

## Graduate Student Association Monthly E-Newsletter



# March 2022



## News & Services

### SLC Grad Lounge

The SLC Grad Lounge is now OPEN for graduate students! Located in SLC 3216, the study space will have a limited capacity of 9 students for now. COVID-19 protocols will be in place. The SLC Grad Lounge will be operating every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Registration is required to use the lounge space. Visit our website [here](#) to register your spot.



### **GSA Research Website**

The GSA has invested significant work and brainpower to research the graduate student experience at UW and imagine a better future for students. We are launching a new part of our website highlighting past research reports, surveys, referenda, and our past and ongoing advocacy initiatives. Check it all out [here!](#)

### **GSA Affordable Housing Initiative**

The GSA is committed to fostering a supportive and appropriate environment for all graduate students (see [GSA Political Position](#)). One of our many focuses is on housing and providing housing information for incoming and continuing graduate students at the University of Waterloo. We are launching a webpage to provide information that will support students from finding a new home to informing students of our efforts regarding the issue of housing affordability in Canada. In particular, the rapid increase of living costs related to housing in our region due to gentrification. See the webpage [here!](#)

### **GSA Labour Advocacy: Work Assignment Resources**

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

New from last month: [Worksheet](#) - Being Proactive for your Work Assignment.

New this month:

- *Managing difficult conversations with your course supervisor* - a video series to be published on the Graduate Student Workers page over the coming month. Stay tuned!
- *Time management as self-care* - a selection of time management resources developed in partnership with the [Centre for Teaching Excellence](#) to be shared on our website.

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

### **Call for Action: International Graduate Student Discord!**

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

## Video Recap

### **Navigating Policy 73: Intellectual Property for Graduate Students**

Did you miss it? This video presentation will provide an overview on 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? Watch our Policy 73 session to learn more about intellectual property at Waterloo and how it affects you!

Find the video presentation on the [GSA-UW Youtube Channel](#).

## Events

### **March 9: BIPOC Student Collective from 4:00 to 6:00 PM at 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 Graduate House for another in-person BIPOC collective. The event will take place at the Graduate House upstairs lounge on Wednesday, March 9 at 4:00 PM. Come join us!

### **March 17: International Student Mixer from 2:00 to 3:30 PM at Graduate House**

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

### **March 23: Labour Coordinator Monthly Office Hours at 1:00 PM**

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

### **March 29: #BuildYourCareer Part 4: International Alumni Virtual Panel Discussion at 6:00 PM**

The GSA has invited several alumni who were UW international graduate students back! These alumni will give their advice to current international graduate students about their careers during pandemic and future! Join the event on [Discord](#) (no registration is needed, but a Discord account is required). DM your questions to Shu-Feng on our Discord channels.



**In March the GSA will be celebrating Wellness Week from March 14-18.** See below for exciting and engaging events to help graduate students improve their physical and mental wellness!

**March 14: Motivational Monday on Instagram all-day**

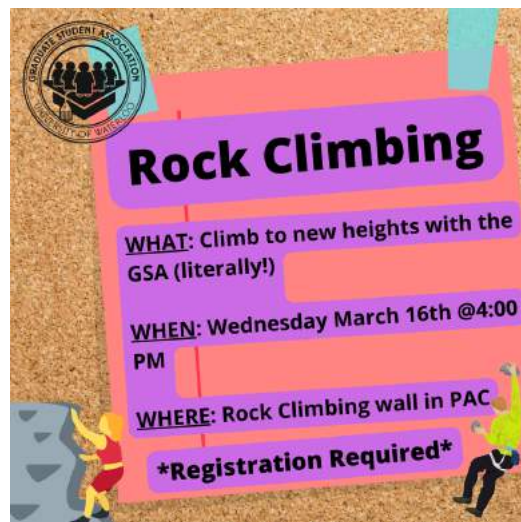
Tune into the GSA's Instagram account ([@gsa.uwaterloo](https://www.instagram.com/gsa.uwaterloo)) any time on March 14 to catch our wellness week kick-off event! Follow along with our Student Wellness Coordinator, Ashley, to learn about wellness resources, tips, strategies, and more! Prizes to be won!

**March 15: Cooking and Baking Night from 5:00 to 7:00 PM on Zoom**

Join our Student Wellness Coordinator Ashley, for an evening of cooking and baking fun resulting in a tasty dinner (with some leftovers for later, or sharing!) Live with other people who want to participate? No problem! As long as you register for a spot, you can share your kitchen with anyone you wish during the event (i.e. roommates, friends, partners, children). You will be sent the ingredient list at least one week in advance so you can have time to prepare for the evening. We will be making a delicious lasagna, unique wedge salad, and banana bread loaf. All of the recipes are adaptable for those who require a vegan, halal, gluten-free, or allergen-free meal. If you have any questions, reach out to Ashley at [gsa-wellness@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:gsa-wellness@uwaterloo.ca). Register for a spot on [Zoom here](#).

