

Career Services Student Advisory Board Directory

Please contact your program representative(s) with questions or ideas about Career Services! See complete bios below.

Program	Student Advisory Board Representative	Email
Arts and Integration	Emily Nadel	emn637@mail.harvard.edu
Education Policy and Management	Stacey Funston	anf834@mail.harvard.edu
Higher Education	Elizabeth Connolly	elc064@mail.harvard.edu
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Human Development and Psychology	Zihan Li	zil654@mail.harvard.edu
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Mind, Brain, and Education	Claire Lui	cli184@mail.harvard.edu
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School Leadership Program	Sara Calleja	sac637@mail.harvard.edu
School Leadership Program	Alicia Gaynor	alg288@mail.harvard.edu
Special Studies	Radhika Menon	radhika_menon@mail.harvard.edu
Technology, Innovation, and Education	Heidi Church	heidichurch@gmail.com
Technology, Innovation, and Education	Ryan Lee	ryl067@mail.harvard.edu

Career Services Student Advisory Board 2016-2017

Emily Nadel



Arts in Education

Hello! I am Emily and I will be representing the Arts in Education cohort on the Student Advisory Board. Before coming to HGSE, I was teaching at a Montessori preschool in Asheville, North Carolina. I am interested in the intersections of arts-based learning, museum and object-based learning, learning by doing, and early childhood-elementary education. Ten things I love are: running, hiking, yoga, cooking, printmaking, watching my plants grow, reading fiction, laughing, armchairs, and eating chocolate. I hope to help my cohort gain awareness of CSO resources and support my peers as a liaison.
Email: emn637@mail.harvard.edu

Stacey Funston



Education Policy and Management

Hi, I'm coming to HGSE from the nearby Western Massachusetts. I did my undergrad at Mt. Holyoke College as an English Major, Dance Minor. I got my start in education teaching dance, which grew into a passion for dance outreach and out-of-school offerings in public education. Most recently I was the Associate Director of the After School Programs for the Holyoke Public Schools. When I'm not thinking about education, I like to make greeting cards, bake desserts, and take dance classes. In addition to serving as the Student Advisor for EPM, I am also the Career Program Intern for the CSO this year, so feel free to reach out to me with any questions about Career Services Programing!
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Elizabeth Connolly



Higher Education

Prior to her year at HGSE, Liz worked as a college guidance counselor at a high school in Brooklyn and then as a manager of college success programming at a non-profit in New York City. A member of the Higher Education Ed.M cohort, she is eager to learn about the efficacy of policies and programming related to college student success, especially at community colleges. A California native but avid Red Sox fan, Liz is excited to be in the correct city for her sports loyalty!
Email: elc064@mail.harvard.edu

Sunray Wright

Higher Education

Email: kyw931@mail.harvard.edu

Zihan Li



Human Development and Psychology

I graduated from Dartmouth College in 2015 with a double major in Psychology and Asian Studies and a minor in Education. Prior to coming to HGSE, I worked as a research assistant at the Harvard University Psychology Department, and I also have an education company in my home country China. Currently I'm working as the Employer Relations Assistant at the Career Services Office, and I'm also the Special Events Co-chair for HIVE (Harvard GSE Innovation & Ventures in Education). I look forward to getting to know you all and serving as a connection between the student body and CSO. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, particularly regarding on-campus recruiting events that will take place in November and February!
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Sam Sharma



International Education Policy

A social entrepreneur and co-founder of the NGO, Child Friendly Movement, believer in Global education, Service and Experiential learning. Sam is passionate about promoting global education to prepare a globally competent next generation. Through his NGO, Sam wants to bring together the private, public and education sector in order to advance educational opportunity for the marginalized, refugee and disadvantaged children around the world. By using his over two decades of business experience, Sam is deeply interested in exploring the nexus between entrepreneurship and education.
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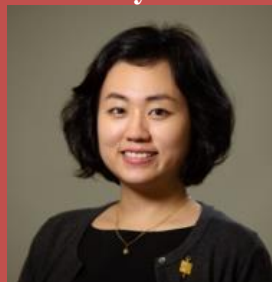
Chihiro Yoshida



