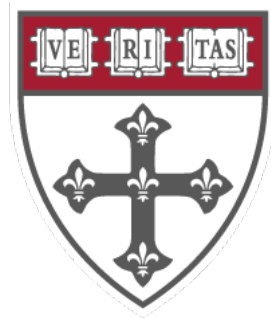


Harvard Chan School
Student Organization Welcome Letters
2022



HARVARD
T.H. CHAN
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Contents

Harvard Chan Alliance for First-Generation and Low-Income students (A-FLI)	1
Harvard Chan Humanitarian Development Student Association (HHDSA)	2
Harvard Chan Music Student Association.....	3
Harvard Chan Professional Part-Time Students Collective	4
Harvard Chan Public Health Innovation x Technology Student Forum (PHIT)	5
Harvard Chan Qualitative Methods Student Club.....	6
Harvard Chan South Asia Students Association (SASA).....	7
Harvard Chan Student Surgery Society.....	8
Harvard T.H. Chan Environmental Justice Student Organizations.....	9
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Student Club of Japan (SCJ).....	10
Parents@Harvard Chan Student Group.....	11

Welcome Newly Admitted Students!

The [Harvard Chan Alliance for First-Generation and Low-Income students \(A-FLI\)](#) welcomes you to the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health! Our student organization hopes to create a space for students to connect and enrich each other's time at Harvard Chan. A-FLI was formed recently, when students with underrepresented backgrounds recognized a need for community and support, and acted on this need. Our aim is to create a community of support and to develop a network of resources for HSPH's first-generation, low-income, and undocumented students of all racial/ethnic identities. Since its inception, our club has held mixers, community-building events, and professional development workshops.

We hope that you consider joining our A-FLI community. Please feel free to reach out to us at afli.hsph@gmail.com. Congratulations on your admission, and welcome to Harvard Chan!

Best,

A-FLI EBOARD

Aharisi Bonner, Health Policy and Management

Veronica Handunge, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Evelin Garcia, Global Health & Population

Vanessa Acosta, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Jen Cruz, Population health Sciences

Kedie Pinto, Epidemiology

Lisette Martinez, Global Health & Population

Jeanette Varela, Biostatistics

Juan Luis Santana, Epidemiology

On behalf of the Harvard Chan Humanitarian Development Student Association (HHDSA), congratulations and welcome to Harvard T.H. Chan!

HHDSA creates a space for students to share their interest and experience in humanitarianism, as well as to catalyze discussion around development as an extension to emergency humanitarian responses to build resilience in communities. Our members come from a variety of backgrounds and no experience in humanitarian or development work is required - this group is open to absolutely everyone.

Some of our recent past events have included a session on the response to the Beirut port explosion in Lebanon, multiple humanitarian career panels, networking events, and a session on the humanitarian crises in Afghanistan. For these events, we brought in a variety of senior humanitarian and development professionals including the former acting Minister of Public Health for Afghanistan, the Director-General of the Lebanese Red Cross, the SVP and Chief Program Officer of Americares, and staff from the UN, Harvard, and both national and international NGOs.

If you are interested in joining HHDSA and/or learning more about us, please visit <https://engage.sph.harvard.edu/organization/hhdsa>. If you are interested in potential leadership roles within HHDSA, please contact Ian Speers at ISpeers@hsph.harvard.edu.

Congratulations again on your acceptance, and we hope to meet you soon!

Best regards,
HHDSA Leadership
(Dana, Ian, and Tarek)

Jan 24, 2022

Welcome from the Harvard Chan Music Student Association!

Music is an integral part of every culture, embodying societal values and displaying unique attributes. Music also has the capacity to bring people together through shared expression and performance. The [Harvard Chan Music Association](#) aims to bring together students from across the school, providing them with the opportunity to share their musical talents and appreciation of music, explore different cultures' music, and learn more about the role of music in public health.

Join our Whatsapp group (<https://chat.whatsapp.com/DfNabzqZ4FC0oijqo6u9fH>) to stay informed about our events as well as musical happenings all over Boston!

Congratulations on your acceptance, we can't wait to make music with you.

