

**CANDIDATE PROFILES – GRADUATE STUDENTS  
2022 REVIEW/SEARCH –  
ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION**



**ALI-MOHAMMED, SANAA**  
***Policy Studies (PhD Candidate)***

I am a second year PhD student in the Policy Studies program at Toronto Metropolitan University. I have over 8 years of experience working in the non-profit, charitable and philanthropic sector. During this time, I observed how opaque processes created preferential treatment for individuals bearing certain identities over others. As a result, as a doctoral student, researcher at the Diversity Institute, and Board Member at the [Urban Alliance on Race Relations](#) (UARR), I am interested in how organizational leadership, culture, policies and practices can create more equitable environments and improve outcomes for members of equity deserving communities. In particular, I am interested in how the processes and criteria involved in hiring decisions and performance evaluation are developed and put into practice.

I hope I can contribute my background and interest in organizational behaviour to the review/search committee for the Associate Vice President, Research and Innovation. I hope this can contribute to a Toronto Metropolitan University at the cutting edge of research and innovation, including research and innovation driven by members of equity deserving communities.



**KONG, Yifan**  
***Master of Digital Media***

My journey at the Toronto Metropolitan University started with the online classes crossing from 13-hour time difference. And my journey in Toronto started with 14 days of self-isolation without a local mobile phone number or bank card. For multiple times, I thought about going home but with the tremendous support from the faculty and staff, and my peers from the Master of Digital Media program, I survived. And I had the opportunity to work as a Research Fellow at the Modern Literature and Culture Research Centre, a Teaching Assistant at the Department of Computer Science, and an Administrative Support Assistant at the Office of Vice -President, Equity and Community Inclusion.

Before I joined TMU, I did my master in Digital Communication and Culture at the University of Sydney in Australia. I also worked as full-time university staff at the New York University Shanghai for 3 years. Shifting between an international student and a staff member allows me to gain different perspectives. My mission to serve the committee is 1) to bring in global vision from both the international student's and a higher education professional's perspective; 2) to be a bridge that connects student's needs with the resources and opportunities provided by the university.

I hope to pay back to the community for the kindness I've received. I also hope to pass my positive experiences to many other TMU students. Thank you for your consideration.



**YURKIV Halyna**  
***Master of Nursing***

**Halyna Yurkiv** is a Registered Nurse with a clinical background in continuing complex care, spinal cord injury, and traumatic brain injury rehabilitation at UHN, along with her research and teaching experiences. Halyna graduated from TMU in 2020 and is currently completing her Master of Nursing, Leadership in Education and Healthcare Policy degree program. Halyna's research interests lie in the fusion of innovative technology like virtual reality, nursing education, and clinical nursing interventions.

Recently, Halyna has co-conducted research on the use of immersive 360-degree video modality aimed to expand healthcare providers' understanding of what it is like to live with dementia, which was presented at the TMU Learning and Teaching conference and the British Society of Gerontology conference. Her master's thesis research focuses on the evaluation of the immersive virtual reality simulation to help nursing students manage a respiratory distress event in a COVID-19-positive patient, which landed her a 2022 Faculty of Community Services SRC Innovation Graduate Award.