefore, to lead others is quite a hefty endeavor but one I nevertheless wish to undertake.

Our experiences and ideas make us who we are; unique, rare, special and valuable. The few who get chosen to represent the hundreds **must**—in my opinion—be prepared to listen to individual needs than they are keen to propose anything they think is best. The experience of being ignored over issues that matter to us in our ways is generally unbearable to us —when ignored, we often feel outraged. The electorate is often seduced into believing that those running for positions of power have the best to say and do. Seldom is this the case—a brief acquaintance with the state of affairs in world politics would be overwhelmingly demonstrative of this fact. Therefore, if honored to serve as GISA President, I am prepared to **listen**.

My brief but very meaningful encounters with various people on and off campus have inspired me to imagine a student leadership which, above other values is not only concerned about to change on campus. I imagine a probability to explore new horizons to promote and celebrate our diversities. Leadership which is consistently in consultation with those they represent is a good step towards a successful realization of such a vision. It is desirable, therefore, to prioritize, at all times, the furtherance of ideas which make one's IHEID an experience worthy of leaving our different countries and homes to walk into the glass building motivated and inspired every day.

I recognize that my aspiration for the leadership of the nature I describe also requires the capacity to action them successfully. To this effect, I present to you two skills I have acquired and mastered; strategy and articulation. Chess, a sport usually involving great patience in planning and careful orchestration of a progressive plan, has taught me the art of being determined to the end to realize a goal successfully. While competitive debate, in which I excelled specifically in speaking and reasoning on numerous competitions (e.g World Universities Debate Championships WUDC and Pan African Universities Debate Championships PANS), taught me that it is not only good ideas that matter, but certainly how they are packaged, argued and delivered. The future of IHEID students relies on both leadership that listens to plan and that actions the plans effectively. Plans to argue for cheaper student housing, cheaper mensa meals, re-engagement with what diversity should mean both in Curricula and teaching, support for students with family are all crucial issues, one we should wish to be well articulated and reasoned for the best of outcomes within a reasonable time frame. For more information about me and my campaign please visit the website: <https://www.king4gisapresident2020.com>. Know your leader! Talk to them personally!

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#### **Luise Garleff for GISA Treasurer**

Hello everyone,

I am a first-year MDEV master candidate and my interest in becoming treasurer of GISA comes from my drive to engage with the student body of the IHEID. Personally, I have been very much enjoying my experience studying at the IHEID. While I value the tremendous diversity such an international environment provides, I also acknowledge the difficulties that come with it – particularly the necessity of leaving no one behind. Representing the student community in a holistic way has to be the top priority so that each and every person feels included, seen, and actually represented, which poses an immense challenge to GISA. I want to engage with the specific challenges this poses and thus decided to get involved with the IHEID student politics.

My first involvement for the student community was in my Bachelor when I lent a hand to international scholarship holders to find housing, organize their lives and navigate their way in an unfamiliar country and very different culture. At the University of Lüneburg, I came to appreciate the small community and the compelling, inspiring and vibrant student life — characteristics that are also present at the Graduate Institute. Since the beginning of last semester, many new initiatives have been founded which really exemplifies the motivation and commitment of the student community to stand up for their social and environmental values, as well as to speak out for others, all of which I highly value.

The ambition to promote a respectful togetherness and an open and inquisitive mind-set characterized by diversity and tolerance drives my application. As a Treasurer, my utmost concern is to equally include and consider the broad range of different initiatives in an impartial and just manner. As an outgoing, open-hearted and funny person (at least that is what some people say), I am looking forward to getting involved in the GISA endeavors. I ensure you I will do my best with a positive, optimistic, and creative mindset.

