



June 2022



## In a Nutshell

### **GSA has a new President, Julian Surdi!**

Get to know a little more about Julian and his background [here](#).

### **New virtual and in-person events!**

Some of [this month's events](#) include a Virtual International Grad Student Drop-in, Pride Pizza Party, QTWELL events, In-Person International Student Mixer, BIPOC Student Collective, and so many more!

At [the Graduate House](#), there will be Trivia Nights, Music Bingo, Karaoke Night, and a Live Music Night.

[Outside the university](#), some events that will take place this month include the tri-Pride Summer Festival, Waterloo Art Market, Great Ontario Beer Festival, Kitchener-Waterloo Multicultural Festival, and many more.

### **Monthly Labour Coordination Office Hours are now available!**

Connect with our Labour Coordinator Bara' AlShurman to discuss questions, concerns or clarifications about your role as a TA, RA or sessional instructor.

### **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 **from now until Sunday, June 12**. [Check out the entire list of vacant positions here.](#)

### **Organize UW**

After the success of our ice-cream truck event this past May, we will be hosting another larger in-person event on campus on June 15th. Keep your eyes peeled for more details soon!

## **News & Services**

### **Welcome to the new GSA President Julian Surdi!**

Hello everyone! My name is Julian Surdi and I am the new President of the Graduate Student Association for the upcoming year. I am finishing up the 1st year of my master's degree and I am in the Kinesiology department researching topics on Exercise Physiology. I did my undergrad here at UW as well and I was actively involved in the Science Society so I know the rich community that Waterloo has to offer. I am super excited to be representing the graduate students and I hope to continue to make improvements to the organization this upcoming year. In my free time, I like to hike/camp, explore new restaurants in KW and I am a huge Rupaul's Drag Race fan. Feel free to come by the GSA office space in SLC 3222 to say hi and chat, I cannot wait to meet everyone!



### **Make a Friend Challenge @ Graduate House**

Let's get social! Join in on the GSA Make a Friend Challenge. This is how it works:

**Step 1.** Drop by Graduate House and design a key/backpack chain using the supplies in one of the kits offered in bin A.

**Step 2.** Write your name, program, and e-mail address on the tag or a piece of paper.



**Step 3.** Put your design and information back in the supplied bag and place it in the finished bin (B) with all the others.

**Step 4.** Take another key/backpack chain that someone else designed (you can keep it!).

**Step 5.** Contact that person who designed the one you chose. If you take any pictures along this challenge, tag us on Instagram @gsa.uwaterloo!

### 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 post for fellows to share their tips or experiences on any of the following topics, or any other topics you want to share:

- Any useful services you used on campus
- Any GSA-related leadership experiences
- Any clubs or student associations
- Volunteer stories
- On or off-campus job/co-op/internship experiences
- Trips to cities nearby, or within Canada

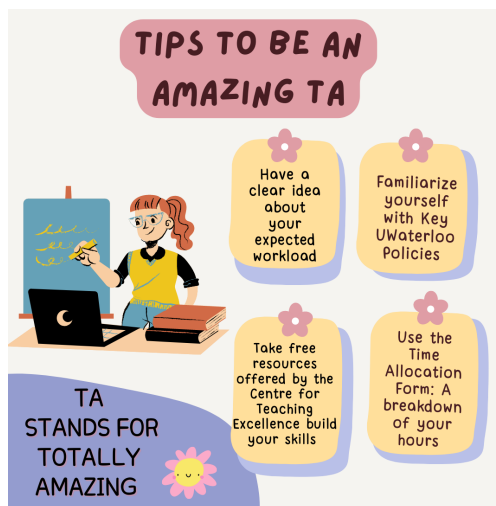
Email Shu-Feng at [gsa-international@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:gsa-international@uwaterloo.ca) if you'd like to write a blog post.

## Labour News

**TA stands for Totally Amazing!**  
**RA stands for Really Amazing!**

You are not walking alone through your Master/PhD journey. Remember that we are always available to you and we will motivate you in every step.

