



MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

August 2020

NEWS & SERVICES

Changes to GSA Fees Effective Fall 2020

In November 2019, a provincial court ruling struck down the Student Choice Initiative (SCI) and accompanying ancillary fee framework. In January 2020, The GSA Board approved changes to GSA fees to no longer align with the SCI framework. The changes to fees constitute a reversal of the splitting of Association fees into optional and mandatory categories as defined in the SCI framework. As a result, all fees under the Association fees are amalgamated into three categories. Administered fees were not impacted by removal of SCI. The changes to the fees were approved by the University Board of Governors in June 2020 and will take effect starting Fall 2020.

The GSA will be collecting fees in Fall 2020, as it is anticipated that graduate students will be utilizing GSA services and that a significant portion of graduate students will be in the region in Fall 2020.

Please note that the GRT fees will be collected to ensure graduate students are able to have access to transit in the region. As part of our new agreement with the GRT, some additional benefits (such as fee opt outs) will be offered to graduate students using the UPass program. Details will be forthcoming.

Please also note that Graduate House fees will be charged as the GSA is looking to open the Graduate House in Fall 2020. As per guidelines from the University of Waterloo Safety Office and health guidelines from the province, strict protocols will be in place to ensure safety of members and patrons. More details will be posted on our Graduate House website in the coming weeks. Graduate students wishing to not pay the Graduate House fee will need to opt-out of the fee on Quest during the fee collection period. For more information on fee collection period and opting-out, visit the [UWaterloo Finance website](#).

Changes to GSA fees for 2020-2021, including increases to GSA Administered fees as well as new fees, can be viewed here: [GSA Fees & Descriptions for 2020-2021](#).

Annual General Meeting 2020: Date determined.

The AGM 2020 will be held on August 20 at 4:00PM. Due to COVID-19, the AGM will be held virtually over Zoom. A registration link will be sent to graduate students via email. Visit our [AGM 2020 event page](#) for more information.

Empower Me

Graduate students at the UWaterloo have access to [Empower Me](#)—a 24/7, 365 days mental health and wellness service that seeks to contribute to a resilient student community by supporting existing on-campus and Studentcare mental health resources. Empower Me allows students to connect with qualified counsellors, consultants, and life coaches for a variety of issues, in confidence. As a graduate student, you're entitled to sessions delivered in person, by telephone, by video-counselling, or by e-counselling.

GRADUATE STUDIES ENDOWMENT FUND

Hiring a Vice-Coordinator - Call for applications

The [Graduate Studies Endowment Fund \(GSEF\)](#) supports initiatives that improve the academic and social wellbeing of graduate students at UW. **GSEF is hiring grad students for a new position to help promote GSEF and aid the Coordinator.**

Financial support: 1/6 domestic tuition per year

Hours: Approximately 20 hours/semester

Effective date: September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021

Application materials:

- 1-page cover letter highlighting qualifications (especially related to the promotion of events, initiatives, etc) and confirming the availability for an interview in late August.
- 2-page resume focusing on relevant experience. The applicant is expected to have a flexible schedule, be able to take the initiative, and self-manage their workload

Application instructions:

- Interested candidates have until **August 12, 2020** to email their cover letter and resume to the GSEF Coordinator (Matthew Robbins) at gsef@uwaterloo.ca.

Please see the [job description](#) for more details.

VIRTUAL EVENTS

[August 6 @ 7PM: Trivia Night Live on our Instagram @gsa.uwaterloo](#)

[August 10 @ 7PM: Grad Student Virtual Speed Networking](#)

Meet some new friends and network with other graduate students across the different departments at the University of Waterloo!

[August 14: GSA Virtual Talent Show: Call for Talent!](#)

Have a talent you love? Join us for the GSA Virtual Talent Show for a chance to win one of three \$ prizes!

Here's how it works:

STEP 1: Record a short video (max 4 minutes – in portrait mode for Instagram Story) and send it to gsa-comms@uwaterloo.ca by Friday, August 14th.

STEP 2: We will post the Talent Show video on Monday, August 17. Vote for your favourite talent by watching the acts posted on GSA Instagram Story and messaging the GSA Instagram account with your favourite act number by Friday, August 21.

STEP 3: Keep an eye out for the winners! Winners will receive one of three \$ gift cards!

Email gsa-comm@uwaterloo.ca with any questions.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES

Graduate students serve on [university-level committees](#) to represent graduate student needs and experiences at an administration level.

The following university-wide committees have vacancies, with a start term of September 1, 2020 (1 year term):

Senate Graduate and Research Council– ARTS representative
Provost Advisory Committee on Timetabling
Advisory Committee on Traffic Violations and Parking
Working Group on Sexual and Gender Diversity LGBTTTQIPA+
Course Evaluation Project Team

Appeal Committee on Traffic and Parking
Teaching and Learning Space Committee
Amit & Meena Chakma Awards for Exceptional Teaching by a Student
Distinguished Teaching Awards

If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact [Sara, our Director of Student Engagement](#) via email at gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca and indicate which committee you are interested in.

GET INVOLVED

[Get involved](#) in campus life and join the GSA team!

If you're interested in joining [GSA Council](#) or the [GSA Board of Directors](#), please email [Sara, our Director of Student Engagement](#) at gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca for more information.

GSA Council

The following departments still require a Council representative:

- Public Issues Anthropology (ARTS)
- Catholic Thought (ARTS)
- Economics (ARTS)
- Public Service (ARTS)
- Social Work (ARTS)
- Sociology (ARTS)
- Theological Studies (ARTS)
- Master of Business, Entrepreneurship & Technology MBET (ENGR)
- Combinatorics & Optimization (MATH)
- Computational Mathematics (MATH)
- Pure Mathematics (MATH)
- Biochemistry & Chemistry (SCI)

CAMPUS RESOURCES & INFO

[UWaterloo COVID-19 Updates](#)

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gsauw.ca

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