



February 2023



In a Nutshell

February will be filled with workshops, panel discussions, and more activities!

In the [News & Services section](#), you can find out everything about the soon-to-happen Housing Rights Workshop, a Black talent panel discussion, the QTWELL drop-in group for 2SLGBTQIA+ students, and more.

The GSA Newsletter has a new Alumni section

Each month, you will find in [this new section](#) information about alumni benefits and services, as well as events and programs dedicated to current and future alumni!

New events!

Some of [this month's events](#) include a Speed Housemate Matching Event, a BIPOC Student Collective, an International Student Drop-In, and an International Student Mixer!

[At the Graduate House](#), Safe Love Week is approaching, and it is coming with a Sex Toy Bingo, Sexy Trivia, Salsa Night, and more!

News & Services

Get involved with the GSA-UW Council!

If your department has vacant positions on the GSA-UW Council, you can nominate yourself for the open position of councillor **between Thursday, January 26 to Monday, February 06**. Check out the entire list of vacant positions [here](#).

Housing Rights Workshop

Organized by WUSA along with Studentcare, this session is open to Graduate Students as well. The workshop topics include:

- Rights and responsibilities under the Residential Tenancy Act, what an Ontario Standard Lease looks like, and more.
- Features of the Legal Protection Program & how to access

This in-person workshop will take place on **Tuesday, February 7, 2023, from 12:00 to 1:30 PM**, in the **Black & Gold Room**. Please [register here](#) to attend this event.

UW Food Services and Graduate House will decrease business hours during the reading week

During the reading week between February 18 and February 26, Graduate House and UW Food Services on campus will adjust their business hours. Please check [the UW Food Services website](#) and the [Graduate House Instagram page](#) for more details in February.

Call for bloggers: Write an International Student Blog Post and receive a \$15 gift card!

GSA's [International Student Blog](#) is written for our fellow international graduate students as we empower each other by sharing our experiences or stories!

If you are an international graduate student and is interested in writing a blog post, please check [here](#) to know what kind of posts we are looking for, and email GSA International Student Coordinator, Shu-Feng, at gsa-international@uwaterloo.ca. **You will be awarded a \$15 gift card if your blog post is published!**

"Elevating Black talent in the workplace" Panel Discussion registration open

Are you looking for opportunities to reflect and learn more about Black talent in the workforce? Join the "Elevating Black excellence in the workplace" panel discussion on **Wednesday, February 22, from 12:00 - 1:00 PM**. Find out more details and register

for this free virtual event [here](#).

Queer and Trans Graduate Students Wellness (QTWELL)

QTWELL is an open, drop-in group for any graduate student who is a sexual and gender minority or identifies as part of the 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. The group is facilitated by a counsellor with lived experience in the area and will focus on the many different aspects of wellness. For more information, please visit [our website](#) and check back regularly as meeting locations and type (virtual/in person) may change.

Focus Group on Work-Integrated Learning

The Centre for Work-Integrated Learning is seeking 12-15 graduate students to participate in a **1-hour focus group**, to take place in mid-February. We are seeking all graduate students with previous experience in a work-integrated learning experience (e.g., co-op, internship, etc.), or those who are expecting to participate in the future. This focus group aims to gain insight into how the institution can better prepare graduate students before going on a work-integrated learning experience.

If you are interested in participating, please [contact Adam Cornwall](#). **All participants will receive \$10 on their WatCard.** Check out more information about this focus group [here](#).

Difficult Conversation Wednesdays

Are you having difficulties with a friend, a classmate, a supervisor, or a colleague? Do think you may need to have a difficult conversation? Are you unsure how to begin? Do you wish you had someone to listen to and provide feedback as you consider your approach? The staff in the Conflict Management and Human Rights Office are setting aside Wednesday especially for difficult conversations. Email Lynn Long, at l3long@uwaterloo.ca, if you would like to make an appointment.

Events

February 9: Speed Housemate

**Matching Event @ GSA Grad Lounge
(SLC 3216) @ 3:00 - 5:00 PM**

Are you a graduate student looking for a roommate? Join us for a Speed Housemate Matching Event! Be ready to participate in a human bingo to get to

know fellow graduate students looking for a roommate(s). Food, beverages, and prizes await! Register [here](#).