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#### **Madlene Scheiderer for GISA Treasurer**

Dear Student community,

Some of you may know me from the weekly Scoop Initiative where the Environmental community sells local, organic food in front of the cafeteria. My passion for wildlife conservation, wildlife photography, diving and hiking are strongly connected to my effort for environmental protection and sustainability. I am a first-year student of the International Law program and holding a B.A. in International Relations and in Economics. My main interests professionally lie on Humanitarian Law, International Criminal Law, and Transitional Justice.

I am one of these people who are having lists and excel sheets on everything, which is why the position of the treasurer on the GISA board sounded so appealing to me. Keeping the books and planning financially ahead for my student community at the Institute sounded like a great opportunity to give back to the people that welcomed me and inspire me since last September. After my bachelor, I started accounting and preparing tax declarations and payments to support small business owned within my family voluntarily. Further, I have experience in contributing and leading student associations for six years.

As a treasurer I would focus on fair and timely reimbursement for student initiatives and classes, especially after many activities are now on hold due to the pandemic. My strongest focus lies on forming a strong community among members of the institute to serve as an honest and sustainable network for special times like these and for our personal and professional future.

With your support, I want to be a valuable contribution to the institute by budgeting in a responsible & transparent manner as well as towards a diverse offer of student initiatives and activities.

All the best,  
Madlene

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**Ailin Alleen Benítez Cortés for GISA Events Coordinator**

Hola IHEID friends!

My name is Ailin. I am a 1st-year MDEV student, and I come from Chile.

Before quarantine took over, the highlights of my time in Geneva were the wonderful friendships I've built and the academic and social events I attended. As many of you know, I'm a very social person and so this situation has hit me hard. Nevertheless, I'm grateful for this time as it has given me the strength and motivation to apply for this position.

Many of us came to Geneva not only for our degrees but also to attend diverse academic and social events to nourish both our intellect and our spirits. During my studies, I've made every effort to attend as many events as possible, from movie screenings to conferences and apéros. I've learned that events can be great opportunities not only for networking but also for learning about real experiences related to theories and readings we do in class and for potentially (re)discovering a topic that we are passionate about

about.

During my bachelor in Sociology I served as Vice-President of my student association, and I was responsible for establishing relations with a variety of actors. I helped organize talks, panels, social events, and career fairs. Moreover, at the Institute I've had the chance to collaborate with LANI, which has motivated me to be further involved in our community.

I believe in team-work, respect, and creativity. My goals if elected as Events Coordinator are:

- To continue and improve the events that GISA has previously organized.
- To explore new options and dynamics for activities for and within our diverse community.
- To engage with the interests of the student body to create events that will be engaging, motivating and exciting.
- To motivate and support both individuals and the Student Initiatives to create and organize their activities and events.

Stay safe, love yourselves, and get ready for a very exciting year!

Thank you <3

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#### **Aline Shaban for Events Coordinator**

Dear IHEID community,

My name is Aline Shaban, I am a first-year student in the IR/PS master program and I am running for the events coordinator position in GISA. After considering the responsibilities that the position entails, I found that it would be a great fit given the similar experiences I acquired during my undergraduate studies.

I grew up in the French-speaking part of Belgium, lived in Panama, and eventually settled in the United States. In college, I held both administrative and event coordinator positions that required strong organizational skills. As the assistant to the director at the *Center for International Human Rights* at John Jay College, I organized and oversaw all aspects of event planning for our panel discussions, from contacting the speakers, to catering and room management, flyer design, and outreach. I also led the student organization *Students Without Borders* where I organized seminars and student meetings promoting social justice. It was my attention to detail and commitment to meeting deadlines that allowed me to successfully organize those events on my campus. Working for seven years in the hospitality industry in New York City while going to school also taught me how to communicate effectively with different audiences and how to manage multiple commitments.

Most importantly, I thoroughly enjoy being part of the event planning process and seeing a project come to fruition. As the GISA events coordinator, I would dedicate myself to creating spaces where students can learn and exchange from each other and promote ideas that reflect the interests and needs of our community. More specifically, I would like to facilitate the planning process for students interested in organizing their own projects and I would assist student initiatives in the logistic coordination of their events to the best of my abilities to ensure that everything runs smoothly.