**March 16: Rock Climbing at 4:00 PM at PAC (new SLC climbing wall)**

Come check out the new rock climbing wall on campus with the GSA on our third day of wellness week! No previous experience is needed to join this event. You will be supplied with equipment and instruction on how to safely use the walls. This is a great opportunity to get to know other graduate students and get some fun exercise! Please note that spots are limited. If you have any questions, reach out to Ashley at [gsa-wellness@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:gsa-wellness@uwaterloo.ca). [Register for a spot here](#).



### March 17: Candid Talks with Grads Day, various times on Zoom

Join us at our day of Candid Talks with Grads sessions, an open discussion and support event that focuses on different topics that are important to graduate students at the University of Waterloo. Come on out to one or all of these! Students will have the opportunity to hear about and share their experiences, stories, tips, and more. Please note that a counselor from Counselling Services may be sitting in on the discussion. If interested, register here:

- Register for [Parenting and Caregiving @ 10:00 AM-11:15 AM](#) (includes all types of parenting and caregiving for all different age groups and contexts).
- Register for [Sleep Habits @ 1:00 PM-2:15 PM](#).
- Register for [Transitioning Back to Campus @ 4:30 PM-5:45 PM](#).

### March 18: Wellness Week Finale, Surprise Guest Appearance!

A special guest has a message about wellness and loving yourself for all the graduate students at the University of Waterloo! Keep an eye out on the GSA social media channels to check out the message and see who it is!

## Get Involved in GSA Governance

### Join the Board of Directors - Applications are now open!

The GSA-UW Board of Directors is now 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. 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 two-year terms.

Information for submitting an application can be found on the [GSA Directors Election 2022 webpage](#). To learn more about the Board of Directors, please visit the [GSA-UW Board of Directors webpage](#) or email [gsa-cro@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:gsa-cro@uwaterloo.ca).



### Senate Elections

The University of Waterloo is seeking nominations for two upcoming graduate student vacancies in the Senate. Nominations are due by **Monday, March 7 at 12:00 PM, noon**.



By joining the Senate, you can have a direct impact on graduate student life and broader long-term university projects. This is a great leadership opportunity for any graduate student at UWaterloo! Two graduate students of UWaterloo will be elected by/from the full- and part-time graduate students of the University for the terms May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2024. Get more information [here](#).

### **GSA Office Coordinator Position**

The GSA is hiring an Office Coordinator to support the GSA's administrative requirements. Notable responsibilities include (but are not limited to) payroll, communications, reception, and file management. This position is open to all, not just graduate students. Please feel free to send this job posting to your friends and family. See our [Get Involved](#) page for more information and a link 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](mailto:gsa-elections@uwaterloo.ca)).

- Anthropology
- Catholic Thought
- Classical Studies
- Economics
- Peace & Conflict Studies
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Theological Studies
- School of Environment, Resources & Sustainability
- Chemistry
- 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](mailto: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](mailto:gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca)) with updated contact information, including the names and emails of your DGSA President, Vice-president and GSA-UW Liaison.

## Graduate Representative Calls

### Engineering Faculty Council (EFC)

The Engineering Faculty Council (EFC) is looking for representatives to bring graduate student perspectives to discussions and to vote 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](mailto:gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca))

### Online Teaching and Course Design Award Evaluation Committee

Call for a graduate student representative for the online teaching and course design award evaluation committee. As you know, 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 to sit on the 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:

- Review nomination packages in advance of 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 ;
- Attend a 2-hr evaluation committee meeting on Monday, April 25 to determine the final award recipients. There are 7 people on this committee.
- [See here](#) for more information.

Interested candidates should send their CV/Resume to [gillian.dabrowski@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:gillian.dabrowski@uwaterloo.ca).

### Research Data Management Institutional Strategy Project

This 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. We want to have voices from our researchers to 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 from April/May until August. More information [here](#).

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

### University Digital Learning Strategy Working Group

A group of 6-8 students graduate students is required 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 reading/thought beforehand.

Please email the GSA-UW Student Engagement Coordinator at [gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca) if you're interested in getting involved!

### DGSA and Committee Representative Events

#### March 30: Communication Strategy and EDI Workshop at 6:00 PM

Attend our (Virtual) Communication Strategy and EDI DGSA workshop to learn about ways and strategies to improve your DGSA's communication strategy. During this Communication Strategy and EDI DGSA workshop, you will be provided with unique Communication Strategy tools to support your marketing process and a chance to connect with other DGSA's. Please join us on March 30 between 6:00 - 7:00 PM for the (Virtual) Communication Strategy and EDI DGSA workshop. Visit [here](#) for the event registration. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email the GSA-UW Student Engagement Coordinator at [gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca).

