



News & Services

Monthly GSA Key Performance Indicators Report: [January 2021 KPIs](#)

For questions regarding the report, please email Jacqueline (GSA Data Analysis & Report Design Coordinator) gsa-reporting@uwaterloo.ca.

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 **February 18**. Visit the [GSI webpage](#) to apply and for more details.

COVID-19 Impact Survey-Fall 2020

The second GSA-UW COVID-19 impact survey was launched in November as a follow up to an April survey released in the first Ontario provincial lock down due to the pandemic. Results of the November survey can be found [here](#). For questions regarding the report, please email Cindy at gsa-admin@uwaterloo.ca.

Around the World Digital Quilt

Whether you're studying remotely in another city, country, or locally in the Waterloo region, join us in making our very first grad student digital quilt. Submit a drawing, photo, poem, or short story describing where you are in the world right now... be creative as you like! Deadline for submission is **March 8**. Click [here](#) for more info and [here](#) for a video on brainstorming ideas.

International Graduate Students Blog

Are you interested in sharing your international graduate student experience related to topics such as culture, life, career, and studies? The Graduate Student Adventurer blog is for and is written by grad

students. Email Navya at gsa-international@uwaterloo.ca if you'd like to write a post! [Check out the first post here!](#)

UW Counselling Services Update – New Staff

A new staff member, Washington Silk, MSW, RSW (they/them), has joined UW Counselling Services. Wash has worked for the past five years KW Counselling Services in the OK2BME program. They are generally experienced in ongoing and walk in counselling, and specializes in working with LGBTQ2S+ community members, with a strong focus on supporting transgender and nonbinary folks. Students are welcome to request Wash for counselling support.

***New* Waterloo Women Leading Academia (WWLA) launches this month!**

WWLA is a student-led mentorship initiative whose mission is to empower women in academia and guide them on how to be leaders in their personal and professional lives, while inspiring the next generation of women to do the same. Check out [our website](#) for more information. Are you interested in being a peer-mentor? Sign up [here](#). Are you interested in being a mentee? Sign up [here](#).

Council Letter Regarding the Graduate Student Unionization Drive

GSA Council has written an open letter describing what the union drive is, what the organizers hope to achieve, and finish with a list of ways to engage with the drive and its organizers if you have any questions or would like to get involved. Click [here](#) to read the full letter.

Events

February 8-12 - Safe Love Week!

During the week, the GSA will be hosting a series of workshops, fun games, and other activities around safe sex, communication, consent, safe relations, sexual orientation, STI/STD/HIV/AIDS testing, and more!

Keynote Speaker: [Eva Bloom](#)! Eva will be running two workshops with us:

- **February 9 "How to be Your #1 Sex Partner: Solo Sex 101" @4:00PM** [Registration Details](#)
- **February 11 "Sex & COVID-19" @7:00PM** [Registration Details](#)

The rest of the event [schedule](#) will be posted shortly. Stay tuned! All are welcome to attend.

February 18 - BIPOC Graduate Student Collective Meet & Greet Pt. II: Bring-a-Friend Edition @ 7:00PM

Last month we held our first BIPOC Graduate Student Meet & Greet and it went so well we want to do it again! Meet & Greet Pt. II: Bring-a-Friend Edition. Join us as we continue to centre the academic and social experience and needs of BIPOC students at the University of Waterloo. If you missed the first one, this is your chance to meet other BIPOC graduate students, and also share ideas in an informal setting. If you came to the first one, as you know we look forward to welcoming you back! Hosted and moderated by the GSA Equity Coordinator Aaron Francis. [Registration link](#).

February 22 - Build Your Career Remotely @1:00PM

On February 22, we will have a chance to have a conversation with UWaterloo alumnus, Liane Davey (PhD, Organizational Psychology) to learn about how to build teams and collaborate meaningfully in a

virtual context. The conversation will cover topics such as meaningful work, work-life balance, and creating a sense of belonging on virtual platforms. [Registration details.](#)

February 25 - Graduate Student Wellness Round Table @ 1:00PM

Wondering what wellness initiatives are happening for graduate students or what the Okanagan Charter is? Join us as we host a round table discussion with Cheri Bilitz (Director of Counselling Services), John Hirdes (Chair of the Committee of Student Mental Health), Jennifer McCorriston (Chair of the Wellness Collaborative Advisory Committee), and Jeff Casello (Associate Vice President of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs) to speak on initiatives and conversations taking place in their respective offices and committees. There will also be the opportunity to participate in a live Q&A. [Registration details.](#)