Please take less than one minute to complete this one-question survey to help us understand the most common difficulties you have in your TA/RA. As a result, we may arrange further seminars and panel discussions to address the most common issues/struggles encountered by UW grad students. [Click here to fill out the survey.](#)



### **Graduate Student Workers**

If you are TAing/RAing this term, please don't forget to familiarize yourself with UWaterloo policies and reference materials which are intended to supplement the Guide for Graduate Research and Supervision. You may also discover additional information regarding Hours and Payments, Work Assignment Details, and Work Assignment Preparation [on this link](#).

### **Learning modules: Managing Workplace Conflict**

The GSA Labour Coordinator partnered with the Conflict Management and Human Resources Office to prepare a set of modules on managing workplace conflict for graduate student workers. Topics include maintaining effective relations, barriers to good communication, and planning ahead. [Visit the modules here](#).

### **June 20 @ 1:00 - 2:00 PM: Monthly Labour Coordinator Office Hours**

Connect with our Labour Coordinator Bara' AlShurman at [gsa-labour@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:gsa-labour@uwaterloo.ca) to discuss questions, concerns, or clarifications about your role as a teaching assistant, research assistant, or sessional instructor. Bara' is offering monthly office hours this semester, for which you can [register here](#).

## **Events**

### **June 8: Virtual International Grad Student Drop-in @ 4:00 PM:**

A safe and confidential space on Discord to connect with new and current international grad students and share ideas, resources and strategies. The Drop-In will be facilitated by Kristine Meier, a counselor 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

Or any questions you would like to ask us!

Drop-in [here](#). (No registration is needed, but a Discord account is required.)

### **June 8: Pride Pizza Party @ 5:00 - 6:30 PM @ Graduate House**

Come in to the Grad House for a fun Pizza event to celebrate Pride Month. LGBTQ2S+ graduate students can gather to socialize, chat, and enjoy free pizza!

No registration needed. The event will be at The Graduate House starting at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, June 8.



**QTWELL events this month:**

QTWELL is an open, drop-in group that is a part of UW Campus Wellness, for any graduate student who is a sexual and gender minority or identifies as part of the 2SLGBTQ+ communities. The group is facilitated by a counselor with lived experience in the area and will focus on the many different aspects of wellness.

QTWELL Graduate Student Group June Meeting Times:

- June 8, 2022 from 11:30 AM to 1 PM. Register on [GoSignMeUp](#).
- June 15, 2022 from 11:30 AM to 1 PM. Register on [GoSignMeUp](#).
- June 22, 2022 from 11:30 AM to 1 PM. Register on [GoSignMeUp](#).



**June 9: In-Person International Student Mixer @ 1:30 PM @ Graduate House**

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 snacks 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.

**June 14: 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 with FREE FOOD.

The event will take place at the Graduate House upstairs lounge on Tuesday, June 14 at 4:00 PM. Come join us!



### **June 16: Community Stroll @ 11:00 AM @ Columbia Lake**

Join us for a stroll around Columbia Lake! We will meet in the CIF parking lot to start our adventure. Meet new friends, get some exercise, and breathe in some fresh air. The stroll will end at Graduate House where you can relax and grab some lunch before venturing into the rest of your plans for the day. If you have any questions or concerns about this in-person event, you can contact our Student Wellness Coordinator, Ashley, at [gsa-wellness@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:gsa-wellness@uwaterloo.ca). Register for a spot [here](#).

### **June 22: HoopOUT KW-Grad House Green @ 2:00 - 4:00 PM**

Come join your other fellow grad students at Grad House green from 2-4 on Wednesday, June 22nd as we hangout with HoopOUT KW. Drop in anytime to learn some tricks with hula hoops and explore this fun source of exercise to the sweet sound of music. We hope to see you there! Register [here](#).

