GSIG (formerly known as the Graduate Education Interest Group) was created in 1991 by graduate students who were concerned about addressing graduate issues and representation within the larger body of the AEJMC.

Today our membership includes graduate students and faculty who are interested in sharing resources and improving the quality of graduate education in journalism and mass communication.

Our name was officially changed to the Graduate Student Interest Group (GSIG) at the 2011 AEJMC annual meeting. While a substantial portion of our graduate student-centered programming takes place at the annual AEJMC national convention, GSIG also participates in the AEJMC Midwinter Conference in order to enable even more graduate students to present research in a conference setting.
WHY JOIN GSIG?

BEING A MEMBER OF OUR INTEREST GROUP HAS SOME GREAT BENEFITS

- Network with graduate students and faculty in strong communications programs around the world. The connections that you make in GSIG could lead to research collaborations or even future job opportunities.

- Submit your paper to our Open Paper Call each year for either the MidWinter or National AEJMC conference. Rather than being subject specific, GSIG is specifically looking for quality research papers authored solely by graduate students. The sky is the limit! We will provide quality reviewer feedback just like every other Interest Group and division, potentially offer you the opportunity to present your work, and even have a top paper award.

- Be up to date with current job openings/job hub deadlines. GSIG is invested in promoting job opportunities available through AEJMC to our membership and keeping everyone connected and in the loop as far as the job hub/conference interviewing process goes.

- Take on a leadership role. As the only AEJMC division/interest group run by graduate students, you have the opportunity to get involved during your Ph.D. program to plan programs that are relevant to graduate students and faculty invested in graduate education. This is also a great CV line item that may count for your institution's service requirement.

- Come to our exclusive annual pre-conference session, which is designed to walk doctoral students through the process of maximizing your Ph.D. program to eventually landing your dream job! Our hands on workshop offers real life skills for tailoring application materials, interviewing, and landing that position. We are collaborating with world class faculty and journal editors to provide everything you need to know regarding establishing and building your research agenda, searching for the right institutional fit and more!
"If you get an invitation to interview, take time to research every single person in the department, including staff. This will be a major help in your interview (and hopefully your eventual campus visit), as you will be much more prepared to discuss their interests – both in small talk and with more formal interview questions. Learning as much as you can about everyone in the unit is also super important because if you get the job, these are the people with whom you’ll work for a long, long time. Remember that you’re trying to figure out how well you fit there at the same time that they are trying to figure out if you are the right candidate for their department."

- Dr. Tom Kelleher, Associate Dean Graduate Studies and Research College of Journalism and Communications University of Florida

"Write a different cover letter for every job – be responsive to how you see yourself fitting in that job. Don’t make search committees guess. Practice your job talk in front of a live audience before your on-campus interviews."

- Dr. Sarah Feldner, Acting Dean, J. William and Mary Diederich College of Communication, Marquette University

"Identify your strengths and see if those strengths align with positions available. Once you have identified the position you would like to apply for, learn as much as possible about the program from both a research and teaching perspective. Structure your materials (i.e., cover letter, CV, additional supporting materials) to match the specific position that you are applying for. When you identify potential references, let them know where you are applying, what the position is, and how they can be of assistance to you. Every program is different. Every opportunity is unique. How you present yourself should match the position and program."

- Dr. Earnest Perry, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, Missouri School of Journalism, University of Missouri
STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Coming to the United States 2.0 from Serbia for the second time, to pursue my academics was a different experience for me.

I lived in the U.S. for six years, and I did fully adapt to the culture. Before I started graduate school, I spent eight months in Europe. However, eight months away was enough to have to go through the cultural shook all over again. I lived in two completely different worlds; Serbian customs, tradition, food, and people are unlike the United States. Besides cultural differences, being far away from home, family, and friends are the price many international students have to pay to pursue their academic dreams. We get to see our closest people once a year, some even less. Social media provided a more accessible way to communicate, but in many countries, it is still not well developed. The economic standard plays a huge factor as well; everything here is twice or more expensive. I am coming from a country where the average monthly salary is 500 dollars per month, which means I cannot depend on my family financially, and can go home once per year, in the best case. Thankfully, I got an opportunity to be a graduate teaching assistant for my favorite undergraduate class, Media Design, and Data Visualization. This assistantship eliminated the additional financial burden. However, international students cannot work off-campus, and we are limited to work 20 hours per week, which controls financial gains.

On the bright side, the social circle and interactions within graduate school exceeded my expectations. Coming back, I didn't hope to make many friends, I thought it was going to be an antisocial environment with nerds, but it turned out to be the opposite. In, JMC department at Kansas State, we have a very diverse cohort of graduate teaching assistants who I share the office space with. We take the same classes and share the same struggles. Besides citizen students, my cohort consists of students from Ghana, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, and China. We have a representative from almost every continent, which has its advantages. Our class discussions and even general conversations always follow with examples from their native countries. American students are very welcomed and curious about our traditions, which resulted in celebrating Friendsgiving together, where everyone prepared their country's traditional dish. Today our membership includes graduate students and faculty who are interested in sharing resources and improving the quality of graduate education in journalism and mass communication.

Deciding to study abroad in any country, I consider a brave move. We are here almost on our own as our closest people are a 15-hour plane ride away. Graduate school comes with more expectations, and the stakes are higher but also more rewarding, as we are studying, teaching, and working on research all at once. If I can highlight my graduate school experience so far, it is an opportunity to share my experiences and study with a diverse group of students from around the world that I can look up to and learn from.

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