

It can be difficult to figure out how to get what you need from your advisor, and the experience can be frustrating. But you're not alone. Here are some resources for connecting to the larger GC community and to groups advocating for more support for students.

## **1.** Doctoral Students' Council

*The DSC, as the sole policy-making body representing students in doctoral and master's programs at the Graduate Center, advocates for students on systemic issues as well as providing resources, community, and support. Come by our office in Room 5495 for snacks, coffee, and conversation!*

DSC Point People: DSC Steering Officers push for the structural support that students need. Here are some useful contacts in the DSC. Bring us your issues, concerns, and ideas:

- Steering officers and their committees:
  - Officer for Student Life and Services, Carlos Camacho. [services@cunydisc.org](mailto:services@cunydisc.org)
  - Officer for Outreach, Saiful Saleem. [outreach@cunydisc.org](mailto:outreach@cunydisc.org)
  - Officer for Health and Wellness, Charlotte Thurston. [wellness@cunydisc.org](mailto:wellness@cunydisc.org)
- Co-chairs: The DSC has three co-chairs, who meet regularly with administrators to discuss student concerns and issues.
  - Co-chair for Student Affairs, Amy Martin. [ccsa@cunydisc.org](mailto:ccsa@cunydisc.org)
  - Co-Chair for Business, Jennifer Prince. [ccb@cunydisc.org](mailto:ccb@cunydisc.org)
  - Co-Chair for Communications, Hamad Sindhi. [ccc@cunydisc.org](mailto:ccc@cunydisc.org)
- DSC Affiliates:
  - The Alumni Engagement & Fundraising Commission: We can help host Alumni-Engagement Events with programs and current students. Alumni and current students, as well as faculty, might meet to enjoy drinks and refreshments, as well as discuss topics such as the job market, life post-dissertation, networking, getting that first book published, ongoing research, what to expect after graduation, etc. Want to have an Alumni-Engagement Event in your own department? Contact [afc.cunydisc@gmail.com](mailto:afc.cunydisc@gmail.com).

### Other DSC Resources:

- Health and Wellness blog: [opencuny.org/healthdsc](http://opencuny.org/healthdsc). This website has information on various health issues and services, including resources for mental health and how to navigate NYSHIP insurance. Follow on Twitter as well for news and reminders: @healthdscuny
- From Students to Scholars podcast: [opencuny.org/students2scholars](http://opencuny.org/students2scholars). *From Students To Scholars* is a podcast series that provides peer mentoring to Graduate Center doctoral students and helps them prepare for the careers to which they aspire. Each episode is themed and tackles specific aspects of graduate education, ranging from long-term planning and fieldwork to minority challenges.

## **2.** Chartered organizations:

*Chartered orgs, which are interdisciplinary, provide a forum for connecting with students in the GC community and a space for getting support and mentorship. Look up any groups that may interest you, and how to contact them, here: [cunydisc.org/chartered-organizations](http://cunydisc.org/chartered-organizations). Here are some chartered orgs that focus on particular areas of study:*

- Africa Research Group
- American Studies Area Group
- Association of Critical Theorists
- Cinema Studies Group
- CANES (Classical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies Group)
- Crypto-Math Group
- CUNY Public History Collective
- Dominican Studies Group
- Feminist Studies Group
- Immigration Working Group
- Space-Time Research Collective
- Postcolonial Studies Group
- Students of the State (SOS)

## **3.** Other Support:

**GC Ombuds Office:** The Ombuds Office is open to all students, faculty, staff, and administrators who are looking for: a neutral, impartial person to speak to confidentially about problems related to work or study at The Graduate Center, ideas for alternative dispute resolution, an advocate for fairness, and information about whom to turn to at The Graduate Center. The Ombuds Office is located in room 3311, or contact by email: [ombuds@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:ombuds@gc.cuny.edu)

**Better to Speak group:** Better to Speak is a private group for women and gender non-conforming CUNY graduate students and adjunct faculty members. It is a safer space to share experiences and support, to build community and catalyze change. To join:

1. Visit [groups.google.com](https://groups.google.com)
2. In the search bar, search for “Better to Speak”
3. Our group should be the first to appear.
4. Click on the group, then click on “Apply for membership”
5. Complete the application, including the membership questionnaire, found on the application page or at <http://goo.gl/forms/3XxIQNYGiE>