#### March 31: Advocacy Tactics Workshop Session at 6:00 PM

We wanted to highly encourage you to attend our (Virtual) Advocacy Tactics Workshop Session to learn how to advocate for equity-seeking graduate students. This workshop session will provide you with the tools and resources you need to advocate for equity, diversity, and inclusion within your committee as the graduate representative. Please join us on March 31 between 6:00 PM and 7:00 PM. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email the GSA-UW Student Engagement Coordinator at [gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca). Visit [here](#) for registration.

## Community Events

#### GSA-UW Philanthropy Fund Initiative Winner Announcement

The Graduate Students Association Philanthropy Fund is dedicated to engaging off-campus community organizations throughout Waterloo Region to support those organizations who align with GSA political positions. By supporting these communities, the GSA hopes to help create a flourishing community, help to improve off-campus reach and create new opportunities and services that support positive graduate student experiences. Following a graduate student-led nomination and voting process, the following organizations have been elected to be the 2021-2022 Philanthropy Fund recipients:

#### Political Position #1 Ensuring ethical academic, employment, and social policies

Recipient Organization: [ReAllocateWR](#)

#### Political Position #2 Mitigating barriers to pursuing graduate education in Ontario

Recipient Organization: [Reception House Waterloo Region](#)

#### Political Position #3 Encouraging the Region of Waterloo community to be leaders in sustainability

Recipient Organization: [REEP Green Solutions](#)

#### Political Position #4 Supporting student mental wellness

Recipient Organization: [Waterloo Regional Suicide Prevention Council](#)



### **March 3 - 31: Green Entrepreneurship Learning Series**

In partnership with the Commission for Environmental Cooperation, The North American EcoInnovation Network and the University of Waterloo are offering a free five-part online workshop series on Green Entrepreneurship. For more information on how to register use the following link: [Green Entrepreneurship Workshop Series \(cec.org\)](https://cec.org)

### **March 9: “Green the market: How Canadian businesses can take advantage of the booming green economy” at 11:45 AM**

How do we reconcile the climate crisis with opportunities in the market? What market and policy signals are mobilizing economic forces towards emission-cutting innovations across all sectors? Join Canadian Club Toronto on March 9 for a conversation with Canada’s Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Steven Guilbeault. Register here: [The Honourable Steven Guilbeault – Canadian Club Toronto](#)

### **March 19: Winter Pride 2022 at 7:00 PM**

Get your tickets here: [Winter Pride 2022 Tickets, Sat, 19 Mar 2022 at 7:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

### **University of Waterloo Writing Centre BIPOC Graduate Student Survey**

In partnership with the Graduate Student Association, the Writing Centre and Communication Centre (WCC) is seeking the input on the development of social writing supports for BIPOC graduate students. This survey is designed to inform the design of the WCC’s current and future BIPOC-focused programming. We ask that only those individuals who identify as Black, Indigenous or a person of color and are currently enrolled in a graduate studies program at the University of Waterloo complete this survey. WCC survey link: [Qualtrics Survey | Qualtrics Experience Management](#)

## **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.

### **Position Openings**

Are you enthusiastic about student-driven initiatives? Do you want to contribute to the graduate student community at the University of Waterloo?

GSEF is looking to hire a new **Coordinator** to lead Project Review Committee and Board meetings, develop new initiatives to address graduate student needs, improve GSEF in its outreach and benefit to graduate students, and carry out the day-to-day affairs of GSEF. You will have the opportunity to work with a diverse and committed group of graduate students across UWaterloo and it is great experience to have on your CV!

Please see the [Coordinator Job Description](#) for more details. Interested candidates will have until **March 9, 2022** to submit their cover letter and CV to the GSEF Coordinator (Monica Bustos) at [gsef@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:gsef@uwaterloo.ca). Please email Monica if you have any questions about this position.

## 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 (April 1)
- Large project applications are due every sixth Friday of the term
- Environmental Sustainability Award applications are due every sixth Friday of the term

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](mailto:gsef@uwaterloo.ca).

# Graduate House

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

## Events are back!

The Graduate House is back with in-person events! We'll be hosting an event every week

with prizes for winners. Join in on the friendly competition against fellow graduate students:

- **Music Bingo - Thursdays (March 10 and March 31) @ 4:00 - 6:00 PM**
  - Jam out to snippets of songs while trying to get your bingo in first!
- **Trivia Night - Wednesdays (March 16 and March 30) @ 4:00 - 6:00 PM**
  - Test your knowledge on a variety of topics to compete for prizes!

Spots are first-come, first-serve. Vaccine verification will still be required for the remainder of the Winter 2022 term. Please bring proof of vaccination and government ID.

## Organize UW

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

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

### Delve into our online resources!

- 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

### Catch Us in the News!

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



COVID-19 Updates

GSA Website

Contact Us!