



January 2023



In a Nutshell

UW sessionals have overwhelmingly voted in favour of unionization

Sessionals are now in the process of forming their union. Read the full letter written by Organize UW [here](#).

TODAY marks the beginning of the opt-out/opt-in period for GSA Services

From **January 9 - 27, 2023**, eligible students may submit opt-out/opt-in requests for the Health Plan, Dental Plan, and Legal Protection Services, and refund requests for the GRT & ION UPass. Check out more information in the [News & Services section](#) or on [this page](#) on our website.

New events!

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

[At the Graduate House](#), there will be Faculty Orientations, a Winter Welcome Party, and their beloved monthly events, such as Trivia Night, Karaoke Night, and more!

News & Services

Learn more about the Canadian Winter

If you are a new International Graduate Student but missed our December International Grad Student Drop-In discussing the Canadian Winter, we have you covered! Watch our [recorded presentation](#) or read [this post](#) on our International Student Blog to learn more about how to maintain your well-being and stay warm in the Canadian Winter! Also, check out our [“FAQ for New International Graduate Students”](#) page on the GSA website.

Negative COVID-19 test requirement for students arriving from certain countries

Starting **January 5, 2023**, Canada will require air travelers departing from **China, Hong Kong, or Macao** to provide a negative COVID-19 test result (PCR or antigen test) within 48 hours before their departure, regardless of travelers' nationality and vaccination status. Please check out more details [here](#).

Change-of-Coverage Period for the Health Plan, Dental Plan, and Legal Protection Program

The Change-of-Coverage Period is the period when you can either opt out of these services or enrol your spouse and/or dependent children in the Health and Dental Plan. Co-op students who wish to self-enrol may also do so during this period. This term, the Change-of-Coverage period will **be from January 9 - 27, 2023**. Instructions on how to opt in or opt out of these services can be found [here](#).

GRT & ION UPass Refund Program

The GRT & ION UPass Refund Program will be launched for Winter 2023. All refund requests must be submitted **between January 9 - 27, 2023**. Instructions on how to submit a refund request and to access the refund request can be found [here](#).

Events

January 16: Speed Friending @ SLC
Grad Lounge (3216) @ 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Looking for another opportunity to

meet other grads in different programs and faculties? Come to our speed friending event to socialize and enjoy some free food! All grad students welcome!

Please register [here](#).



More Events:

- **January 11: BIPOC Student Collective @ Graduate House @ 4:00 - 6:00 PM**
- **January 23: International Student Drop-In @ Graduate House @ 4:00 - 5:00 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!

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:

- **All Month Long: Faculty Orientations feat. FREE Pizza and Drinks! @ 5:00 PM**

Head over to the Graduate House for your faculty orientation. Hang with peers new and old for some drinks and FREE in-house 'Za. Check the list for YOUR orientation, each date at 5:00 PM!

Jan 10 - Science

Jan 12 - Engineering

Jan 17 - Arts

Jan 19 - Environment

Jan 24 - Health

Jan 26 - Math

- **January 13: Winter Welcome Party @ 5:00 PM**

New Grad Student? New to Campus or back for another term? Swing on by the Graduate House on Friday, January 13 for our Winter Welcome Grad Party! Join us for a complimentary beverage - House Mocktail, or a draft beer from Stockyards Brewing! Join the fun with our retro DJ spinning some real vinyl - just like back in the day! Festivities get rolling around 5:00 PM.

More Events:

- **January 11: Trivia Night @ 6:00 - 8:00 PM**
- **January 18: Karaoke Night @ 6:00 - 8:00 PM**
- **January 19: Music Bingo @ 6:00 - 8:00 PM**
- **January 25: 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

Last month we celebrated sessionals' historic decision to unionize after an

overwhelming majority YES vote!

What an incredible achievement where everyone had an important role to play – this was truly a team effort! From the group of UW academic workers who met with union organizers from the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) a couple of years ago, to the many OrganizeUW volunteers and supporters who have contributed since then in so many important ways, to the GSA for the continued support of OrganizeUW, to the sessionals who voted in an overwhelming majority to unionize.

UW sessionals are now in the process of forming their union and we're really excited about getting TAs and RAs to that stage as well.

To that end, we're always looking for new Organizers and there truly is a role for everyone. We'd love to hear from you at organizeuw@joincupe.org. And if you know any TAs or RAs who are not receiving OrganizeUW updates to their personal e-mail address, please ask them to e-mail us at organizeuw@joincupe.org.

In solidarity,
The OrganizeUW Team

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!

GSA Website