

**Mia Akbar**

Biology Department – Teaching Assistant

I am excited to run for the role of Treasurer after serving as a Steward for the Biology Department this past academic year. My dedication to the 901 comes from a deep desire to make my community a better place. I have tried to live this tenet as a Steward by hosting a number of events in my department aimed at educating graduate students about their rights and providing resources for those in need. The dissemination of this information led to challenging grievances filed, members from my department accessing bursary services and support funds and members from my department getting involved in Rally organizing and campaigning. Along with other students, I have also been advocating for our members to faculty in my department from a perspective that seeks to build relationships and sow solidarity.

I am confident that my accounting background will help me serve the 901 as a competent Treasurer. I want to continue the work of the 2022/23 Budget Committee by running a progressive budget that seeks to empower members within the local. As a Steward, I have seen how much easier organizing is when you have a supportive budget with funds to spend for such initiatives. More broadly, I look forward to continuing my service to the 901 in the 2023/24 academic year by advocating within my own department and the institution at large.