



BRISMES

British Society for Middle Eastern Studies

BRISMES Graduate Section Governing Rules

1. Aim

Strengthen the community of Middle Eastern Studies graduate students in the United Kingdom by:

- creating a network which provides support and advice to current and prospective graduate students;
 - hosting events and workshops of interest to the student and early career community;
 - raising awareness of academic resources, funding opportunities and career opportunities both within and outside academia;
 - making BRISMES more representative and better equipped to promote Middle Eastern studies; and
 - helping the BRISMES Council understand and meet the needs of its student and early career membership.
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2. Management and Administration

BRISMES Graduate Section will be represented by the President (or two Co-Presidents).

i) The President(s)

a) The President(s) will be elected by a general vote of paid BRISMES Graduate Section members and serve a three-year term. The Presidency will be held by one, or two, PhD students at an institution in the United Kingdom.

b) By agreement with the BRISMES Council, the President(s) will hold a seat on the Council and serve a three-year term as member(s) of the Council.

c) The President(s) will chair the meeting on BRISMES Graduate Section matters at the BRISMES Graduate Section event at the Annual Conference.

d) The President(s) will initiate and organise Graduate Section initiatives and events.

e) The President(s) and BRISMES administrator will manage communications for the Graduate Section.

3. Powers

The President(s) shall:

i) Host the Graduate Section event at the BRISMES Annual Conference.

ii) Establish regular initiatives in accordance with its aims.

iii) Represent the student membership on the BRISMES Council.



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4. Graduate Section Event

There shall be a Graduate Section event at the BRISMES Annual Conference for student members.

i) How the event is chosen:

a) The President(s) will decide on a theme of interest to the BRISMES Graduate Section (such as mentoring or career advice).

b) The President(s) will decide on the participants for the panel, ensuring that there is a diverse representation of UK universities and academics (or non-academics).

c) The President(s) will approve the event with the Vice-President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer of BRISMES and report to the Council.

ii) The Graduate Section event will be open to BRISMES student members only. If a non-member would like to attend the conference, they must join BRISMES as a student member and pay the £30 membership fee as part of their conference fee.

5. Graduate Section Initiatives

i) The President(s) shall establish initiatives in accordance with its aims. Such initiatives could include:

a) Graduate Section events or workshops related to its aims;

b) online seminars and research networks, and;

c) other initiatives as it sees fit.

6. Voting Procedures

i) The normal Graduate Section voting procedure is as follows:

a) All voting procedures will be conducted via an online apparatus (e.g., forum, email or online balloting system).

b) The President(s) will provide members with an explanation of issues to be voted on.

c) Student members will be notified of the window in which they may cast their vote. A simple majority of votes cast will determine the outcome.

d) The outcome will be emailed to all student members.

ii) The process of nominations for Presidency is as follows:

e) Nominations for Presidency will be announced by the President(s) and overseen by the BRISMES Secretary.

f) Candidates must submit nominations from two BRISMES student members via email to the BRISMES Secretary.

g) An online vote will take place should the number of nominated candidates exceed the number of Presidency positions available (see 6.i.).

h) Any disputed elections or votes will be brought to the BRISMES Council for arbitration.



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- i) The outcome will be emailed to all student members.
- iii) The Graduate Section Governing Rules amendment procedure is as follows:
 - a) An amendment shall be proposed by the President(s) or by a member of the Graduate Section at the Graduate Section event at the BRISMES Annual Conference.
 - b) The proposed amendment should be submitted 28 days in advance of the meeting. In the case of an emergency issue, the proposed amendment may be raised on the day subject to the approval of the President(s) and BRISMES Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
 - c) The proposed amendment shall be discussed and voted on by student members at the Graduate Section event.
 - d) The President(s) will present the proposed amendment and student vote to the BRISMES Council for ratification.
 - e) On deciding whether to ratify the amendment, it shall be ascertained whether the amendment is in-line with the BRISMES constitution.
 - f) The amended Governing Rules will be sent by email to every Graduate Section student member.

Updated 30 November 2020