### **June 22: Community Chat & Cheers: Data for Good - Waterloo Region @ 6:00 PM:**

Join us at the GSA SLC Grad Lounge (Student Life Centre, Room 3216) to meet and network with our amazing community organization: Data for Good! [Data for Good - Waterloo Chapter](#) helps local not-for-profit and non-governmental organizations harness the power of their data to make more informed decisions in their quest to make their communities flourish.

Come to learn more about Data for Good Waterloo Region's work to make our communities better through data-driven insight generation, and to see how you can get involved in the cause. The Data for Good Waterloo Region leadership team looks forward to networking with you following a brief presentation.

Please remember to wear a mask and bring your WatCard to access SLC 3216. Free refreshments will be provided while supplies last.

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# Graduate House

**OPEN DAILY!**

**NEW HOURS!!**

**Monday to Tuesday @ 11:30 AM - 7:00 PM**  
**Wednesday to Friday @ 11:30 AM - 9:00 PM**



Join us at the Graduate House for the spring term!! Drop in to have a meal, study or just meet some friends. Our Patio is open, and events are ramping up again!

We've added some new vegetarian and vegan options to our menu, and our local & micro beer taps are always changing. Remember, Grad Students who paid their Graduate House fees for the term get food discounts and free coffee (make sure to bring your own takeaway mug, however!) Also, we have a brand new selection of lawn games you can borrow for free! Just leave us your WatCard as a deposit.

[Visit our website](#) to view our menus, deals, events schedule, and for more information about our Covid-19 safety protocol. Operations at the GH are aligned with provincial and local requirements.

## **Graduate House Events**

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

### **Wednesday, June 1: Trivia Night @ 6:00 - 8:00 PM: Bring in your knowledge HATS**

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, June 9: Music Bingo @ 6:00 - 8:00 PM: BING... BING... BINGO**

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!

### **Wednesday, June 15: Trivia Night @ 6:00 - 8:00 PM: Bring in your knowledge HATS**

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, June 23: Karaoke Night @ 6:00 - 8:00 PM: Train your vocal cords at GH**

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!

**Thursday, June 30: LIVE MUSIC ALERT with Paige Warner starts at 7:00 PM**

Come drop by to enjoy some live music while you meet new folks, enjoy food, and drink some local craft beer. With an evocative voice that captivates her audience, Paige Warner creates music that sits between R&B and singer-songwriter with soul-inspired vocal licks layered on catchy hooks and rhythms.

Spots are first come, first serve. Vaccine checks are no longer required, but you're still required to wear a mask when you're not seated at a table.

**Outdoor Game Gears Available to Borrow**

With the summer slowly approaching, the weather is getting more beautiful for spending more time outside! We'll have some outdoor game gears that are free of use to grad students who paid their Graduate House Fees. Leave your WatCard as a deposit to sign out any of our sports gear for use around the house on the Graduate House Green.

## Get Involved in GSA Governance

**We're Hiring! GSA VP Communications- Application Deadline: June 24, 2022**

Take the lead and join the team! Seeking applications for GSA Vice-President Communications to serve from August 2022 - August 2023. The primary purpose of this position is to — under the oversight of the President — direct the GSA-UW's communications operations, including developing a communications strategy and planning long-term initiatives. They will manage support staff dedicated to communications operations including social media, website management, and email campaigns. For more application details, visit our [Get Involved page](#).

**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 see your department, you can nominate yourself for the open position of councillor **from now until Sunday, June 12** by filling out the [GSA Council Representative Nomination Form](#). You can find out more information about the councillor position on the [GSA website](#), or by emailing [gsa-elections@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:gsa-elections@uwaterloo.ca).

