



February 2022



News & Services

Call for Bloggers: International Graduate Student Blog

We want to hear from you! The International Graduate Student Blog is looking for international graduate students to write a blog for fellows to share their tips or experiences for any of the following topics:

- Tax
- Any useful services you have used on campus
- Any GSA-related leadership experiences
- Any clubs, student associations, or volunteer experiences
- Searching for internships, co-ops, jobs
- Trips to cities nearby or within Canada

Email Shu-Feng at gsa-international@uwaterloo.ca if you'd like to write a blog! Check out our latest blog [here](#) to learn the basics of banking in Canada.

Call for Candid Talks with Grads Speakers

We are looking to bring students together to join conversations to discuss issues faced by graduate students. These sessions will be facilitated through collaborations with [Counselling Services](#) and will include a short presentation at the beginning of each session.

We are currently looking for graduate students interested in presenting the issues below. **Presentations will be 5-10 minutes and will be paid (\$50).** We are specifically seeking students who have lived experience with the issues or are currently researching these issues in their respective fields. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact the GSA Student Wellness Coordinator at gsa-wellness@uwaterloo.ca.

- Transitioning back to campus after COVID-19
- Learning to love yourself
- Parenting and caregiving in grad school
- Housing conflict (e.g., with your landlord, with roommates)

Call for Referrals: Career Pilot for International Graduate Students

The GSA has initiated a career pilot program that aims to bring in current international graduate students to share their job search tips and career insights! Are you, or do you know any current international graduate students who have done an internship or co-op? Fill out [this form](#) by **February 11** to help us reach out to them for a coming career pilot panel discussion and networking event in March. Please note, you can only refer one student per submission form.



Call for Action: Join the International Graduate Student Discord!

Great news! Our Discord for international graduate students has officially launched! Join our [Discord here](#) to connect with other fellows, attend virtual events, and stay updated for on-campus jobs!

Safe Love Week



Join the GSA-UW for our third annual Safe Love Week! This year we have so many cool events to share that are a mix of online and in-person!

February 14: Self-Care Safe-Love Workshop with QTWell @ 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Swing by our Zoom self-care workshop facilitated by QTWell to make some friends and navigate healthy ways to practice self-care while being under school and work pressure. QTWell is a queer and trans graduate student group therapy service by UW Campus Wellness. Graduate and undergraduate students are welcome to this event! [Register here.](#)

February 14: Love unfolds: Heart Origami with GLOW @ Graduate House @ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Join us and GLOW at the Graduate House to make beautiful heart origamis which you can give out later that day. [GLOW](#) is a university-based 2SLGBTQ+ group funded by WUSA that focuses on promoting a healthy attitude towards all sexual orientations and gender identities on the UW campus. Graduate and undergraduate students are welcome to this event! Supplies will be provided. No art experience required. Registration for a timeslot is required to attend. [Register here for 3:00 - 3:40 PM](#) and [here for 4:00 - 4:40 PM](#). This event is subject to change depending on evolving COVID-19 regulations.

February 15: Sexual Health Workshop with SHORE @ 1:00 PM - 2:15 PM

Join us and two sexual educators from SHORE for a workshop about sexual health and ways to cultivate consent. The [SHORE](#) (The Sexual Health Options, Resources & Education) center offers inclusive sexual and reproductive health services in our UW community that uphold the dignity of everyone. In this workshop, we want to overcome the awkwardness of talking about sex and provide tools to comfortably discuss boundaries, safety, and desire in sexual and non-sexual contexts. [Register here.](#)

February 15: Making Your Own Self-Care Kit @ Graduate House @ 4:00 PM

Stop by the Graduate House to receive items to build your own self-care kits and hang out with other grad students while talking about self-care methods that have worked for them in the past. The [SVPRO](#) office is funding this event. Supplies will be limited and first-come first-served. This event is subject to change depending on evolving COVID-19 regulations.

