

Changes to GSA Fees effective Fall 2020

In November 2019, a provincial court ruling struck down the Student Choice Initiative (SCI) and accompanying ancillary fee framework. In January 2020, The GSA Board approved changes to GSA fees to no longer align with the SCI framework. The changes to fees constitute a reversal of the splitting of Association fees into optional and mandatory categories as defined in the SCI framework. As a result, all fees under the Association fees are amalgamated into three fee categories. Administered fees were not impacted by removal of SCI. The changes to the fees were approved by the University Board of Governors in June 2020 and will take effect starting Fall 2020.

The GSA will be collecting all of its fees in Fall 2020 given that it is anticipated graduate students will be utilizing GSA services and that a significant portion of graduate students will be in the region in Fall 2020.

Please note that the GRT fees will be collected to ensure graduate students are able to have access to transit in the region. As part of the new agreement with GRT, some additional benefits will be offered to graduate students using the UPass program. Details will be forthcoming.

Please also note that Graduate House fees will be charged as the GSA is looking to open up the Graduate House in Fall 2020. As per guidelines from the University of Waterloo Safety Office and health guidelines from the province, strict protocols will be in place to ensure safety of members and patrons. More details will be posted on our Graduate House website in the coming weeks. Graduate students wishing to not pay the Graduate House fee will need to opt-out of the fee on Quest during the fee collection period. For more information on fee collection period and opting-out, visit the uWaterloo Finance website at:

<https://uwaterloo.ca/finance/graduate-incidentals-fees-fall-2020>

Changes to GSA fees for 2020-2021, including increases to GSA Administered fees as well as new fees, can be here:

GSA Association Fees

Fee	Amount	Category	Description
Association Fee	\$18.80	Mandatory	Supports the administration of the Core GSA services which include but are not limited to the supplementary health plan, supplementary dental plan, the GRT Universal Transit Pass (U-Pass), representation and advocacy at the University of Waterloo and to external bodies, social and academic initiatives, confidential advising support, and tax consultations. This fee is non-refundable.
Academic Support	\$2.00	Mandatory	Supports academic events and initiatives and administration of these activities. This fee is non-refundable.
Wellness Support	\$2.00	Mandatory	Supports wellness events and initiatives and administration of these activities. This fee is non-refundable.

GSA Administered Services

Fee	Amount	Category	Description
Health Plan	\$66.00	Mandatory	Provides a supplementary Health Plan which is designed to provide important services in addition

			to the basic provincial healthcare plan. This fee is refundable during change of coverage period with equivalent proof of coverage.
Dental Plan	\$97.00	Mandatory	Provides a supplementary Dental Plan which is designed to provide dental care services. This fee is refundable during change of coverage period.
GRT U-Pass	\$105.50	Mandatory	Provides riding access to the Grand River Transit Buses and ION Light Rail Transit. This fee is non-refundable.
Legal Protection Service Fee	\$9.33	Mandatory	Provides access to legal services provided through Studentcare's Legal Protection Program. This fee is refundable during change of coverage period in the first active semester.
Graduate House*	\$23.50	Optional	<p>Supports GSA Graduate House services including subsidized food pricing, social programming and use of graduate house space. Members who pay this fee also receive discounts on food prices, and free room booking.</p> <p>Members who opt-out of this fee are welcome to use the Graduate House space but will be charged a \$40/hr rental fee (subject to change without notice) for room booking and are ineligible for price discounts. This fee is non-refundable.</p>

**May be subject to 13% HST*