



Get to know University Councillor Gregory Galligan, BA Hons 02:



Gregory Galligan (BA Hons [Political Studies and History], Queen's University, 2002; M.A. [International Relations], King's College, London, 2004). I was a Castle Kid, QMP and Queen's Model U.N. participant. I joined Global Affairs Canada in 2005 and am currently the Executive Coordinator for Middle East Relations. Overseas, I've participated in the evacuation of Canadians from Lebanon in 2006, served at the Canadian Embassy of Canada to Israel (2007- 2010), was Deputy Director with the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team (2010-2011), completed an exchange with the Department of State's Bureau of Intelligence and Research (2011-2013), and served as Canada's Executive Coordinator for Syria based in Beirut (2019-21). I most recently returned to Canada after completing two years as Canada's Ambassador to Iraq (2021-23)

1. Why did you select Queen's University?

Queen's University had an outstanding political studies department, and I was captivated by the architecture and atmosphere of the campus when I visited during my final year of high school.

2. Most memorable moment as a student?

Gregory Galligan, BA Hons (Political Studies and History), Queen's University, 2002; M.A. (International Relations), King's College, London, 2004. Former Castle Kid, QMP and Queen's Model U.N. participant. He joined Global Affairs Canada in 2005 and is currently the Executive Coordinator for Middle East Relations. Overseas, he participated in the evacuation of Canadians from Lebanon in 2006, served at the Canadian Embassy of Canada to Israel (2007 to 2010), was Deputy Director with the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team (2010 to 2011), worked alongside U.S. colleagues as Canada's exchange officer to the Department of State's Bureau of Intelligence and Research (2011 to- 2013, as Canada's Executive Coordinator for Syria based in Beirut (2019-21). He recently returned to Canada after completing two years as Canada's Ambassador to Iraq (2021-23). It's hard to pinpoint a single moment, but I'm most grateful for the enduring friendships I made.

3. What is your job?

I work at Global Affairs Canada, where I currently serve as the Executive Director for Middle East Relations.

4. What's the best career advice you've ever received?

Trust, if you can earn it, is your most precious asset.

5. What's the career highlight you're most proud of?

I'm most proud of serving as Canada's Ambassador to Iraq.

6. How do you spend your free time?

In my free time, I'm working on a documentary film, which has been a fulfilling creative journey. Additionally, I'm a passionate Liverpool fan and make it a point to never miss a game.

7. What motivated you to stand for election for University Council?

After several years of living in Lebanon and Iraq, my return to Canada rekindled my desire to reconnect with my community and contribute meaningfully to the academic environment that has been instrumental in shaping me. Serving on the University Council at Queen's University offers a unique opportunity to support the growth and success of both faculty and students, ensuring our institution remains vibrant and forward-looking for future generations.

8. Your aspirations for being on University Council?

My aspiration is to collaborate with fellow members of the Queen's community to enhance the qualities that make Queen's exceptional: a steadfast commitment to academic and teaching excellence, groundbreaking research, and a unique community spirit that sets Queen's apart from any other university in Canada.

9. Anything else you would like to add/highlight?

I'm genuinely excited about the opportunity to contribute to Queen's University and hope that my skills and experience can help make a small difference.

Connect with Greg:

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