

My name is Clara Kaul and I am a 1st year PhD student in the Cultural Studies Graduate Group at UC Davis and I am running with the [Organize to Win \(OTW\) slate](#). I've worked as a TA in the Asian American Studies and Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies departments so far during my time at Davis. Although I am new to UC Davis, I've become deeply invested in the wonderful community of graduate students here. I am running for Head Steward because I am committed to improving the material conditions for all academic workers at Davis and across the state.

Like many across the country, I was inspired from afar by the UC-wide academic strike during fall of 2022. The strength of the union was a motivating factor in why I decided to commit to UC Davis. I wanted to be at a place where I'd be protected from the labor exploitation that plagues graduate students across the country. I arrived just in time to reap many of the benefits of the strike, but I also heard stories about the conservative leadership ignoring the needs of rank and file members and bending to the will of the administration. I've seen the importance of a strong and powerful union. On a national level, UAW elected new progressive leadership in 2023. After this election, autoworkers across the country were able to strike and win massive material improvements to their contracts. In order for a union to be as successful as possible, it is imperative that they attend to the needs of *all* members, not just those in power.

As Head Steward, I would prioritize transparency amongst leadership, accessibility for rank and file members, and transformative change for the workplace. I am committed to helping create a union that imagines a liberatory future where all academic workers feel respected and supported. I believe that a union should be an energizing force; not another obstacle on the path to labor justice.