I thank you all for your consideration and wish you all the best!

Aline

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#### **Milena Niehaus for GISA Events Coordinator**

Dear IHEID community,

Hello IHEID Community,

I am Milena Niehaus, 1st year MIA student and I would like to be your new Events Coordinator.

Thinking back to my first days in Geneva, I was very excited and a little bit nervous about the upcoming adventures at the Institute. New country, new language, new people, new surroundings – everything was exciting. The whole welcome month made it so easy to integrate and dive into the rich and diverse culture of our Institute. I was amazed by the warm welcome from the whole student body integrating us newbies. I am aiming to provide the new students with a similarly great experience in their first weeks of their life as graduate students in Geneva.

We can count ourselves very lucky with such an enriching and active student body with over 30 student initiatives. Our events range from potlucks, concerts and movie screenings to debates, panel discussions or reading groups. They touch upon topics of environment, career support, migration to peacebuilding, gender and feminism, and promote cultural traditions from all world regions - What a great variety!

As we already have this rich body of active, inspired student initiatives, we can boost it even more by facilitating a better connection between the initiatives. During my term as Events Coordinator I will put emphasis on creating a better inter-initiatives-network. We would all gain from each other's resources, ideas and networks. I am sure that by better connecting the initiatives, we can only benefit from each other's knowledge and will be able to create even more joyful events in the future.

With my past and ongoing volunteering engagements such as my project management for Streetways Uganda, or as the Co-President of the Human Rights, Conflict & Peace Initiative, I was able to gain many experiences in organizing projects and events. I would like to use my experiences and facilitate the process of providing exciting events at the Institute hand in hand with the student initiatives as your new Events Coordinator.

Thank you and hopefully see you soon back at the Institute and enjoy our social community together.

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### **Romina Pezzot for Events Coordinator**

Good morning everyone, bonjour à tous, hola a todos!

I'm Romina Pezzot, an Argentine Second Year MIL Student who has been recently admitted for the PhD Program in International Law, and I would like to serve you as Events Coordinator!

As a social person with a collaborative spirit I participated in different activities at the Graduate Institute, always with the aim of contributing to improve our experience as students! With that purpose, as member of LANI I participated in the organization of conferences. Besides, I'm currently one of the coordinators of the Salsa Initiative, in charge of the organization of the classes (unfortunately now suspended due to COVID-19). And finally, I'm currently class representative of my cohort. These three activities, which I have been performing simultaneously, gave me a glimpse about how challenging the organization of events at the Institute is!

Therefore, these are some of my goals I would like to achieve if I'm elected as Events Coordinator:

- 1.- Improve the mechanism of booking requests of saloons.
- 2.- Improve the interaction between all Initiatives by encouraging them to organize more activities in partnership.
- 3.- Take advantage of online tools and support all Initiatives in the planning of their online activities, in order that they can continue working on their goals (instead of suspending them due to COVID-19).

Finally, for me it would be an honor to have the opportunity to be part of GISA board and to contribute in the organization and coordination of events within the Graduate Institute!

Cheers! Romina.

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**Nicole Gonzalez for Vice-Presidency for Masters:**

**Nicole Gonzalez – 1<sup>st</sup> year Master Student in International Relations/Political Science**

**Languages:** English, Spanish, and French.

When I first arrived in Geneva, I was met with many surprises that had me scrambling to change my well-crafted plans for the first semester. Like many of you, it took me a hot second to adapt; from long lines at the OCPM to long – yet surprisingly fun – treks to France in order to spend less money on grocery shopping to figuring out the stressful class sign-up system.

Still, I was determined to make the best of such a unique experience. The opportunities to learn – whether in classes, in colloquiums or events organized at the institute – seemed endless to me. Also, the chance to connect with people from completely different backgrounds, whom I could befriend and learn from, seemed to me like one of the most exciting prospects. And so, I launched myself headfirst into the inner workings of the Institute, becoming Class Representative for my cohort in order to both help those around me and listen to their concerns and personal experiences.