February 16: #PoliticsToday: A Conversation with the Sexual Assault Support Centre Waterloo Region @ 2:00 PM

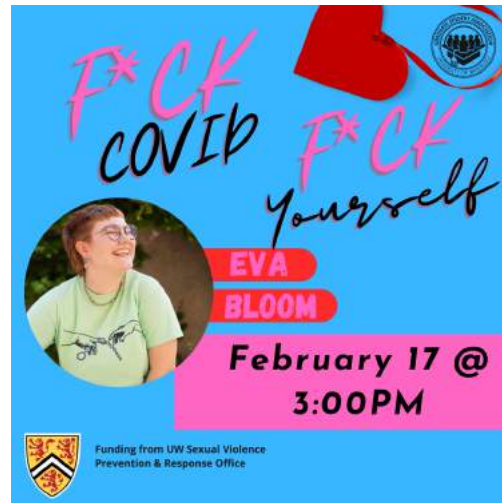
We will be holding the next installment of its #PoliticsToday series in partnership with the [Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region \(SASC\)](#). We will discuss the ongoing supports and services provided by SASC while exploring such topic areas, including options for sexual violence survivors, healing processes, the impact of COVID-19 on sexual violence, and how to support victims in our community. Register to be part of this conversation [here](#). Please contact Nicholas Palaschuk, GSA Partnerships Coordinator directly (gsa-community@uwaterloo.ca) if you have any questions.

February 16: International Love (Virtual Student Mixer) @ 6:00 PM

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

**February 17: F*ck COVID, F*ck Yourself
@ 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM**

F*ck COVID, amiright? How to still have rockin' sex in a (seemingly never ending) pandemic. This workshop is perfect for you if you are spending V-Day with your sexy self, scoping out cuties on dating apps, or getting cozy with a partner/s. Learn strategies to ask for what you want in dating & bed, tips for spicing things up (sex toy guide, anyone??), and how to tap back into desire in times of stress. Hosted by [Eva Bloom](#) (they/she), award-winning queer sexuality educator and sex science communicator. Funding provided by UW SVPRO Office. [Register here.](#)



February 17: Sexy and I Know It Trivia @ 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Show off your sexy brain in trivia on questions ranging from love songs to sexual health. Come join us at our virtual team trivia night hosted by the GSA Student Wellness Coordinator. Come as a team (4-6 players) or be randomly assigned to one upon arrival. Lots of fun to be had and prizes to be won! Please note that someone on each team will need to access Microsoft Teams in addition to Zoom via a different browser or device. Spots are limited! [Register here.](#)

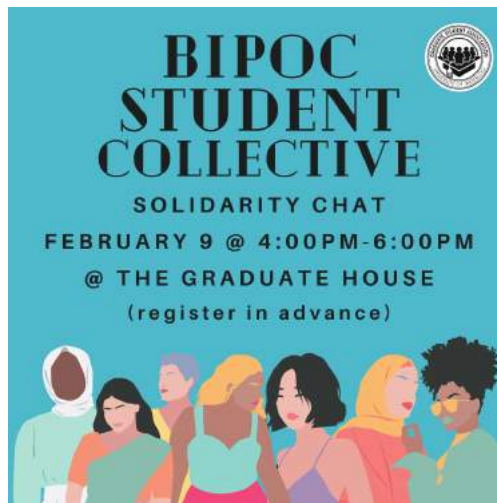
PS: If you want to pick your team in advance, please email Ashley at gsa-wellness@uwaterloo.ca with your team members.

We want to thank our great partners for Safe Love Week 2022: [The Glow Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity](#), [Queer and Trans Graduate Students Wellness \(QTWell\)](#) by UW Campus Wellness, [The SHORE Centre for Sexual Health](#), [The Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region \(SASC\)](#), [The UW Sexual Violence Prevention & Response Office](#), and award-winning queer sexuality educator and sex science communicator [Eva Bloom](#).

Events

February 9: BIPOC Collective Solidarity Chat In-person @ Graduate House @ 4:00 - 6:00 PM

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. Join us at the Graduate House for our first in-person BIPOC collective of the term. This time we're doing a themed open discussion about culture and identity. The event will take place at the Graduate House upstairs lounge on Wednesday, February 9 at 4:00 PM. Limited spots are available! [Register here](#). This event is subject to change depending on evolving COVID-19 regulations.



February 10: Let's Learn Policy 73: Intellectual Property @ 2:00 PM

This session hopes to answer any questions about navigating intellectual property ownership throughout your graduate career at the University of Waterloo. Researchers and entrepreneurs: Do you know our IP policy? Completing projects throughout your coursework: do you own that work? Attend our Policy 73 session to learn more about intellectual property at Waterloo and how it affects you! Bring your questions! Register in advance for this meeting [here](#).

February 16: GSA Labour Coordinator - Monthly Office Hour @ 1:00 PM

The GSA's Labour Coordinator Sophia Sanniti offers monthly office hours online. Discuss questions, concerns or clarifications about your role as a teaching assistant, research assistant or sessional instructor. Topics can include pay, workload, scheduling and more. [Book an appointment here](#).