February 26: International Student Hangout @ 7:00PM

Are you an international graduate student wanting to meet other students and are looking for a space to chat? Come join our hangout session where we'll also talk about ongoing initiatives by the GSA-UW, including our "[Grad Student Adventurer Blog](#)" and "[Around the World Digital Quilt](#)"! [Registration details.](#)

Graduate Studies Endowment Fund

We are the [Graduate Studies Endowment Fund \(GSEF\)](#), a recognized student-run organization at the University of Waterloo.

Large Project Funding

Do you have an idea to improve the learning, research, and overall experience of the graduate students as well as the development of Graduate Studies at the University of Waterloo? If so, you can apply for funding from the GSEF. We want to kindly remind you that the deadline for applying for this award is **February 12, 2021**. Every idea will be considered! For more information, please [visit the website for more details](#). If you have any questions, please email the GSEF Coordinator at gsef@uwaterloo.ca.

Environmental Sustainability Award

Are you excited for environmental sustainability? Do you want to make a difference? If so, you can receive funding for proposals related to environmental sustainability that benefit graduate students and improve the environmental sustainability of the University of Waterloo. The deadline for this award is **February 12, 2021**. Every idea will be considered! For more information, please [visit the website for more details](#). If you have any questions, please email the GSEF Coordinator at gsef@uwaterloo.ca.

Community Events

EVENTS IN WATERLOO REGION

Check out all the events happening in February in the Waterloo Region [here](#).

EVENTS FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Check out all Black History Month Events [here](#) .

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 President's Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability:

The GSA is looking for one member of the graduate student community to serve on President's Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (PACES). PACES seeks to advise the president on campus sustainability programs and policies. If you are interested in policy, sustainability, or representing the GSA, we encourage you to apply. Interested students are encouraged to email the GSA-UW Student Engagement Coordinator at gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca to submit their statement of interest and CV. We seek PACES Applications of qualified candidates who share our commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion. We welcome graduate students' applications who are BIPOC, peoples with disabilities and/or accessibility needs, all gender identities and expressions and sexual orientations. For more information, please be encouraged to go to the [PACES website](#).

Council 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 monthly GSA Council meetings.

[GSA Council 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 Research Contract – Higher Education Governance

The GSA-UW is looking to explore alternative governance models that better supports student engagement and overall meeting efficacy. Apply for an opportunity to complete a short-term research contract on this topic by **February 26**. Click [here](#) for more details.

GSA Research Contract – Intellectual Property

The GSA-UW is interested in understanding whether any barriers exist with respect to IP rights of graduate students. Apply for an opportunity to complete a short-term research contract on this topic by **February 26**. Click [here](#) for more details.

Hiring: Call for Applications for Graduate Student Workshop Consultants

In collaboration with the GSA-UW, the Writing and Communication Centre (WCC) is developing online workshop to guide graduate students through the writing of statements of social location or statements of positionality, primarily as part of a dissertation. **The WCC seeks up to four current University of Waterloo graduate students to consult on this project. We are particularly interested in working with graduate students who have lived experience as racialized people, and whose research takes an anti-racist or decolonizing approach.** Each graduate student consultant will receive an honorarium of \$100.00. If you are interested in writing, workshop development, or supporting BIPOC grad students, we encourage you to apply. For more information, please visit the [Writing and Communication Centre website](#).

OrganizeUW

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 1:30PM (ET) drop-in video calls [at this link](#)**. Follow **#OrganizeUW on social media: [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#)** profiles

Upcoming #OrganizeUW Events:

[Climate Justice & Unions](#) - Wed Feb 10 @5:00PM ET
Physics & Astronomy Department discussion - Thurs Feb 11 @2:00PM
Mental Health & Unions - Thurs Feb 25 @5:00PM ET
Event updates can be found on the website and social media

Helpful Resources:

[International Students & Unions](#) recorded webinar (New!)
[Anti-Racism and Unions](#) recorded webinar
[Health, Safety & Unions](#) recorded webinar
[Card signing tutorial](#)
[Mandarin translation](#) of the unionizing process

COVID-19 Updates

GSA Website

Contact Us!

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

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