The university is a large and complex institution where graduate and professional students often play multiple roles, such as student, research collaborator, teacher, technician and peer. Misunderstandings and conflicts can arise in any one of these roles, particularly where they intersect with one or more roles filled by others in the graduate and professional community.

The Ombuds Office provides safe, non-judgmental space students, faculty and staff can seek to resolve conflicts or share complaints and concerns off-the-record.

The Ombuds Officer can:

- Listen and help you achieve a greater understanding of the problem
- Help you find information applicable to your situation and identify possible solutions to your problem
- Explain University policies and procedures and how they apply to your specific case
- Help you identify options for managing conflicts with colleagues, staff, faculty, and advisors
- Help you achieve fair and equitable solutions to problems
- Facilitate communication among people in conflict
- Provide other types of assistance to help you resolve a problem informally
- Refer you to formal grievance or appeal procedures if you wish to engage in a formal process