International Education Policy

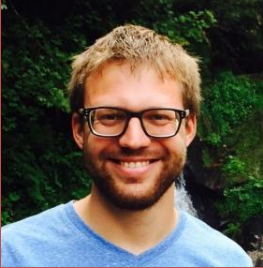
I am originally from Tokyo, Japan, but because of my experience living in India during high school, my vision is to work on improving education opportunities for marginalized communities of rural India through education policy. Leveraging my experience having gone through the recruitment and visa application process in the U.S. as an international student, as well as working in New York and Amsterdam, I hope to serve the career opportunity needs of the IEP cohort and to have their voices heard!
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Min Hyun Oh

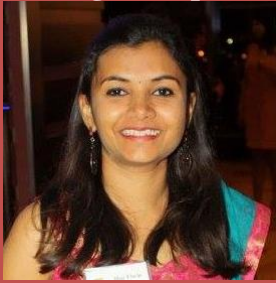


Language & Literacy

Min has research interests in language development and academic trajectories among language learners. Min graduated from Mercer University in 2016, with a B.A. in English literature and a secondary teaching certification in English. Before coming to HGSE, she worked with language learners in Georgia (US), South Korea, Denmark, and Turkey, learning ways to provide effective instructional support for language learners of various backgrounds. After graduation, Min plans to pursue her interest in supporting practitioners, students, and policymakers and to build expertise in the field of language and literacy through research. During her free time, she enjoys playing the ukulele and relaxing with a cup of coffee.
Email: mio033@mail.harvard.edu

<p>William Oliver</p> 	<p>Language & Literacy</p>	<p>I am from a small town in Pennsylvania called Lake Winola. After high school, I attended SUNY Binghamton and majored in philosophy and art history. Ever since a vacation my family and I had taken to the Southwest, I wanted to live in the desert, so after college I moved to Yuma, Arizona to teach tenth grade English at Kofa High School. Teaching and learning with the students on the Mexican border was such a formative experience, and it was there that I became truly passionate about education. Additionally, I came to understand that to teach more effectively I needed to learn my students' language and started studying Spanish. These studies took me to Madrid to study Spanish language and culture in a yearlong program at the Universidad Complutense. Returning to the U.S., I taught English as a second language at a charter school in Austin, Texas called Austin Achieve. Now, I am excited to begin my studies in the Language and Literacy program at HGSE and focus on secondary language development and bilingual education. What I love most about teaching is leading students to better understand their world and find their own interests. In my free time, I enjoy sailing, watching western movies and reading books by my favorite authors, Philip K. Dick, John Le Carré and Don DeLillo. Email: wio563@mail.harvard.edu</p>
<p>Joyce Rafla</p>	<p>Language & Literacy</p>	<p>Email: jor8892@mail.harvard.edu</p>
<p>Chelsea Rink</p> 	<p>Language & Literacy</p>	<p>I received my undergraduate degrees in Secondary Education and English from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, and shortly thereafter, moved to Washington, DC to teach in a charter school there. At my DC charter school, I taught a variety of English, reading and journalism courses, and had the opportunity to advise the book club and school newspaper. I love reading, running, and yoga, and most importantly, I am a huge Game of Thrones fan. Email: chr229@mail.harvard.edu</p>
<p>Frankie Doerr</p>	<p>Learning & Teaching</p>	<p>Email: frd531@mail.harvard.edu</p>
<p>Alexandra Pistey</p> 	<p>Learning & Teaching</p>	<p>Originally from Katonah, New York, Alex previously attended Wellesley College. Before coming to HGSE, she spent five years in the classroom, with the last three years spent teaching second grade in a public school in East Harlem, NYC. She is particularly interested in early elementary math education. In her free time, Alex enjoys horseback riding, vegetarian cooking, and hanging out with her cat. Email: alp998@mail.harvard.edu</p>