Being Class Representative, particularly this semester with the outbreak of covid, has been both very challenging and rewarding. Combined with prior experiences in mediating positions (working for US Congresswoman Rice and interning for the Federal Children's Bureau), working as a rep has helped me hone my skills at condensing and effectively formulating diverse concerns and issues at varying levels of the administrative chain. Moreover, working closely with our current VP has greatly informed me about what the current issues are and what still needs to be worked on.

Thus, I will strive to:

- Encourage clear and open communications about student needs between the administration and the student body
- continue advocating for further transparency when it comes to the university's bureaucratic practices.
- Advocate for more workshops and other opportunities for students who feel at a disadvantage due to their diverse backgrounds.

If you have any questions for me, please don't hesitate to reach out! Thank you for your consideration

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**Jana Sikorska for VP Master Programs**

Hi all!

My name is Jana and I am excited to be running for the position of VP for Master Programs. I am currently pursuing my first year MA in International Law, and being on the PhD fast-track programme, I hope to stick around at the Institute for longer!

Since starting in September, my student activist heart could not stop noticing institutional issues which adversely affect student's experiences at IHEID. My activist journey started back in my home country of Slovakia, where I carried out the duties of board member in the national student body representing secondary school students. Through this role, I was also able to participate in the discussions and projects on inclusive and student-focused reforms in educational curricula within the European umbrella body (OBESSU) for student unions. Keeping up my activism during university, I was a VP for Academic Activities in the European Law Student Association branch in Exeter and I was also a class representative for a course offered to 50 students. I want to utilise all this experience to create a more friendly, more supportive environment which would serve the needs of students. If anything, the Covid-19 pandemic has underlined how vulnerable us students are and that IHEID and its community has a major role in helping us thrive. Out of my many ideas for reform, I would highlight three:

1. Opening a discussion among students and the university about a potential **centralised mitigation system** so that students would no longer be required to address each individual professor when in need of mitigation, **guaranteeing simplicity, transparency, and sensitivity to our individual circumstances.**
2. **Open a discussion about clear, general grading criteria** for master students rather than having individual criteria for each course. I believe this would **enhance transparency and provide clear guidance** as to what is expected of students coming from **diverse educational backgrounds.**
3. Boost **cooperation between PhD and Master students**, such as a potential mentorship scheme and ability to be involved in some of the opportunities which are currently exclusive for PhD students. This **would boost the sense of community and enhance cooperation** within the student body.

Further, I would like to devote attention to **students on exchange as well as students on PhD fast-track** who are generally left with very little support and guidance. I am also in favour of building on topics such as **affordable housing options** and **student finance support**, and I am of course open to your suggestions! In the meantime, I look forward to the official GISA discussion and feel free to drop me a message either on Facebook (Jana Sikorska) or email ([jana.sikorska@graduateinstitute.ch](mailto:jana.sikorska@graduateinstitute.ch)).

Take care for now and stay healthy!

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#### **Massimiliano Masini for VP Masters Program**

Hi everyone! My name is Massimiliano and I am a first year MDEV student. I hold a bachelor's degree in International Development and Cooperation from the University of Bologna (Italy) where, as a member of the student body's executive committee of my school, I had the chance to witness the working of institutional academic governance. As Vice-President for Master's Programs, I believe I will be able to use the insights and competences I acquired there for the Board's efforts in advocating the fulfillment of the Student Body's interests.

Specifically, I will strive to promote students' ownership of decisions. In my capacity as an active member of the Feminist

Specifically, I will strive to promote students' ownership of decisions. In my capacity as an active member of the Feminist Collective amongst other activities, I have observed there is much opportunity for GISA to improve students' involvement in the decision-making process of the IHEID. This will require, on the one hand, communication and transparency both from the administration and from the Board. On the other hand, it will be important to seek the best conditions to ensure broad participation from the student body, as well as common interests and concerns with other components of our community. Therefore, I am committed to renew the endeavor undertaken in both directions by the previous Executive Committee.

