



MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

December 2020

NEWS & SERVICES

GSA President's Update: On Meeting the New UW President

On November 18, I had my first opportunity to speak with the University of Waterloo's incoming President, Vivek Goel. Although it was a brief discussion, I highlighted the mandate of the GSA and the political positions of our organization. The impression I was left with was that the new administration will be a good partner for advancing many of the [GSA's Ends](#) and [political positions](#). Dr. Goel has been invited to speak with the GSA Council at a future meeting (timing to be determined). Further, I hope to facilitate regular engagement between Dr. Goel and the wider graduate student community. Together with Dr. Goel, the GSA is hoping to leverage this new chapter in our University's history to better support graduate students, research, and UWaterloo's standing within and outside of Canada.

Increased Financial Supports for Graduate Students in Winter 2021

GSA-UW, GSPA, and GSEF have collaborated once again to provide graduate students with an additional \$60,000 in funding, an extension of the financial support that was made available for Spring and Fall 2020. [Read more.](#)

Monthly GSA Key Performance Indicators Report: [November 2020 KPIs](#)

For questions regarding the report, please email Khalid (GSA Reporting Coordinator) via email at gsa-reporting@uwaterloo.ca.

GSA-UW Statement on the Graduate House Winter 2021 Closure

The GSA-UW has issued a statement on the closure of the Graduate House for Winter 2021. The full statement can be found on the [News section](#) of our website.

GRT & ION UPass Refund Program – Winter 2021

The GRT & ION UPass Refund Program for Winter 2021 will commence January 2021. More details will be made available in the coming weeks.

Graduate Student Initiatives Fund (GSI)

Apply for funding through GSI to organize a social event, reception, a workshop, a panel, a guest lecture, hosting a conference for graduate students, etc. The upcoming deadline for this month is **December 15, 2020**. Visit the [GSI webpage](#) to apply and for more details.

***New* Commissioning & Notarizing Service**

As part of our [Legal Protection Program](#), graduate students at UWaterloo can arrange for a virtual meeting for commissioning or notarizing services. This new service is included in the Legal Program at no extra cost for a limited time. Services include, but are not limited to: Lost, stolen, or damaged passport declarations; court documents; power of attorney; and more. The services are provided on Wednesdays only. Call the **toll-free legal assistance helpline at 1-833-202-4571** to place a request anytime during Studentcare's regular business hours from Monday to Friday. Learn more at www.studentcare.ca.

Upcoming Regional Housing Issues Survey

The GSA-UW will be launching a survey on regional housing issues experienced by graduate and undergraduate students in collaboration with WUSA. This survey will help gauge housing issues for graduate students to inform our GSA-UW advocacy efforts. Please keep an eye on your email inbox and our social media for its release and more information.

Watch out for suspicious emails

We're seeing an increase in phishing emails aimed at University of Waterloo students. If you receive a suspicious email, do not click any links and do not reply. Suspected fraud attempts should be reported to the Security Operations Centre at soc@uwaterloo.ca.

EVENTS

December 8: #PoliticsToday Episode 2: Critical Engagement in Community Development @2:00pm

We have started a new speaker series called #PoliticsToday that will focus on political issues and engagement in Waterloo Region and the broader political sphere. In Episode 2, we will be joined by local journalist, activist, and graduate student Fitsum Areguy to discuss his experience as a writer and organizer, his take on critical engagement in community development in Waterloo Region, as well as how to have a social impact. [Registration details](#)

December 10: Community Meet & Greet @1:00pm

Come meet graduate students from different departments and faculties across campus in our community meet and greet. This event will be hosted on Zoom. [Registration details](#)

December 11 & 14: Gingerbread House Kit Pick Up & Decorating Contest!

Register to pick up a free gingerbread house to decorate and enter our gingerbread house decorating contest! [Registration and event details](#)

December 14-18: Community Stroll

Join in on our community stroll at your own pace. You will be given two trail map options to choose from, a playlist of local artists, and an information pack on Canadian wildlife during winter. You will also have the opportunity to be connected to a strolling pal. [Registration details](#).

December 16: Building Your (Remotely) Part 2: Centre for Career Action Tips and Resources @10:00am

Our BYC(R) series continues with a webinar presented by [Centre for Career Action's](#) (CCA) Career Advisor, Kira Bruschke. This session is open to all grad students and provides specific emphasis on supports for international grad students. Learn about how to job search, network, and find employment and professional events in a remote environment and how the CCA can be a resource. Ask questions at the session or submit them in advance to gsa-international@uwaterloo.ca. [Registration Details](#)

December 18: Movie Night @7:00pm

Grab a snack, find a comfy place to sit, and join us at our virtual movie night! We will be watching "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse." [Registration details](#)

GRADUATE STUDIES ENDOWMENT FUND

At our most recent Board meeting, we approved contributing an additional \$15,000 for the Graduate Student Completion Award. We also discussed other methods to leverage our funding to assist grad students, so stay tuned for more details! There are a few upcoming deadlines:

- Beginning Winter 2021: Apply to be on the [Project Review Committee or Board of Directors](#)
- Feb 1, Mar 1, Apr 1: Deadline to apply for [Small Project Funding Award](#)
- Feb 14: Deadline to apply for the [Large Project Funding Award](#)
- Feb 14: Deadline to apply for an environmental-themed project (application form TBA)

[Visit the website](#) for more details or [email Matthew Robbins](#).

