



NAGPS Legislative Action Days

Making Graduate Student Voices Heard on the Hill

March 1-4, 2014
Washington D.C.

What are Legislative Action Days?

Every year, NAGPS hosts two Legislative Action Days (LAD) to bring graduate and professional students to Washington D.C. to meet with Congressmen and women and their staffers. These meetings are an excellent opportunity to meet with your region's Representatives and Senators and have your voice heard.

What Happens During Legislative Action Days?

Graduate students will have appointments on Capitol Hill to share their concerns and perspectives on a wide variety of topics that affect them and their schools. In addition, LADs provide essential and valuable lobbying training and background on relevant legislative issues and the legislative process. Students have the opportunity to engage with graduate and professional students from throughout the United States in networking events and social activities during the evenings and weekend prior.

What Will My GSA Gain By Attending?

Now more than ever, graduate student voices must be heard. Last year, new legislation resulted in graduate students paying higher interest rates than undergraduates for the very first time. The interest rate cap on student loans also increased from 6.8% to 8.5%. Sequestration cuts resulted in hundreds fewer grants from the National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation; research funding and graduate student fellowships are in peril. Students tell these stories best, because we are experiencing them first hand. You and your fellow graduate students can demonstrate the value of graduate education directly to policymakers. These efforts do not go unnoticed- NAGPS has a long history of gaining real policy traction after LAD events, particularly for bill sponsorship on key issues we promote.

What Will My School Gain By Attending?

Graduate student voices advocating for graduate student funding and issues are powerful for your school as well. Schools often send their administrators or

presidents to lobby on higher education issues, but hearing directly from students is also crucial. We encourage students to take photos with Representatives or staffers they meet and develop press releases or reports for their schools and local media to highlight their efforts in Washington. Ultimately, your school will benefit from LAD efforts through increased attention to higher education and graduate student issues.

What Kinds of Costs Can I Expect?

The cost to attend LAD is FREE for NAGPS members! The non-member registration fee is only \$50.00. Costs associated with attendance will primarily come from accommodations, food, and transport. Our hotel is conveniently located close to Capitol Hill and a metro station to minimize costs to attendees.

Hotel Accommodations

We will be staying at:
Courtyard Washington, DC/U.S. Capitol,
1325 2nd Street NE,
Washington, DC, 20002,
(202) 898-4000,

We have secured an EXCELLENT rate for this hotel at the cost of \$154 per night (double occupancy). To secure this, please book directly through the hotel by calling them and mentioning NAGPS. There are 30 double rooms available so book early!

The hotel is conveniently located one block from the metro station and one stop from Union Station on the red line.