Concretely, these objectives will guide my work as Vice-President if the Student Body so decides:

Ø **Short term horizon** (*end of Spring semester*)

- § Finalising efforts of previous VP and class representatives for 2019-2020
- § Ensuring accountability from professors and academic leadership to COVID-related commitments

Ø **Medium-term horizon** (*Fall semester*)

- § Gathering and discussing concerns related to the possible halt of internships and fieldwork, *inter alia*, during the summer
- § Collaborating with administration, Support Services and Mentorship programme in spreading information amongst new students about the issues related to arrival and course registration

Ø **Long term horizon** (*through end of mandate*)

- § Participatory design of the next Master's Forum
- § Bilingualism policy
- § Research courses
- § Boundaries between Disciplinary and Interdisciplinary programmes

I will be glad to discuss in more detail my ideas during the debate. Stay healthy!

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**Deepashree Maledavar for VP Masters Program**

Very warm greetings to you all. Hope you are doing well, safe and healthy.

My name is Deepashree Maledavar. I am a first-year Master of Development Studies student specializing in Environment, Resources and Sustainability track. I am from India. I have an undergraduate degree in Engineering. I have work experience of more than four years in the development sector, in the areas of socio-economic policies and capacity building programs, with Government organizations and NGOs.

I am currently working with Sustainability Week Switzerland on fundraising, securing partnerships for the 2020 edition of C4SI and the capstone project with FAO on Water Governance Analysis in MENA region.

The last one and a half months have changed the course of teaching-learning process for not just us students, but also for the teaching faculty and staff at the Institute. As Vice President candidate for Master's program, I would like to work with the student body and the Institute in improving the teaching-learning experience for all the students. I propose to do this through,

1. Ease of academic delivery with both in-class and online classes in the coming semester, for both current and new incoming students.
2. Increase access to library resources and expansion to various journals and inter-institutional libraries.
3. Increase transparency on aid and academic administrative matters



I am a patient listener and look forward to hearing from, and working with, you all on how we can improve, support and uplift the academic experience and excellence of students at IHEID.

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**Abby Naumann for GISA VP for Masters Program**

(日本語は下にあります)(message en français ci-dessous)

Dear Colleagues,

You may know me from student events at the Institute (Tibetan trivia, anyone?), as the creator of world-class pies at Thanksgiving (pumpkin and apple, double-threat), as a founding member of Geneva Bootcamp (I'm the bendy girl), from my viral Humans of IHEID story (that's what we call a 'boss move' back home), or as the current MIA first-year class representative (your fearless leader).

Today I am announcing my candidacy and asking you to know me as your GISA Vice President for Masters Programs for the upcoming year.

If you don't know me yet, I am an art-loving, multilingual, Midwestern/Southern woman from Saint Louis, Missouri, USA. A former international program coordinator, I have traveled to 16+ countries (maybe yours?) and lived in four, which means when you say "I have a cultural/practical/linguistic/academic problem," I know what you're talking about. Educated in the States, France, and Japan, my strengths must be flexibility, openness to new ideas, and the ability to come at problems from a variety of perspectives, be that Western/non-Western, feminist, psychological, indie rock, etc.