Warmly,

The MusiChan Executive Board

Rodrigo Bazua Lobato (rbazualobato@hsph.harvard.edu)

Yuki Zhong (yzhong@hsph.harvard.edu)

Vinita Shivakumar (vshivakumar@hsph.harvard.edu)

Greetings, Newly Admitted Students!

The Professional Part-Time Students Collective is pleased to welcome you to the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health incoming cohort! For those of you who are planning to be part-time students, we would love to have you join our ranks!

To learn more, please submit a request to join in the Engage platform at <https://engage.sph.harvard.edu/organization/hcptsc> and/or join our GroupMe chat at https://groupme.com/join_group/65217387/cBghzkCm.

Kind regards,
The Part-Time Students Collective Board of Comrades

Eli Godwin
Gwen Feeny
Cindy Chwa
Caroline Shannon

On behalf of the Harvard Chan Public Health Innovation x Technology Student Forum (PHIT), we want to welcome you to the Harvard T.H. Chan community!

PHIT provides an interactive space for students to gain knowledge, provoke thoughtful discussion, and advocate for innovations and technologies that positively impact global and domestic public health. We aim to empower students to develop their ideas and grow their professional networks while exploring developments in the field and learning and sharing opportunities for action.

One of our upcoming events is a presentation and Q&A session with engineers and public health professionals at Zipline who will be talking about the use of drone technology in global health and humanitarian contexts.

We would love for you to join us to discover, discuss, and network in the coming academic year as we seek out interesting technology, innovators, entrepreneurs, experts, and advocates that inspire and challenge us.

If you're interested in joining or learning more about the organization, please visit us at <https://engage.sph.harvard.edu/actioncenter/organization/phit> or contact Ian Speers at ISpeers@hsph.harvard.edu.

Congratulations on your acceptance, and we're excited to meet you in the coming academic year!

Sincerely,
PHIT Leadership (Donna, Anton, Ian, and Saad)

Dear Newly Admitted Students,

Welcome to the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health! During your time at Harvard Chan you will find many opportunities to connect with students who share your academic passions and help to shape your trajectory. We hope that the [Harvard Chan Qualitative Methods Student Club](#) may be one space to facilitate those opportunities for you.

Our student organization was founded in 2017 when a group of qualitative research enthusiasts recognized the lack of space for qualitative methods researchers at Harvard Chan (and in academia in general!) and decided to create this platform. Since then, our club has continued to grow and foster a community of learners. Our mission is to allow students, faculty, and staff to meet, form networks, share ideas and resources, and offer feedback to each other on ongoing qualitative work.

Good qualitative research needs to be done in groups. Therefore, our club hosts lunchtime speaker series, qualitative methods intensive workshops (keep an eye out for our Coding Workshop this semester!), and acts as a hub for research ideas, potential collaborations, and peer advising.

Whether you are an experienced qualitative researcher or have no familiarity with qualitative research methods at all, we hope you join us this year. Please feel free to contact us at Harvard.chan.qual.club@gmail.com. Congratulations again on your admission and welcome to the Harvard Chan community!

Best,

President- Elizabeth Hentschel, Doctoral Student in Population Health Sciences, Department of Global Health and Population

Vice President - Juliet McCann, Master of Science (SM80) in Global Health and Population

Treasurer - Veronica Handunge, Master of Public Health (MPH-65) in Social and Behavioral Sciences

E-board member - Han Choi, Master of Science (SM80) in Global Health and Population

E-board member - Radha Bhatnagar, Master of Science (SM80) in Global Health and Population

E-board member – Sarah Taha, Master of Science (SM80) in Global Health and Population

Jan 26, 2022

Welcome to the Harvard T.H. Chan community!

We are the Harvard Chan South Asian Students Association (SASA) and our goal is to collaborate with students, staff, faculty, and alumni here at our school and others to bring attention to health issues affecting people of South Asian origin, and use this organization as a platform to explore new ideas and interests. We also aim to introduce members of the Harvard Chan School community to the diverse traditions of South Asia through social and cultural events.

Many of our members find it valuable to know where the nearest South Asian stores close to school are. There is one (Punjab Mini Mart, 1576 Tremont) right next to the school! And another one 15 mins walk away (College Convenience, 281 Huntington) plus one in Brookline (Madras Masala, 191 Harvard).