February 28: Navigating Difficult Conversations - Online Video Series

Effective conflict management is an essential skill for creating a productive and equitable workplace. This video series will share communication tools to best advocate your needs to your course instructor, supervisor, colleague and more. Keep an eye on the [Graduate Student Workers webpage](#) for more details. Missed out on our January webinar Being Proactive for your Work Assignment? Resources were compiled into an accessible and engaging [worksheet](#) to review on your own time.

Get Involved in GSA Governance

We're Hiring! GSA-UW Speaker of Council

The GSA Council is a forum for graduate student voices. Meetings are chaired by the Speaker of Council. Each year a new speaker is elected in April. The Speaker carries the voice of council to GSA board meetings, and other University committees as necessary.

This volunteer leadership position is open to all graduate students, and comes with a **small monthly stipend of \$800**. See the full advertisement [here](#).

Interested candidates will have **until March 4, 2022** to submit their cover letter and CV to Tyler Hampton at gsacounc@uwaterloo.ca. Please email Tyler if you have any questions about this position. Candidates will be interviewed by the Council Executive Committee in March and are expected to attend the April 6, 2022 meeting of the Council to provide a case for their election to the role. They will be elected by the Members of the Council.

Get involved with the GSA-UW Council!

As a [GSA-UW councillor](#), one student from each department sits on the GSA-UW Council and speaks on behalf of their constituents regarding academic and political topics throughout the year. A GSA-UW councillor brings opinions of their department to the forefront, ensuring that decisions being made are in consideration of all students at UW.

Departments with vacant positions on the GSA-UW Council are listed below. If you are interested in applying for a position, please submit the [Council Representative Nomination Form](#) by **Sunday, February 6**.

- Anthropology
- Catholic Thought
- Classical Studies
- Economics
- Peace & Conflict Studies
- Political Science
- Religious Studies
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Theological Studies
- School of Environment, Resources & Sustainability
- School of Planning
- Biochemistry & Chemistry
- Earth & Environmental Sciences
- Applied Mathematics
- Combinatorics & Optimization
- Computational Mathematics
- Computer Science
- Statistics & Actuarial Science
- Artificial Intelligence

If you see your department listed above and are interested in applying for a Council position, or if you have any questions, please email the GSA-UW Elections Coordinator at gsa-elections@uwaterloo.ca.

Upcoming: Board of Directors Nomination Period

Later this term, the GSA-UW Board of Directors will be accepting nominations from graduate students to run in the upcoming Board of Directors elections! The Board of Directors is responsible for overseeing significant decisions related to university life, such as strategic planning, policy, research, finances, and more. In addition to advocating for your fellow graduate students, serving on the Board is also a great opportunity to gain technical and interpersonal skills, including communication, teamwork, business stewardship and networking skills. Upcoming positions are for one-year and two-year terms.

If you're interested in learning more about the Board of Directors, please visit the [GSA-UW Board of Directors webpage](#) or email gsa-elections@uwaterloo.ca.

DGSAs & Committee Representatives

Departmental GSAs

If your DGSA executive team has changed for Winter 2022, please email our GSA Student Engagement Coordinator (gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca) with updated contact information including the names and emails of your DGSA President, Vice-president, and GSA-UW Liaison.

February 9: DGSAs Brainstorming Session @ 5:00 PM

Attend our (Virtual) DGSA-wide brainstorming sessions to have a collaborative opportunity to meet other DGSAs in your faculty and brainstorm together. Please join us on February 9 between 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM. If you have any questions, please email the GSA-UW Student Engagement Coordinator at gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca. Please register in advance for this event [here](#).

Be a part of a DGSA!

We invite graduate and undergraduate students to join our upcoming Data Science and Machine Learning Graduate Students Association (DSML-GSA). The purpose of the DSML-GSA is to collaborate and learn new skills, gain real-world experience by implementing data science and machine learning concepts in practical scenarios, connect with employers, and develop a skillset and mentality of a data scientist.

DSML-GSA events, activities, and/or initiatives will include:

- Speaker Series
- Guest Lectures by research and industry professionals
- Hands-on Projects
- Datathons (Hackathons)
- Kaggle Competitions

Interested students can [fill in this form](#).

Committee Representatives Call

The Centre for Extended Learning facilitates two award-selection processes at the university every year – the [Online Teaching Award](#), and the [Online Course Design Award](#). The former recognizes excellence in online teaching (/facilitation); the latter recognizes excellence in online course design.

