



April 2022



News & Services

Attend the GSA Annual General Meeting!

The GSA-UW will be holding the [2022 AGM](#) virtually via Zoom on Wednesday, April 13 @ 4:00 PM. The AGM offers students the opportunity to engage with the democratic process of their student representatives and to become better informed on the status and future of the GSA-UW.

[Register to attend the AGM here!](#)

At the AGM, graduate students will have the opportunity to chat with and [elect new members of the GSA Board of Directors](#), vote on important by-law and appointment items, receive informational reports or presentations from the GSA-UW President, GSA-UW Board, GSEF Coordinator, and more!



For additional information, please visit the [2022 Annual General Meeting webpage](#).



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

We will be sending an email from the GSA in mid-April with information on how to opt-in/opt-out of several GSA services for the Spring 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 Spring 2022. All refund requests must be submitted **between May 2 - 20, 2022**. Instructions on how to submit a refund request and to access the refund request, will be updated on our [GRT & ION UPass service page](#) in mid-April.

Call for Bloggers: International Graduate Student Blog

Check out our latest [post](#) to learn more about [wellness resources](#) for international graduate students at UWaterloo!

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

- Tax
- Any useful services you used on campus
- Any GSA-related leadership experiences
- Any clubs or student associations
- Volunteer work
- Off-campus jobs
- 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 post.

Call for Action: International Graduate Student Discord!

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

Get Involved in GSA Governance

**Apply to be the President and Chief
Executive Officer of the GSA-UW!**

The President oversees operations, advocacy, finances, human resources, and strategic planning for the association. The GSA is looking for a motivated and passionate student to bring their experience to this role, and to serve all graduate students. The President works in a large team, reporting to the GSA Board of Directors, and overseeing the General Manager, Vice Presidents, Executive Support, and Graduate House Hospitality Manager.

Visit our [Get Involved page](#) for information on how to apply! The deadline to submit is **Friday April 1, 2022 at 5:00 PM.**



GSA Housing Coordinator Position

The GSA is hiring a Housing Coordinator to support students who live on-campus and off-campus regarding their residence and affordable housing advocacy. This position will work closely with the Affordable Housing Initiative Team ([learn more](#)), including conducting research on graduate student housing experiences. See our [Get Involved page](#) for more information and how to apply!

GSA Labour Coordinator Position

The GSA is hiring a Labour Coordinator to support graduate student workers (e.g. teaching assistants, research assistants, and sessionals etc.) and assist in the GSA's mission to advocate for the academic and social needs of all graduate students at UWaterloo. The Labour coordinator will continue to develop labour education materials (see [current content on our website!](#)) and hold office hours to help students know their rights as workers. See our [Get Involved page](#) for more information and how to apply!

GSA Communications Coordinator Position

The GSA is hiring a Communications Coordinator to support the development and implementation of the GSA's communications strategy. They will help maintain and contribute to the GSA website, send monthly newsletters to students, and work closely with the Social Media and Events Coordinators! See our [Get Involved page](#) for more information and how to apply!

Get involved with the GSA-UW Council!

Get involved with the [GSA-UW Council!](#) As a councillor, one student from each department sits on the GSA-UW Council and speaks on behalf of their peers 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 email the GSA-UW Elections Coordinator (gsa-elections@uwaterloo.ca).

- Anthropology

- Chemistry

- Catholic Thought
- Classical Studies
- Economics
- Peace & Conflict Studies
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Theological Studies
- School of Architecture

- Earth & Environmental Sciences
- Applied Mathematics
- Pure Mathematics
- Combinatorics & Optimization
- Computational Mathematics
- Computer 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.

Video Recap

Wellness Week Recap!

Thanks to everyone who made it out to our wellness week events! Did you miss out on the Candid Talks with Grads sessions? No worries! The presentation recordings are now up on our [Youtube channel!](#)

Events

April 12: BIPOC Student Collective @ 4:00-6:00 PM @ Graduate House

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 grad house for another in-person BIPOC collective. The event will take place at the Graduate House upstairs lounge on Tuesday, April 12 at 4:00 PM. Come join us!