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Holiday Art Market by St Jacob's Outlet Mall - Throughout December [Event details](#)

Play with Clay by Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery - Throughout December [Event details](#)

Free Run Club by Running Room - Throughout December [Event details](#)

Country Christmas by Waterloo Region Museum and Doon Heritage Village - Sunday 6th December at 12PM - 4PM. [Event details](#)

Wintry Candlelit Stroll by Schneider Haus National Historic Site - Friday 11th December [Event details](#)

KNAP Nature Walk and Talk at Huron Natural Area by Humans in Nature - Saturday 12th December at 9:30AM - 11AM [Event details](#)

Christkindl Market by City of Kitchener - Throughout December [Event details](#)

A Festive Night with Friends at Doon Heritage Village by Ken Seiling Waterloo Region Museum - Friday 18th December 2020 at 6pm onwards [Event details](#)

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES

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

Call for Applications to the Joint Policy Review Committee:

The GSA board is looking for 2 members of the graduate student community to serve on the Joint Policy Review Committee (JPRC). The JPRC reviews and recommends changes to the policies of the GSA, the GSA board, and the GSA Council, to make sure its policies are up to date with the current graduate student needs and standpoints. If you are interested in policy, governance, or the GSA, we encourage you to apply. Interested students are encouraged to submit a brief statement of interest and their CV/Resume to gsaoffice@uwaterloo.ca.

Faculty-Wide Committee

The Arts Faculty Council is looking for two Arts graduate students to serve as GSA-UW representatives for a one year term (with the possibility of renewal). Representatives are required to attend three meetings annually, once in March, May and November and review all necessary documents prior to each meeting. They are also required to vote on matters relevant to the Arts Faculty Council and submit updates to the GSA-UW. If you are interested in applying for a representative position, please email the GSA-UW Student Engagement Coordinator at gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca to submit your statement of interest and CV

COUNCIL & BOARD MEETING MINUTES

In an effort to be more transparent about our governance process and how decisions are being made to enhance graduate student experience at UWaterloo, we will be sharing minutes from GSA Council and Board meetings.

[GSA Council Meeting Minutes](#) | [GSA Board Meeting Minutes](#)

GET INVOLVED

[Get involved](#) in campus life and join the GSA team! Here you'll find a list of volunteer and employment opportunities with the GSA!

GSA-UW Council

Below are the departments that currently have vacancies on the GSA-UW Council and are looking for one graduate student to serve as councillor for a one-year term. Councillors work to represent all students in their department and speak on their behalf at monthly GSA-UW Council meetings. Please contact the GSA-UW Student Engagement Coordinator at gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca for more information.

- Catholic Thought (ARTS)
- Classical Studies (ARTS)
- French Studies (ARTS)
- Political Science (ARTS)
- Public Issues Anthropology (ARTS)
- Social Work (ARTS)
- Sociology (ARTS)
- Applied Mathematics (MATH)
- Combinatorics & Optimization (MATH)
- Pure Mathematics (MATH)
- Biochemistry & Chemistry (SCI)

Information on the GSA-UW Council can be found [here](#).

GRADUATE HOUSE

We're open until December 18, 2020.

Note: An earlier closure may be required due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Monday to Friday

11:30am – 6:00pm

[GH Website](#)

Instagram: @the_graduate_house

Facebook: @uwgradhouse

Twitter: @UWGraduateHouse

ORGANIZE UW

Monthly updates on the OrganizeUW unionization campaign for graduate student workers.

Visit the [website](#) including a comprehensive [FAQ page](#), email the organizers (organizeuw@joincupe.org), or attend weekly Tuesday 1:30pm drop-in calls [at this link](#).

If this is the first you're hearing of the campaign, catch up with this [webinar on TA unions, health and safety!](#)

Faculty Discussion Series on Unionization

- Applied Health Sciences: Thurs Dec 3 @10am [here](#)
- Faculty of Environment: read meeting minutes [here](#)

New Resources

- [Anti-Racism and Unions](#) recorded webinar
- International Student posts: [Having a Voice](#); [Visas and Unionizing](#); [Standardized Work Environment](#)
- [Card signing tutorial](#)
- [Mandarin translation](#) of the unionizing process

#WhyNotWaterloo

- Most TAs in Ontario [earn at least \\$8 more per hour](#). At \$33.89/hr, UWaterloo grad student workers have the second-lowest hourly rate in the entire province!

Name This Clever Goose

- [Suggest a name](#) for the OrganizeUW mascot! Top 10 names will receive swag prizes.

CAMPUS RESOURCES & INFO

[UWaterloo COVID-19 Updates](#)

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

gsauw.ca

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram: @gsa.uwaterloo

Facebook: @gsauw

Twitter: @GSA_UWaterloo

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