



News & Services

GSA Services Update: How to Opt In/Opt Out for Winter 2022

We will be sending an email from the GSA in mid-December with information on how to opt-in/opt-out of several GSA services for the Winter 2022 term. You will also be able to find this information on the [News](#) section of our website.

GRT & ION UPass Refund Program

The GRT & ION UPass Refund Program will be launched for Winter 2022. All refund requests must be submitted **between January 5 - 25, 2022**. Instructions on how to submit a refund request and how to access the refund request will be updated on our [GRT & ION UPass service page](#) in mid-December.

GSA Wellness

Keep well over the break!

[Here](#) are some tips and a warming message from our Wellness Coordinator, Ashley Ryan.

Happy break, everyone!

November Candid Talks

Missed the November Candid Talks with graduate students event? The recording of the presentations given at the start of the event is now up [here](#)! Check it out to learn some tips and gain resources for how to maintain a healthy work-life balance from Ashley Ryan and Azwad Abid.

Mental Health Resources

- [Good2Talk](#) (Call 24/7 @ 1-866-925-5454)

- [EmpowerME](#) (Call 24/7 @ 1-833-628-5589 or please see [here](#) for phone numbers for international students living abroad and outside of Canada)

Get Involved

GSA-UW Philanthropy Initiative Fund Nominations

The GSA-UW is excited to launch the Philanthropy Initiative Fund for the second year!

The GSA-UW Philanthropy Initiative Fund aims to identify and nominate local community-based organizations in the Waterloo Region. These include but are not limited to environmental sustainability, mental wellness, and accessibility.

Nominations for the 2021-2022 GSA-UW Philanthropy Fund are now open until January 4, 2022.

Please see [here](#) to nominate.

GSA Housing Advocacy Research & Action Group

The Graduate Student Association (GSA-UW) is committed to fostering a supportive, healthy and safe, as well as a reliable environment for all graduate students during their time at UWaterloo, inclusive of affordable housing (see [GSA Political Position](#)). To that end, we are interested in forming a housing research and action group that can support our advocacy strategies for affordable and proper housing in Waterloo Region. Interested candidates can submit their CV and a one-page cover letter to gsa-admin@uwaterloo.ca.



Human Research Ethics Board (HREB)

The Human Research Ethics Board (HREB) is looking for a graduate student representative with a background in kinesiology. Members typically meet monthly (2 hours) and provide feedback on research ethics applications. If interested please contact Karen Pieters at karen.pieters@uwaterloo.ca.

Get involved with the [GSA-UW Council!](#)

As councilor, one student from each department sits on the GSA-UW Council and speaks on behalf of their constituents as the "voice" for various academic and political topics throughout the year. A GSA-UW councilor brings opinions and issues of their department to the forefront, ensuring that decisions being made are in consideration of all students at UW. The GSA-UW will be accepting nominations in January for students to serve a one-year term (starting March 2022) in the departments listed below:

- Anthropology (ARTS)
- Catholic Thought (ARTS)
- Classical Studies (ARTS)
- Economics (ARTS)
- Religious Studies (ARTS)
- Social Work (ARTS)
- Theological Studies (ARTS)
- School of Planning (ENV)
- Chemistry & Biochemistry (SCI)
- Earth & Environmental Sciences (SCI)
- Applied Mathematics (MATH)
- Combinatorics & Optimization (MATH)
- Computational Mathematics (MATH)
- Computer Science (MATH)
- Statistics & Actuarial Science (MATH)
- Artificial Intelligence (MATH Cross-Faculty)

If interested in applying for a Council position or for further information, please email the GSA-UW Elections Coordinator (gsa-elections@uwaterloo.ca) and CC the GSA-UW Council Speaker (gsacounc@uwaterloo.ca).

Events

December 9: End of the Year Treat, Gingerbread Houses! @ 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Register to pick up a gingerbread house at the Graduate House! We wish you happy holidays and hope that you enjoy the fun of building your own gingerbread house! Valid WATCard and registration are required to pick up your box set. Limited supplies! Register [here](#).



December 14: Wonders of Winter Community Stroll @ 5:00 PM

This event is a great opportunity to breathe in the crisp winter air, meet some new friends, and check out the beautiful light displays in Waterloo Park. We will meet at Graduate House and head to the festival at 6:00 PM (free hot chocolate from 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM!).

However, we strongly encourage you to come earlier to make your own stress balls (separate event), and grab some dinner at the Graduate House (the kitchen closes at 5:00 PM).

For more information and to register, see [here](#).