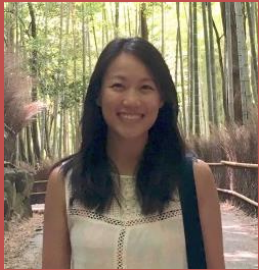
Snigdha Gupta



Mind, Brain,
and Education

Originally from India, Snigdha is a student in the Mind, Brain, and Education program at HGSE. Before coming to HGSE, Snigdha worked as a consultant with Columbia Global Centres | South Asia and Pratham Education Foundation on the Virtual Open Schools project. Prior to that, she was a Gandhi Fellow in Mumbai where she worked on enhancing leadership skills of public school Principals under the School Excellence Program. Snigdha holds a Bachelors and Masters in Chemistry from Delhi University, India.
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Claire Liu



Mind, Brain,
and Education

My name is Claire and I am in the Mind, Brain, and Education cohort! I'm interested in how each of our interests, skills, and personalities can help us find our place in helping education. Before HGSE, I worked in business and tech in my day job, and taught kids music through an after school program. I call the San Francisco Bay Area my home.
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Andrew Ahmadi



School
Leadership
Program

I am a proud member of the SLP cohort, specifically the school licensure track. Prior to coming to Harvard, I taught fourth grade and coached high school baseball in Brooklyn, New York. Most days I can be found in Gutman library studying, writing case analysis, preparing for a negotiation and talking with others about their classes. Outside of school I enjoy taking hikes with my wife and dog, rock climbing, bicycling, and watching sports with friends.
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Sara Calleja



School
Leadership
Program

Sara is currently a student in the School Leadership Program, Principal Licensure track. Most recently, she worked as a Literacy Coach in Lawrence, MA. Prior to relocating to Massachusetts, Sara spent most of her career in New York City public schools, where she worked as an Academic Coordinator, 3rd, 5th, and 1st grade Teacher, Middle School Advisor and Inquiry-Based Humanities Curriculum Developer. She has a MA from Teachers College in Elementary Inclusive Education and a BFA from NYU in English and Drama. She is thrilled to be with all of you at HGSE this year!
Email: sac637@mail.harvard.edu

Alicia Gaynor



School Leadership Program

Born in Minneapolis, Ali has spent most of her professional life in Chicago Public Schools as a high school science educator, designing and teaching courses including, Physics, Anatomy & Physiology, and Chemistry. In addition to her work in the classroom, she has served as a 10th-grade team lead, mentor teacher, and led professional developments promoting techniques for scientific argumentation. Passionate about providing a quality education for all students, Ali is excited to be specializing in School Leadership here at Harvard.

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Radhika Menon



Special Studies

Radhika hails from India, where she spent the past two years working on implementing a multi skill curriculum in rural schools. Prior to that she was a Gandhi Fellow, where she provided field support to Principals for a period of two years, towards bringing about systemic quality improvements in their schools. She is interested in vocational education and is exploring pathways to bridge the academic-vocational divide. She enjoys long conversations over cups of tea, especially when discussions are centered around education and poverty emancipation.

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Heidi Church



Technology, Innovation, and Education

A California native, Heidi's professional background is in international education. Her prior roles include working as an international student advisor at higher education institutions in the San Francisco Bay Area and as a facilitator of environmental education programs in Thailand. She's excited about innovation in higher education, global education, and designing beautiful and engaging learning experiences.

Email: heidichurch@gmail.com

Ryan Lee



Technology, Innovation, and Education

Ryan is a recent graduate of Boston College where he studied Computer Science and Applied Psychology & Human Development. In the TIE program, he is working to mindfully develop emerging educational technology solutions for classrooms so all students are able to reach better in their learning.

He is the co-founder of TradeRoutes, a VR-based teaching tool that helps K12 teachers present field trips virtually in their classrooms. Ryan serves as the Vice President of Events for the Harvard Augmented and Virtual Reality (AR/VR) Student Alliance, where he enjoys organizing venture-minded programming and building connections between industry stakeholders and university partners.

In his spare time, he enjoys long-distance running and attending (almost) every event at Harvard.

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