- |                            |                                       |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| - Anthropology (ARTS)      | - School of Architecture (ENG)        |
| - Catholic Thought (ARTS)  | - Management Sciences (ENG)           |
| - Classical Studies (ARTS) | - Applied Mathematics (MATH)          |
| - Economics (ARTS)         | - Combinatorics & Optimization (MATH) |
| - Global Governance (ARTS) | - Computational Mathematics (MATH)    |
| - Political Science (ARTS) | - Pure Mathematics (MATH)             |
| - Social Work (ARTS)       | - Chemistry (SCI)                     |
| - Sociology (ARTS)         |                                       |



- Theological Studies (ARTS)  
- Civil & Environmental Engineering  
(ENG)

- Earth & Environmental Sciences  
(SCI)

## DGSAs & Committee Representatives

### EVENTS:

#### **DGSA and GSA-Grad Committee Rep Social + Training Update Session:**

Are you on a dGSA? Are you a GSA-Grad Committee Rep? Due to a cancellation of our May Training Event, we are excited to get this semester started with our first dGSA Social and updated training for Spring 2022 at our very own Grad House. Please join us **on June 7 @ 4:00 - 5:00 PM**. This will be an excellent opportunity to connect with other dGSA and GSA-Grad Committee Reps across the campus, to review how the GSA can support your dGSA initiatives/Committee goals and learn about the resources that the GSA can offer you and your team. 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).

Register for this event [here](#).

#### **dGSA Brainstorming Sessions:**

Are you on a departmental GSA (dGSA)? As part of our Spring 2022 GSA-UW event series for the dGSAs, please attend our dGSA-wide brainstorming sessions to have a collaborative opportunity to meet other dGSAs in your faculty and brainstorm ways to better support or plan for your faculty-specific needs. During these dGSA-wide brainstorming sessions, you will be provided with unique brainstorming tools to better support your brainstorming and planning process, as well as a chance to connect with other dGSAs. Please join us **on June 28 @ 4:00 - 5:00 PM** at the Grad House. See the link below for 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).

Register for this event [here](#).

#### **Committee Reps: How to Engage:**

Are you a GSA-Grad Committee Rep? As we continue our Spring 2022 GSA-UW event series for the GSA-Grad Committee Reps, please attend our “How to Engage” workshop session to learn about ways to engage within the committee and with graduate students at UW. This workshop session will provide you with the tools and resources to engage with students and staff to better advance the goals of your unique committee. Please join us **on June 29 @ 4:00 - 5:00 PM** at the Grad House. See the link below for 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).

Register for this event [here](#).

### **CALL FOR PARTICIPATION:**

#### **GSA appointment to Dean of Science Nominating Committee**

- Are you a graduate student in the Faculty of Science and interested in getting involved on campus to support the graduate student experience?

- Time commitment will be a handful of 1-2 hours meetings (likely in June and 2-3 in the Fall term), approximately 10 hours to conduct consultation interviews with stakeholders over the Summer and Fall, and a few full-days for interviews thereafter.
- Interested candidates should send their CV or resume to the GSA-UW Student Engagement Coordinator, at [gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca).

## Community Events

### **June 4: tri-Pride Summer Festival @ 12:00 PM @ Victoria Park**

TRI-PRIDE IS BACK! For the first time since 2019, we will be gathering in Victoria Park. Entertainment, vendors, bar area, kids zone, and a whole lot of fun!

The fun begins at noon! The kids zone will be open from 12:00 - 4:00 PM. Live music performances from 12:00 - 4:00 PM. Drag and Gender Performers from 4:00 - 8:00 PM.

Pride is our opportunity to come together as one great community to celebrate our pride and to continue the longstanding fight for our equality. Our diversity makes us stronger. For more information, check out our Facebook Event page [here](#).

### **June 9: Falling: A Wake Presented by Kitchener Waterloo Kitchener Theater @ 9:00 PM @ 9 Princess St. E.**

Come take in KWLT's newest production title "Falling: A Wake". This is the story of Harold and Elsie, a couple in their 50s living on a farm in a small, isolated town. One autumn night, a plane explodes in the sky above their home and litters their field with debris, including the body of a young man, still strapped in his airplane seat. Elsie insists on keeping vigil at the boy's side, while Harold focuses on keeping Elsie comfortable through the cold night. Harold and Elsie are profoundly affected by the presence of the boy, and as the story unfolds, they each explore their own feelings of loss and love, and contemplate the nature of the soul. The play grapples with themes of grief, loss, and acceptance, while also providing moments of humor and lightness.

