WHAT IS A GPSO?

GPSOs are graduate or professional student associations within a discipline of study that aim to enhance the academic community in a department or program. The UK Graduate School and the Graduate Student Congress recognize an organization as a GPSO when they are:

1. A **Representative Body** in a department/program,
2. **Advised** by a faculty member and
3. **Membership is limited** to graduate/professional students,
4. **Has a representative** on UK’s Graduate Student Congress.

STARTING FROM SCRATCH STEP-BY-STEP

**STEP 0**
Recruit a diverse leadership team
- 3 - 5 people
- Program Starters
- Org. Skills
- Community Builders

**STEP 1**
Develop Faculty Partnership(s)
- Gain Faculty Support
- Find a willing adviser

**STEP 2**
Build Relationships
- Learn from community
- Have relational meetings

**STEP 3**
Write Charter/Constitution
Define:
- Membership
- Officerships
- ID GSC Representative
- Elections
- Mission & Program/activities

**STEP 4**
Ratify & Hold Elections
- Select leadership team & GSC Rep
- Celebrate together

**STEP 5**
Develop Traditions
Define activities and programs that become, over time, welcomed traditions. Example: Welcome Weekends, a Conference, or reading groups.

WHAT IS COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT?

The **process** of ‘Enhancing a Community’ assumes that a community already exists in a given space. ‘Community enhancement’ **occurs** when a community is provided with resources, training, and tools to support and empower its members. When successful, relationships in the community exhibit a higher degree of resiliency, fellowship, social justice, and mutual recognition.

FOR MORE RESOURCES, WORKSHOPS, OR CONSULTATIONS

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Our Belief:
A community cares for you during your time of need and celebrates with you in times of triumph. Otherwise, it’s a group.