You can stay up-to-date on the events we have planned by following us on Engage (<https://engage.sph.harvard.edu/organization/sasa>) and joining our Whatsapp group (<https://chat.whatsapp.com/Hw530qGvdoFDrpJU4K4U3g>)!

Congratulations on your acceptance, we can't wait to meet you!

Best,

SASA Executive Board

Gopal Kotecha (gkotecha@g.harvard.edu)

Unnati Mehta (umehta@g.harvard.edu)

Rhea Dash (sdash@hsph.harvard.edu)

Vinita Shivakumar (vshivakumar@hsph.harvard.edu)

Dear Student,

We would like to extend a warm welcome to you from the Harvard Chan Student Surgery Society and congratulate you on your acceptance to the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health!

We are so happy that you will be joining us and believe you will have a year ahead that is both interesting and meaningful. Given the times we are in, your passion in public health is both welcomed and much needed. We are one of the many clubs you will have the opportunity of joining and our mission is to explore the intersection between the surgical field and public health. This ranges from exploring disparities within access to certain surgical services to highlighting the surgeon's role in promoting public health. We are open to all students who have an interest in surgery and strive to build a diverse member base.

A bit of introduction, we are a group of students interested in surgery and we plan to have the following programs this year:

- Guest Speaker-led Journal Clubs
- "suturing clinics"
- Mentorship panels with prominent local surgeons
- Plenty of virtual socials and game nights!

Our events, organizational structure, and outreach are very member-driven, and we pride ourselves on our ability to incorporate member feedback throughout the year. You will have the opportunity to join our club through the use of the [Harvard Chan Engage platform](#) once you are fully registered and there will be more information when you arrive at the activities fair in September. We look forward to welcoming you and meeting you. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about joining our club!

Sincerely,

Harvard Chan Student Surgery Society Co-chairs

Mayra Lucas
MPH-45 Health Policy
mlucasramirez@hsph.harvard.edu

Abdoulie Njai
MPH-45 Health Policy
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Stanley Wolfe
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Nick Syrigos
MPH-45 Clinical Effectiveness
nsyrigos@hsph.harvard.edu

Micaela Torres

Congratulations on your admission to the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health!

The [Harvard T.H. Chan Environmental Justice Student Organization](#) would like to enthusiastically welcome the 2022 incoming class. During your time at the Harvard Chan School, you will have many exciting opportunities to expand your academic, professional, and personal interests and goals. During our time, our common interests led us to join and ultimately lead the Harvard Chan Environmental Justice Student Organization to further enhance our learning at the school with contextual examinations of persistent environmental injustices. We also aim to provide opportunities to identify and address these injustices to reduce environmental health inequities.

Our organization aims to create space for students, faculty, staff, and the larger Boston area community to discuss, raise awareness, and work towards addressing environmental justice issues in our Harvard communities, locally, and beyond. Our organization aims to motivate students to recognize and reduce sources of health inequalities and to disseminate relevant information about environmental justice in our communities, countries, and the world. By providing a platform for discussion on the causes and consequences of environmental injustice, we strive to break down subject silos and remove single-focused lenses to expose students to the importance of environmental and social factors working together to add to health inequality.

Additionally, our group activities highlight current, ongoing areas of injustice in the community as well as the pathways to injustice and the means to address them. Importantly, to achieve our group's mission, students hear from and work with community members who are engaged and enacting interventions and change on the ground. **If you share our commitment to advocating for issues around environmental justice, we encourage you to participate in our organized events throughout the spring and coming school year.** If you are interested in learning more about our group, feel free to contact all of us. To all incoming students, congratulations again on your admissions, and welcome to the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health community!

Best,

Melissa Fiffer
Environmental Health, PhD Candidate
EJSO Co-President, Policy Lead

Unnati Mehta
Environmental Health, PhD Candidate
EJSO Co-President, Treasurer

Sophie Erlich
Environmental Health, SM Student
EJSO Interschool and Community Liaison

Jennie Lytel-Sternberg
Environmental Health, SM Student
EJSO Social Media Coordinator

Sahir Iqbal
Health and Social Behavior, MPH Student
EJSO Event Planning Lead

EJ Student Group Email: ejstudent.harvardchan@gmail.com

Explore the **EJSO organization webpage** on [Harvard Chan Engage](#) for examples of past events and up to date information on upcoming events.