More Events:

- **February 7:** BIPOC Student Collective @ Graduate House @ 4:00 - 7:00 PM
- **February 16:** International Student Drop-In @ Graduate House @ 4:00 - 5:00 PM
- **February 22:** International Student Mixer @ Graduate House @ 1:30 - 3:00 PM

Be sure to check out the [Events section on the GSA website](#) to read more details and find out about more events.

Graduate House

OPEN DAILY!

Monday to Tuesday @ 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Wednesday to Friday @ 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM



Come on in! We've got patio space upstairs and on the main floor, new menu items to try, and special weekly drinks and sides!

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

February 13 - 16: Safe Love Week at The Graduate House!

The GSA welcomes you to a week of celebration and engagement with healthy (and perhaps sexy) relationships - it's Safe Love Week! The Graduate House is throwing four

sweet, FREE events on the week of Valentine's Day, February 13 to February 16. Come alone or come together for prizes, good food and drink, and nasty fun. **These events are for graduate students only, so please bring along that WatCard for free admission.**

Graduate House Events

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

Featured Events:

- **February 13: Cookies and Crafts @ 4:30 - 6:30 PM**
Come to the Graduate House at 4:30 to decorate sugar cookies and make Valentine's Day cards and friendship bracelets, and mingle with other graduate students!
- **February 14: Sex Toy Bingo @ 5:00 - 7:30 PM**
On February 14, come indulge at this SUPER FREE event with local comedy queen Kasha Czech as she dishes B's and O's for all manner of sex toy prizes.
- **February 15: Sexy Trivia @ 6:00 - 7:30 PM**
Compete in teams against your fellow graduate students to answer trivia questions themed around love, safe sex, and Valentine's Day.
- **February 16: Salsa Night @ 7:00 - 9:00 PM**
Top off Safe Love Week with romance, dancing, and maybe dinner and drinks. Pairs and singles welcome. Instruction by the University of Waterloo Mambo Club @uwmambo.

More Events:

- **February 8: Karaoke Night @ 6:00 - 8:00 PM**
- **February 9 Music Bingo @ 6:00 - 8:00 PM**
- **March 1: Open Mic Night @ 6:00 - 8:00 PM**

Check out [the Events section on our website](#) for more information.

Organize UW

OrganizeUW is the campaign to unionize Graduate Student Workers at UWaterloo.
OrganizeUW is supported by CUPE.

Want to chat? Email the organizers at organizeuw@joincupe.org
Follow OUW on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#)! #WhyNotWaterloo

Let's get TAs and RAs over the finish line!

Sessional instructors at UW are now unionized and on their way to electing their union leaders and negotiating their collective agreement. TAs and RAs can get there too!

How can I help?

1. Whether you prefer to support the campaign on campus, remotely, or anonymously, there's a way for every grad student to support OrganizeUW. [Fill out this 4-question form](#) to see how you can help make our TA/RA union a reality.
 2. Make sure international students' voices are heard. On **Tuesday, February 21**, our communications team will be on campus filming statements of support from international students. Individuals, clubs, or groups of co-workers and friends - [fill out this scheduling poll](#) and together we'll prepare and record your message of support.
- Winter 2023 is going to be pivotal for the OrganizeUW unionization campaign, and full participation of all grad students is the vital ingredient in making it happen. Check out [our website](#) for more information and [sign your union card](#) today!

Alumni

Whether keeping you connected as an alum or getting you excited to become one, Alumni Relations is excited to be a new part of the GSA newsletter.

Each month we will showcase more about the alumni [benefits and services](#), in addition to events and programs just for you.

Zero Work

This program is for those searching for a career that reflects their values and strengths, and for those who are ready for a career change that counts. Discover a path that just feels right. Register and learn more [here](#).

Uncharted Podcast: Warriors in the World

On February 14, a new episode of [our podcast](#) will highlight a panel of former international students, now successful alumni working in Canada on how they

navigated finding a job. Subscribe to the UWaterloo Podcast channel wherever you listen to your podcasts.



[GSA Website](#)

[Contact Us!](#)

[Graduate House](#)