International Student Experience

Call for Bloggers: International Graduate Student Blog

Are you an international graduate student? We want to hear from you! The International Graduate Student Blog is looking for international graduate students to write a blog for fellows. Email Shu-Feng at gsa-international@uwaterloo.ca if you'd like to write a blog! Check out our latest blog [here](#) to learn more about finding off-campus housing and getting settled in Canada.

Call for Action: Join International Graduate Student Discord

Great news! Our Discord for international graduate students has officially launched! Join our Discord by clicking [here](#) to connect with other fellows and attend future virtual events!



Join Discord!

Connect with Fellow
International Grad Students



December 15: In-Person International Student Mixer at the Graduate House @ 3:00 PM

Join us at the Graduate House for a fun socially distanced event designed for international students! Come meet new friends from around the world, learn about campus and the GSA-UW, and get a free GSA-UW t-shirt while supplies last. Remember to bring your WATcard and credit/debit card for discounted food and beverage! Register [here](#).

December 22: Virtual International Student Meet & Greet @ 5:00 PM

Join our Discord channel for an evening of meeting other international graduate students! This is a great opportunity to socialize, learn about campus life, ask questions, or play a game together. (No registration is needed, but a Discord account is required). Join [here](#).

BIPOC Collective

December 22: BIPOC Collective Solidarity Chat @ 6:00 PM on our [Discord Channel Lounge](#)

While so many of us work tirelessly to better our campuses and communities, we would all do well to remember that we are not in this struggle alone. Our Solidarity Chats are a casual informal social space that centres the experience of BIPOC graduate students at UWaterloo. All BIPOC faculty, students, and friends are invited to attend. This is chance to meet other BIPOC members of our community and also share ideas in an informal setting. Come as you are. Bring your chai!

December 14: BIPOC Collective Virtual Drop-in Hours @ 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

We're here with you. Join us during our drop-in hours on our [Discord Channel](#) if you're looking for some support, or just want to take a break and chat.

Graduate Student Endowment Fund

The Graduate Studies Endowment Fund (GSEF) supports improving the academic, professional, and social experience of graduate students at the University of Waterloo. To this end, GSEF regularly provides financial assistance for student-driven projects and initiatives.

Over the Fall 2021 term, GSEF has actively worked on improving student engagement activities, directing funding to student-led projects, and collaborating with campus stakeholders to strengthen initiatives that will benefit graduate students. GSEF provided funding to the following

projects and initiatives during the Fall 2021 term:

- Psychology - Equity Workshop
- Optometry - Kitchen Appliances
- Civil Engineering - CIV Research Talks
- Graduate Studies Conference Assistantship Award
- Medical Leave Award

To learn more about GSEF's activities during the Fall 2021 term, visit the [GSEF website](#)! If you are interested in getting involved, check out [upcoming funding opportunities](#) and [position openings](#), or feel free to contact the GSEF Coordinator (gsef@uwaterloo.ca)!

dGSA

General Announcements for Departmental GSAs

If for Winter 2022, your dGSA executive team is changing, please send the GSA-UW Student Engagement Coordinator (gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca) updated contact information for your dGSA President, Vice-president, and GSA-UW Liaison.

If for Winter 2022, your term with an university-wide committee is ending, please send the GSA-UW Student Engagement Coordinator (gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca) information on when your term is expecting to end.

December 14: De-Stressors for dGSAs + Committee Rep Event at the Graduate House @ 4:00 PM

Thank you to everyone that took the time to attend our workshops for our Fall 2021 Event Series. We are excited to end his term off with a dGSA + GSA-Grad Committee Reps Social at our very own Graduate House. Please join us on December 14 between 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM. We understand we're in the middle of final assessments and responsibilities for the term but come join us to make stress balls at the graduate house. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email the GSA-UW Student Engagement Coordinator at gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca. Register [here](#).

Women in Engineering-University of Waterloo

Women in Engineering (WiE) at the University of Waterloo supports women-identifying engineering students and alumni, while encouraging the next generation of women to pursue a future career in engineering. The WiE committee members come from a variety of backgrounds which helps meet the diverse needs of our audience. Since 1992 WiE has been providing resources, programs, and networking opportunities for women in engineering at Waterloo. WiE is an inclusive community that encourages participation regardless of gender, orientation, or background. All are welcome to attend!

- Link to sign up for the newsletter [here](#).
- Link to our most recent newsletter [here](#).

The Graduate House

We're OPEN Monday to Friday, 11:30 AM - 6:00 PM.

Check out our [Fall Menu](#).

