

T-Quad Takeaways: From Campus to Community: Ideas to Engage Graduate Alumni

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HOST
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CORA
Committee on
Regional
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CORA's mission is to work with regional associations to engage more Princeton alumni with the University and with one another.

VOLUNTEER LINKS

Information for Regional Association volunteers online:

- [Regional volunteer resources website](#)
- [Handbook for Regional Officers](#)

SUMMARY

Graduate alumni, comprising about one-third of Princeton alumni, often lack engagement compared to undergraduates. In some regions graduate alumni outnumber undergraduates. In Taiwan, over 80% of alumni are graduate alumni. To foster a vibrant community, regional associations must proactively engage graduate alumni. Since graduate and undergraduate alumni have distinct Princeton experiences, traditional alumni activities like ASC volunteering or sports game watch parties may not resonate with graduate alumni. Thus, innovative strategies are needed to engage graduate

KEY LEARNINGS

• **Regional Association Needs to Play a Central Role**

Unlike other universities, Princeton lacks large departments or schools. While graduate alumni should be connected to their departments, they're more connected to their advisors. Most Princeton departments lack independent alumni outreach programs, so regional alumni associations are the best organizations to engage graduate alumni.

• **Start by Engaging Graduate Students**

Today's graduate students will soon become tomorrow's alumni. Some only stay at Princeton for two years. Don't wait until they become alumni to engage them. Graduate students have fewer campus associations compared to undergraduates, so they also have fewer connections with the University when they become alumni. Reach out to them while they're still on campus.

• **Engage the Graduate Students Before They Get To Princeton**

Most regional associations hold receptions or send-off parties for incoming undergraduate students. Look to include the new graduate students. Furthermore, invite graduate alumni of the same departments as the new graduate students to attend. Graduate alumni like to share their experience of Princeton with graduate students

• **On Campus Engagement of Graduate Students**

As the leader of PAA of Taiwan, I organize dinners with Taiwanese graduate students when I am back on campus. Though costly, these dinners foster connections between students and the region, as well as between students from different departments.

• **Research on the Road**

Organize events specifically designed for graduate students and alumni. The PAA of Taiwan has held the event, Research on the Road, for three consecutive years. This program invites a current graduate student to present their research to the alumni. This event offers a valuable opportunity for graduate students to connect with alumni. Additionally, it attracts a significant number of graduate alumni, particularly those in the same department as the presenter. They share their expertise and provide insights into the department's latest developments.

• **Pre-Read Book Club**

Graduate alumni, particularly those in the academic field, seek out events that provide practical knowledge and intellectual stimulation. The Pre-Read book club is an excellent platform for fostering connections between undergraduate and graduate alumni. To enhance the discussion, consider inviting a graduate alum from the field of the book topic to lead the discussion.