Seating is first-come, first-serve. Doors open at 7:30 PM, show starts at 8:00 PM each evening. The show is presented with no intermission, with an expected run time of about 90 minutes. To purchase tickets, click [here](#).

### **June 14: The Future of Health - A CityAge Digital Event @ 11:30 AM**

In partnership with CityAge, Communitech is hosting an online event that brings together health administrators, researchers, practitioners, funders, and innovative companies together to discuss and build the future of healthcare in Canada. Exploring major challenges and opportunities throughout Canada's health system- this event includes the country's leading healthcare organizations along with emerging healthtech and medtech startups/ scale-ups to identify problems and devise solutions. For more information and how to register for this event, click [here](#).

### **June 17-18: Maxwell's Block Party @ 6:00 PM @ 35 University Ave East**

Maxwell's & 107.5 Dave Rocks is proud to present their 2022 Block Party featuring musical artists including The Tea Party, Monster Truck, Crown Lands, Harm & Ease, Texas King among many more. Located in the Maxwell's back parking lot, this event includes live music at an outdoor stage, beverage tent, food trucks, vendors, along with after

parties and more. For more information on the event and ticket purchasing options, click [here](#).

#### **June 24: Waterloo Art Market @ 5:00 PM @ Waterloo Public Square**

Art Markets in the square are back! Head to the Uptown Public Square on the last Friday of each month to shop from local artists, crafters, and makers. There will also be live music on site for you to listen to and enjoy while browsing all of the amazing local products. The markets will run from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM on May 27, June 24, July 29, and August 26. Additional Art Markets will be held at Open Streets (June 11) and Canada Day (July 1). More event information can be found [here](#).

#### **June 24-25: Great Ontario Beer Festival @ 5:00 - 11:00 PM (June 24); 2:00 -10:30 PM (June 25) @ Bingemans Event Space**

The 1st annual Great Ontario Beer Festival is happening June 24 & 25 in Kitchener, ON. Featuring over 30 Ontario breweries, cideries and distilleries, the GOBF is designed to promote the very best Ontario has to offer. Accompanied with live musical showcases, this event is being held with the goal of raising \$15,000.00 for local Ontario charities. All tickets for the 2022 GOBF are general admission tickets. There are 5 different price tiers (starting at \$25 CAD) depending on how early you buy your ticket. For more information on ticket purchasing options along with the breadth of in-event game/musical options, click [here](#).

#### **June 25-26: Kitchener-Waterloo Multicultural Festival @ 12:00 - 6:00 PM @ Victoria Park**

Held annually, the KW Multicultural Festival is back providing the region with opportunities to explore and share food, fun, music, and dance. This two-day festival remains one of the largest of its kind in Canada- drawing upwards of 40,000 guests. Featuring Juno nominated music group Battle of Santiago, this festival is one of KW's premier cultural events of the summer. For more information on vendors, performers, and volunteer opportunities, click [here](#).

## **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.

#### **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 (July 1, August 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

# 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](mailto:organizeuw@joincupe.org)  
Follow OUW on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#)! #WhyNotWaterloo

## NEW!

We are no longer holding our weekly, online drop-ins on Tuesday at 1:30 PM. Instead, join us at our new weekly in-person drop in, **Stammtisch**!

What is Stammtisch? Stammtisch (German for "regulars' table", [ˈʃtamtɪʃ]) is an informal group meeting held on a regular basis. Stammtisch is not a structured meeting, but rather a friendly get-together! We want to chat with you!

Stammtisch is held between 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM every Monday at the Graduate House.

## UPCOMING:

After the success of our ice-cream truck event this past May, we will be hosting another larger in-person event on campus **on June 15**. Keep your eyes peeled for more details soon!

## 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](#)