April 19: #PoliticsToday discussion with Waterloo Region Suicide Prevention Council @ 3:00 PM

The GSA is excited to bring to you the 6th installation of the #PoliticsToday series which engages regional community-based organizations in discussions that explore some of today's most salient and pressing socio-political and cultural topics in graduate student life! This is the first of several upcoming events involving the 2021-2022 GSA Philanthropy Fund Initiative recipients.

An engaging online discussion with the team at the Waterloo Region Suicide Prevention Council, this event is intended to explore the ongoing work of this community-based organization aimed at increasing awareness of and engagement in suicide prevention and ultimately reducing suicide and its impact. Diving deeper into how education, training, and community engagement initiatives are being used to drive a positive impact in graduate student life, this event will also provide an opportunity for a Q&A with our graduate student audience.

Please register for this event [here](#).

For more information on the Waterloo Region Suicide Prevention Council, please use the following link: [Waterloo Region Suicide Prevention Council | Home \(wrspc.ca\)](http://wrspc.ca)

More information and past episodes of the GSA's #PoliticsToday series can be found here: [GSA-UW - YouTube](#)

April 20: Monthly Labour Coordinator Office Hours @ 1:00 PM

[Book time](#) with the GSA Labour Coordinator to discuss your experience or inquire about concerns regarding work assignments including TAs, RAs and Sessionals.

April 20: In-Person International Student Mixer @ 2:00 PM

Join us at the Graduate House Green for a fun, socially distanced outdoor event designed for international students! Meet new friends from around the world, learn about campus and the GSA, and enjoy free pizza while supplies last. No registration is required; just come and have fun! Remember to bring your WATcard and credit/debit card for discounted beverages or other food.

Plan B: If it rains, we will move into the purple room inside the Graduate House. Please bring your vaccine proof and government ID.

April 21: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS! Workshop @ TBA

Learn about your basic labour rights under your TA/ RA/ Sessional contract, how to exercise those rights, and how to navigate the tricky landscape of being both a graduate student and worker. Event speakers include top professionals in Labour Law and Human Rights, as well as campus allies from grassroots advocacy campaigns. Labour rights will be discussed in the context of both domestic and international student experience.

Visit the [Graduate Student Workers page](#) on the GSA website to access helpful resources and tools for excelling in your work assignment.

April 25: Virtual International Grad Student Drop-In @ 5:00 PM

A safe and confidential space on [Discord](#) to connect with other international grad students and share ideas, resources and strategies. The Drop-In will be facilitated by Kristine Meier, a counsellor and International Grad Student Liaison from Campus Wellness, as well as Shu-Feng, GSA's International Student Coordinator.

Example topics to be discussed include:

- Transition to UW and life in Ontario
- Campus resources to support grad students,

- Challenges/successes balancing academics and personal life,
 - Managing relationships with family, friends, peers and faculty
 - Managing stress/worries/loneliness and maintaining motivation
 - Anything that is making life challenging and impacting your studies
- [Drop-in here](#). (No registration is needed, but a Discord account is required.)

April 27: Virtual International Student Mixer @ 5:00 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.)

April 28: Outdoor Games @ Graduate House Green @ 1:00 PM

Join us for an end-of-winter celebration! If you ever attended summer camp growing up or like participating in icebreaker games, this is the event for you! Come swing by the Grad House green (grass on the right-hand side of the Graduate House) to participate in a 2-hour game event! You will have the opportunity to meet other graduate students, get some outdoor exercise, breathe in that fresh fall air, and improve your teamwork and communication skills. Snacks included! [Register here](#).

Graduate House

OPEN DAILY!
Monday to Friday from 11:30 AM to 7:00 PM



Come on in! With recent announcements from UW and the Province of Ontario, we are increasing capacity at the Graduate House to 100% for in-person dining and social gatherings! For the remainder of the Winter 2022 Term, 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 protocols are in place to ensure safety of our staff, members, and patrons.

Graduate House Events

We're offering even more variety in our in-person events this month at the Graduate House! Check out our list of events for April:

Wednesday, April 6: Paint Night @ 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Unwind with us at the end of term in a painting session. Follow along a painting tutorial at your own pace, and relax with friends or enjoy the peaceful time to yourself. This is a ticketed event at \$10 which includes the paint supplies and a drink at the bar. Spots are limited, [register here](#).

Thursday, April 7: Music Bingo @ 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Jam out to snippets of songs while trying to get your bingo in first. Join in on the friendly competition against fellow graduate students to win a prize!

