

The logo for OCUFA, consisting of the letters 'OCUFA' in a large, white, sans-serif font. The background of the entire page features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of teal and light green, creating a modern, layered effect.

OCUFA

Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations
Union des associations des professeurs des universités de l'Ontario

2023-2024 OCUFA Henry Mandelbaum Graduate Fellowship for Excellence in Social Sciences, Humanities, or Arts

Citation for Nida Ansari

The Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations is pleased to present Nida Ansari with the 2023-2024 Henry Mandelbaum Graduate Fellowship for Excellence in Social Sciences, Humanities, or Arts at the Master's level.

Nida is a Master's student studying Integrative Biology at the University of Guelph which is situated on the ancestral, traditional, unceded, and treaty lands and territories of the Anishinaabeg, Hodinohso:ni, Lūnaapéewak, Huron-Wendat, and Attawandaron peoples.

Nida entered her Master's study after earning an honours Bachelor of Arts from the University of Guelph in 2023.

Nida's academic research focuses on engineering education in Canada and places emphasis on community context as a crucial element in all phases of an engineering project. She will grapple with how engineering education and curriculum highlight and teach community context. In this regard, Nida has also set herself up as a peer support and mentor for students on campus and her volunteer work emphasizes the need for community context within her own community of practice.

Nida's references place her in the top 1-2% of her peers and refer to her as a "clear leader among her peers." They noted: "Nida is genuinely invested in the success of her classmates and helping them recognize meaningful and diverse opportunities available

to them and she sees every opportunity as a meaningful learning experience and strives to ensure that she has an impact on the community around her.”

It is with great pleasure that OCUFA awards Nida Ansari with the Henry Mandelbaum fellowship for the 2023-2024 year.

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Established in 2011 to honour former OCUFA Executive Director Henry Mandelbaum, the fellowship is awarded to two full-time graduate students (one master's, one doctoral) at publicly funded Ontario universities. Recipients have demonstrated academic excellence, provided significant community service, and shown exceptional academic promise in their university careers.