Jan 26, 2022

Greetings Newly Admitted Students!

The [Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Student Club of Japan \(SCJ\)](#) welcomes you to the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health incoming class of 2023. While you are here, you will be able to connect with other students who understand and support your academic interest and link you to the resources both at Harvard Chan and Harvard communities. For us, being in community with one another has been among the precious parts of our Harvard experience.

SCJ is a student-run organization committed to increased awareness and understanding of public health issues in Japan and countries in East Asia. SCJ aims to enrich student life at Harvard Chan through academic, social, and professional activities and opportunities. We collaborate with faculty, staff, administration, alumni, and other student groups within and outside Harvard Chan and Harvard community, to fulfill our objectives below and building lasting relationships.

Our objectives are:

- To offer seminars on Japanese public health issues by faculties, fellows, and/or students
- To introduce Japanese cultures such as dietary habits in relation to health
- To research the link between lifestyle and public health
- To compare differences in lifestyle and public health between the U.S. and Japan
- To create database of Japanese alumni of SCJ around the world

Event examples

- Culture Fest
- Academic lunch meeting
- Policy debate
- Trip to Japan to gain experiences and insights on its health system and culture

During the 2021-2022 academic year, we continued to have an unusual year and withheld a trip to Japan due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We remain optimistic for the 2022-2023 year. Congratulations again on your acceptance to Harvard Chan and we look forward to connecting and welcoming you to our community.

Best regards,

SCJ 2021-2022 Executive Board

Yusuke Yoshikawa, *Master of Public Health in Clinical Effectiveness*

(E-mail: yyoshikawa1@hsph.harvard.edu)

Motohiko Adomi, *Master of Science in Epidemiology*

(E-mail: motohikoadomi@hsph.harvard.edu)

Akira Shimabukuro, *Master of Public Health in Social Behavioral Science*

(E-mail: ashimabukuro@hsph.harvard.edu)



Illustration of hands going for a high five as a group or team

**Parents@HarvardChan
Student Group**

January 15, 2022

Dear Incoming Students,

Navigating study schedules and assignments is tough, and it's even more complicated when you have children to put to bed each night. From using FaceTime to say goodnight during breaks from evening classes to helping our little ones with their homework before starting our own, parent-students face unique challenges, and we are here to help.

We help parents feel at home while studying at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. We offer a tight-knit community for parents to discuss what works, collaborate, share experiences, and simply lean in for support and encouragement. Members share advice for navigating schedules and balancing competing demands, have space for open conversations, and promote engagement with the school. We are also committed to being a source of support rather than requiring too much of members' time. One of our core values is that we put no pressure on members---you can be as active or inactive as you choose.

In the past two years, we have heard from speakers like our advisor [Dr. Anna Sinaiko](#); [Lauren Birchfield Kennedy](#), advocate for childcare reform; [Dr. Jill Lepore](#), Harvard historian and *New Yorker* staff writer; and [Dr. Christina Rosenthal](#), a Harvard Chan alumna, dentist, and motivational speaker. We have celebrated graduations and new motherhood alike--together. We have an active WhatsApp group to support each other in real-time, share news, and be available as needed. Members can also use the group to organize socially distanced walks for those in the same area or virtual play dates, depending on interest.

Admission to Harvard affirms your grit and determination, and we are never done learning. Our group aims to support moms and dads embarking on this exciting journey – to get closer to who we are all meant to be. We encourage everyone to share ideas freely to move the group forward, arranging activities and choosing speakers. We grow as the community of parents at Harvard Chan grows.

Best wishes,

Elizabeth Perry, DrPH'23
President (eperry@hsph.harvard.edu)

Mrinalini Darswal, DrPH'23
Vice President (mdarswal@hsph.harvard.edu)

Adele Houghton, DrPH'23
Vice President (ahoughton@hsph.harvard.edu)