The Graduate House is your place to Eat, Drink, and Study! We're open to all! That includes graduate students, undergraduate students, faculty, and community members. Graduate students

get special discounts supported by their fees!

December 9: Holiday Feast @ 12:00 PM

It's the holiday season! To celebrate, the Graduate House will be offering a Holiday Feast for our lunch feature. Your choice of vegan or roasted chicken entree (halal), two sides and a hot chocolate for only \$5 for graduate students that have paid their Graduate House fee this term! (\$12.50 for non-graduate students). We look forward to seeing you come out to enjoy a hearty meal with fellow graduate students. This will be dine-in only and while supplies last. Please bring a valid WATCard, as well as proof of vaccination and government ID.



Event Hosts Wanted!

With a brand new term comes brand new events at the Graduate House! We're looking for fun-loving graduate students to help us with hosting our in-house events such as Trivia, Open Mic/Karaoke, and Music Bingo. If you're interested, please email the GSA-UW Events Coordinator (gsa-events@uwaterloo.ca). No experience required!

We're hiring!

We're hiring at the Graduate House! We will be hiring all positions as we expand our hours of operation for Winter. This is ideal for students who are seeking flexible work hours and looking for a fun and creative environment to work in. Experience in the restaurant industry is preferred, but not required. Bring in your resume and fill out an application at the bar. Only successful candidates will be contacted for an interview.

Chalice of Champions

Did you just defend your thesis? If you answered YES, then stop at the Graduate House and celebrate with a FREE PINT ON US. You get FEATURED on our Instagram story as well!

Organize UW

Monthly updates on the #OrganizeUW unionization campaign for graduate student workers supported by [CUPE](#). Visit the campaign [website](#) (including a comprehensive [FAQ page](#)), email the organizers (organizeuw@joincupe.org), or attend weekly Tuesday 1:30 PM drop-in video calls [at this link](#). Follow OUW on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#)!

OUW Year in Review

2021 was a busy year! We held six Faculty or Department town halls, ran five online informative webinars, distributed three surveys, published three blogs/articles and one Q&A, received four endorsements, shifted our fully-online campaign toward in-person actions, affected UW wage conversations broadly, and released our comprehensive document of equity goals. Wow!

Not to mention we have signed many, many cards (thank you!) and built partnerships with numerous University of Waterloo graduate students and sessional instructors who are asking the same question we are: #WhyNotWaterloo? UW graduate student workers and sessional instructors deserve a union!

We think 2022 is going to be an exciting year: campus is opening up to pre-pandemic capacities, and we can't wait to connect with you! Expect to see even more in-person organizing, including (of course) more co-hosted events with the GSA-UW. However, you might also see us poster, flyer, tabling, and campaigning all over campus. Please say hi!

Upcoming and Recent Events

NEW! Bi-weekly tabling at the Graduate House! Catch us at the Graduate House every second Thursday from 1:00 - 3:00 PM. Our next events are December 9 and December 23.

Stay tuned on our social media for updates, and boost our Instagram and Twitter to your followers.

Recent News and Articles

Q&A with FAUW [on their blog](#)

[Equity principles](#) on our website

Funding Clawbacks at the University of Waterloo [article](#)

Pandemic Working Conditions and Graduate Student Mental Health [article](#)

Helpful Resources

- [Mental Health and Unions](#) recorded webinar
- [Climate Justice and Unions](#) recorded webinar
- [International Students & Unions](#) recorded webinar
- [Anti-Racism and Unions](#) recorded webinar
- [Health, Safety & Unions](#) recorded webinar
- [Safe Return to Campus](#) recorded webinar
- [Mandarin translation](#) of the unionizing process

Campaign Endorsements

[View the list](#) of UWaterloo campus organizations that have publicly endorsed the drive.

Community Engagement & Events

Engagement Opportunities

Applications Now Open! Concepts Ambassador Program

If you're a current University of Waterloo student interested in entrepreneurship and innovation, Concept's brand-new Ambassador program may be for you. For all interested individuals, please see [here](#).

Events

Starting December 1: Kitchener's' Annual Christkindl Market is Back!

For more information, see [here](#).

December 5: Indigenous Holiday Art Market

For more information, see [here](#).

From now until January 9: Bingeman's Gift of Lights

For tickets, see [here](#).

January 21 - 22: [Greenhouse](#) Transportation Hack for Health

For more information and to register, see [here](#).



[COVID-19 Updates](#)

[GSA Website](#)

[Contact Us!](#)

This email is sent from Graduate Students Association - University of Waterloo

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