As in previous years, we are looking for a representative from the GSA to sit on our evaluation committee this year. The time commitment involved is approximately 1 – 1.5 days at most. Committee members will be selecting award recipients for 2021 and would be expected to:

1. Review nomination packages before the committee meeting, using a rubric provided (5-7 hours). Nomination packages will be sent to committee members via email the week of March 25;
2. Attend a 2-hr evaluation committee meeting on Monday, April 25 to determine the final award recipients. There are 7 people on this committee.

Interested candidates should email gillian.dabrowski@uwaterloo.ca.

Engineering Faculty Council (EFC)

The Engineering Faculty Council (EFC) is looking for graduate students interested in representing their fellow Engineering Graduate Students. The representatives would be responsible for bringing Graduate Student perspectives to discussions and voting on motions on behalf of their fellow students. The time commitment is a two-hour meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of each month (2:30 - 4:30 PM) except for July and August.

Interested candidates should send their CV/Resume to Kevin Bonnell, the student engagement coordinator at the GSA-UW (gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca).

February 11: How to Engage in Committees @ 5:00 PM

Attend our (Virtual) How to Engage workshop session to learn about ways to engage within the committee but also engage with graduate students. This (virtual) workshop session will provide you with the tools and resources to engage with students and staff to advance the goals of your unique committee. Please join us on February 11, between 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email the GSA-UW Student Engagement Coordinator at gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca. Register in advance for this event [here](#).

Community Events

A Special Talk with Michaele Jean for Black History Month

Join the University of Waterloo for a special edition of Research Talks with The Right Honourable Michaele Jean, University of Waterloo Chancellor, St. Paul's University College and former Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada. For more information, please [visit here](#).

Imagining the Normal in Post-Pandemic Times: Critical Socio-Legal Perspectives

The Socio-Legal Studies program at York University is holding its 5th annual Graduate Student Symposium. The deadline to submit proposals is **February 18, 2022**. For more information, please [see here](#).

Green Entrepreneurship Workshop Series

The University of Waterloo is offering a free five-part online workshop series on Green Entrepreneurship. For more information, please visit [here](#).

Building Your Resume through the Writing Centre Professional Development Resources

To learn more about services and workshops from the Writing Centre, please visit [here](#).

Graduate Studies Endowment Fund

The [Graduate Studies Endowment Fund](#) supports improving the academic, professional,

and social experiences of graduate students at the University of Waterloo. To this end, we regularly provide financial assistance for student-driven projects and initiatives.

Funding Opportunities Available

If you or your student group have an idea to improve the academic, social, or the overall experience of your fellow graduate students, apply for small project funding (<\$600) or large project funding (>\$600). Funding is also available for projects focused on environmental sustainability. See below for the funding application deadlines for the Winter 2022 term.

Graduate House

OPEN DAILY!
Monday to Friday from 11:30 AM to 6:00 PM



We are happy to announce that the Graduate House is **open for in person dining at 50% capacity!** At this time, government ID and vaccination records are required for all dine-in guests.

Don't forget! Graduate students who paid their fees can get discounts and free coffee!

[Visit our website](#) to view our menu, deals, and more information about our COVID-19 safety protocol. As per guidelines from the University of Waterloo Safety Office and health guidelines from the province, the Graduate House operations are aligned with COVID-19 requirements, and strict protocols will be in place to ensure safety of our staff, members, and patrons.

Organize UW

A campaign to [unionize](#) Graduate Student Workers at UWaterloo, supported by [CUPE](#).

Email the organizers at organizeuw@joincupe.org
Weekly drop-in video calls Tuesdays @ 1:30 PM [at this link](#)
Follow OUW on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#)!

Safe Return NOW

The University of Waterloo shared a survey asking for input on a safe return to campus, yet many TAs and RAs were NOT included. How can University administration adequately prepare for a safe return without the input of ALL workers? While the survey is currently inactive, provide your input on safe working conditions at coronavirus@uwaterloo.ca

Read our [new post](#) on the importance of worker consultation for any health and safety decision in a workplace. See [FAUW's list of demands](#) for meaningful and robust consultation on in-person working conditions, and share them with your Department Chairs, Deans, Senate representatives and more.

Sign and share this [open letter](#) to University Administration demanding meaningful consultation and a safe return.

Catch Us in the News!

- Jan 22: [Why University of Waterloo Workers Need a Union](#)
- View our [Equity principles](#) that shape our campaign efforts
- Listen to topical webinars and more on our [Talks](#) page
- [View the list](#) of organizations that have publicly endorsed our campaign



[COVID-19 Updates](#)

[GSA Website](#)

[Contact Us!](#)