Thursday, April 14: Live Music with Graeme Zinck starts at 4:00 PM

Come drop by to enjoy some live music while you meet new folks, enjoy food, and drink some local craft beer. Graeme is a fellow UW graduate student and a local musician.

Wednesday, April 20: Trivia Night @ 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Bring your friends or meet new friends and test your knowledge at Trivia Night! Join in on the friendly competition against fellow graduate students to win a prize!

Thursday, April 21: Karaoke Night starts at 4:00 PM

Bring your friends or meet new friends as all of you sing along to favorite hits or belt out to any song at your request!

Spots are first come, first serve (with the exception of Paint Night). Vaccine checks will still be required for the remainder of Winter 2022 term. Please bring proof of vaccination and government ID.

DGSAs & Committee Representatives

Events:

April 7: End of Term Destress Social DGSA + Committee Reps @ Graduate House, 4:00 PM

We are excited to end this term off with a DGSA + GSA-Grad Committee Reps Social at our very own Graduate House. Please join us on April 7 between 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM. This will be an excellent opportunity to connect with other DGSA + GSA-Grad Committee Reps across the campus. Snacks will be provided while we make stress balls. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email the GSA-UW Student Engagement Coordinator at gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca.

Please [register here](#).

Call for Participation:

Research Data Management Institutional Strategy Project

[The Research Data Management Institutional Strategy Project Committee](#) is responding to the [Tri-Agency's Research Data Management Policy](#), which notes that “research data collected through the use of public funds should be responsibly and securely managed and be, where ethical, legal and commercial obligations allow, available for reuse by others.”

The University of Waterloo needs to put an institutional strategy together, and we want to have voices from our researchers join some facilitated focus groups around what they want when it comes to data, and how we might get there. We also really want researchers who can raise red flags if our proposed strategy doesn't work the way that they work! The project will last approximately April/May until August.

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

Engineering Faculty Council (EFC)

The role would be to represent Engineering Graduate Students on the Engineering Faculty Council (EFC). The representatives would be responsible for bringing Graduate Student perspectives to discussions and voting on motions on behalf of their fellow students. The representatives need to be Engineering Graduate 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)

University Digital Learning Strategy Working Group

The University Digital Learning Strategy Working Group needs to engage 6-8 graduate students for a one-time consultation session to support framing a digital learning strategy for the university. This will be 1-1.5 hours and may require a bit of reading/thought beforehand.

Please email the GSA-UW student engagement coordinator at gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca if you're interested!

Community Events

Attention Graduate BIPOC Community! BIPOC Writing Groups Survey is LIVE

In collaboration with the Graduate Student Association, the Writing and Communication Centre (WCC) is seeking input on developing social writing supports for BIPOC students and wants to hear from you. To access the survey please use [this link](#).

April 23: KW Scavenger Hunt @ Uptown Waterloo @ 10:30 AM

This unique event family-friendly event is run in partnership with local businesses and includes 10+ stops along the way! Each small business has graciously offered a discount

for those that find them on the hunt so you can not only enjoy the scavenger hunt, but also the offerings of Uptown Waterloo's small businesses!

For more information on the event use the following link: [KW Scavenger Hunt](#)

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. Check out recently funded projects on the [GSEF Blog](#) to learn more.

Funding Opportunities

If you or your student group have an idea to improve 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 upcoming funding application deadlines:

- Small project applications are due every first of the month (May 1, June 1, July 1, August 1)
- Large project applications are due every sixth Friday of the term (June 10)
- Environmental Sustainability Award applications are due every sixth Friday of the term (June 10)

Check out the GSEF website to learn more about [GSEF-funded student projects](#) and how to [apply for funding](#)! You can also read through the [GSEF blog](#) to learn more about recent activities, projects, and initiatives across campus! If you have any questions, email the GSEF Coordinator at gsef@uwaterloo.ca.

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](#)!

Catch Us in the News!

- Read our article in Passage: [Why University of Waterloo Workers Need a Union](#)

Delve into our online resources!

- View our [Equity principles](#) that shape our campaign efforts
- Check out our [comprehensive FAQ](#)
- Read our “for-International Students by-International Students” [blog_posts and articles](#)
- 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!](#)

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