You're a busy person. I get it. So I put my priorities in bullet points below (the kind of efficiency you can expect from me):

- Masters Forum 2019 and Thesis Q&A— As a class representative, I am currently working with Silke, Prof. Andonova, and other reps to make your questions and concerns clear in the coming weeks in informal, chat-style sessions with admin to get your questions addressed concerning the thesis, deadlines, and requirements in the surreal, apocalyptic COVID world.
- Multilingualism—I support bilingual and French-language classes at the Institute, as well as the freshly-revived l'Amicale in efforts to culturally and linguistically engage our diverse student body.
- Psychological Support—As a class rep, I have already made good on my promise to bring you accurate and clear information on free and professional psychological services in Geneva by collaborating with the Welfare Committee. I will continue to support this critical area of student life.
- Affordable Housing and Financial Support—COVID brings economic challenges, in addition to the burdens we already face as students. Most of us are already aware of the new housing project (and delays). I strongly support housing options which realistically fall within student budgets.
- Additions to the GISA Student Guide online—More activity and restaurant recommendations, more practical information (taxes, abonnements, etc), more connection.

- My successor—During the COVID crisis, I volunteered to take up the class rep role to provide MIA1 students with stability and information. I will continue to do this until a successor steps up.
- I have read the GISA guidebook and regulations. I feel like this should go without saying, but, you have to admit this is pretty important. I know how this works. How many elected officials can you say that about?

Brief messages in the spirit of multilingualism and inclusion:

皆様、本日は、私がGISAの副会長に立候補するため、このメールを送りました。そこで、少し私の自己紹介をいたします。私はアメリカの中西部で育ったので、日本語は母語ではありません。実は私は、2017-2018年に東京の早稲田大学で日本語と日本の政治を勉強しました。なので私自身、留學生活の大変さはよくわかるので、皆様が抱えている問題にとっても共感することができます。今回のキャンペーンの目的は、インクルージョンと多様性、特に言語多様性、男女同権、セルフケアとメンタルヘルス、そしてコロナウイルスに直面した皆様の学業的な成功です。ぜひ皆さまのご後援を頂きたく、お願いいたします。本当にありがとうございます。

Chères/chers collègues,

Je vous écris ce message pour annoncer ma candidature pour le poste de vice-présidente pour les programmes de master à l'Institut. Je voudrais souligner mon engagement ferme pour le multilinguisme, en particulier pour la tradition de bilinguisme français-anglais à l'Institut, ainsi que mes engagements pour la santé mentale, pour la diversité et l'inclusivité, pour la communication claire et concise entre les étudiants et l'administration, et pour l'évaluation juste face à l'adversité du COVID-19. Je vous remercie pour votre patience et j'espère que je peux compter sur votre soutien dans les semaines suivantes.

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**Claire Ransom for VP for Masters**

Hey IHEID!

I'm Claire, an MDEV student running for master's Vice President.

A bit about me: I grew up in the US but studying International Studies for my bachelor inspired a passion for languages, traveling and immersing myself in cultures different from my own. While studying, I worked with educational administration as a peer advisor, responsible for counseling students on their professional development, creating workshops, assisting with events and supervising incoming employees. After graduation, I moved to Madrid to teach English, a position that taught me the importance of patience, understanding and compassion—skills that I plan to use when working with both students and administration.

Like many of you, my first year has been a whirlwind of trying to figure out housing, initiatives, classes and events. Though stressful at times, the continual support of the IHEID community has driven me to get involved. I want to take part in maintaining the amazing things already taking place and work with all of you to explore how we can improve.

How, you might ask?

Good question. Together with the president and the entire GISA board, I want to assure that student concerns are being heard

and effectively communicated to administration, continue to support the incredible work being done by initiatives and connect students with the resources they need to succeed. Specifically, in my role as VP, I will:

- Facilitate more direct involvement and collaboration between class representatives.
- Increase awareness of and engagement in the “Masters Forum”
- Foster relations with administration by improving platforms for students to voice their concerns.
- Listen to your stories, ideas and suggestions on how to improve our collective experience.

I pride myself on being an approachable, driven and happy person. Particularly during such uncertain and unsettling times, I hope to use my experiences and skills in collaboration with the GISA team to serve as your representative and improve our shared experience.

Thank you and stay healthy!

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**Mukta DHERE**

***Communications Director***

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