

Graduate Student Association Monthly E-Newsletter



May 2022



News & Services

May is Graduate Student Orientation Month!

We welcome ***new and current*** graduate students to come meet new and old faces within your faculty. **Join us at the Graduate House for free pizza and a drink of your choice (while supplies last) from 4:00 - 6:00 PM** on Tues/Thurs. Bring government ID and show your WATCard valid for the corresponding faculty of the day to join the event.

Event dates below, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM @ the Graduate House:

Arts - Tuesday, May 10

Engineering - Thursday, May 12

Environment - Tuesday, May 17

Health - Thursday, May 19

Mathematics - Tuesday, May 24

Science - Thursday, May 26

GSA Advocacy Webpage

When was the last time you looked into the work of the GSA? Many students benefit directly from our services and events, but we also have long-term projects in the works that will be creating meaningful change for graduate students. These projects are guided by the GSA Political Positions and Ends, and include advocating for an independent Ombudsperson office on the UW campus, advocating for Affordable Housing in Waterloo Region, and embedding Equity principles within services and structures within both the GSA and UW. [Check out our Advocacy Initiatives page!](#)

Make a Friend Challenge @ Graduate House (any day after May 9)

Let's get social! Starting on Monday, May 9 you can 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

Check out our latest [post](#) to learn more about [wellness resources](#) for international graduate students at UWaterloo!

We also 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 for any of the following topics, or any topics you want to share:

- 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 if you'd like to write a blog post.

Call for Action: International Graduate Student Discord!

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

Thank you WStore!

We would like to thank the WStore for donating prizes that were awarded to students at last month's outdoor games event!

GSA Services Update: How to Opt In/Opt Out for Spring 2022

We sent out an email in mid-April with information on how to opt-in/opt-out of several GSA services for the Spring 2022 term. You will also be able to find this information on the [News section](#) of our website.

GRT & ION UPass Refund Program

The GRT & ION UPass Refund Program will be launched for Spring 2022. All refund requests must be submitted **between May 2 - 20, 2022**. For more instructions on how to submit a refund request and to access the refund request form, please visit our [GRT & ION UPass service page on our website](#).

Video Recap

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](#).

Webinar: Know Your Rights!

The GSA Labour Coordinator partnered with OrganizeUW and the Canadian Union of Public Employees to host a Know Your Rights informational webinar. Learn about your rights as a graduate student worker, existing paths to advocate for those rights, and the opportunities to enhance those rights in your workplace. [Watch the webinar here](#).

Candid Talks with Grads

Have you been interested in any of the Candid Talks with Grads events we have ran over the last few months but were not able to make it out? The student presentation component of these sessions are now [available here](#) for viewing. These awesome students talk about a variety of topics along with the tips and tricks for solving issues related to these topics (e.g., sleeping habits, parenting and caregiving in graduate school, transitioning back to campus).

#PoliticsToday: A Discussion with Waterloo Region Suicide Prevention Council

This discussion explored the ongoing work of this community-based organization aimed at increasing awareness of and engagement in suicide prevention and ultimately reducing suicide and its impact. More information and past episodes of the GSA's #PoliticsToday series can be found here: [GSA-UW - YouTube](#)

Events

May 11 & May 25: QTWELL Drop-In

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 Meeting Times:

- May 11, 2022 from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Register on [GoSignMeUp](#).
- May 25, 2022 from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Register on [GoSignMeUp](#).



May 12: In-Person International Student Mixer @ 1:30 PM

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 pizza 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.

May 16: #PoliticsToday: A Conversation with Reep Green Solutions @ 3:00 to 4:30 PM

The GSA is excited to bring to you a new episode of the #PoliticsToday series which engages regional community-based organizations in discussions that explore some of today's most salient and pressing socio-political and cultural topics in graduate student life!

An engaging online discussion with the team at Reep Green Solutions will take place virtually. This event is intended to explore the ongoing work of this community-based organization aimed at increasing awareness of and engagement of our students with organizations in the region. Diving deeper into how education, training, and community engagement initiatives are being used to drive a positive impact in graduate student life, this event will also provide an opportunity for a Q&A with our graduate student audience. [Attend the meeting here.](#)

More information and past episodes of the GSA's #PoliticsToday series can be found here: [GSA-UW YouTube](#)

May 17: 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. [Register for a spot here.](#)



May 18: Virtual International Grad Student Drop-in @ 4:00 PM

A safe and confidential space on [Discord](#) to connect with other international graduate students and share ideas, resources and strategies. The Drop-In will be facilitated by Kristine Meier, a counselor and International Graduate 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

...etc.

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

May 24: Candid Talks with Grads @ 2:00 to 3:15 PM @ SLC GSA Lounge

Come on out to our next Candid Talks with Grads event, an open discussion and support event that focuses on different topics that are important to graduate students at the University of Waterloo. This month we will be talking about all things related to loving ourselves. 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. All graduate students are welcome to attend. Free snacks included. [Register for a spot here](#).

May 25: BIPOC Student Collective @ 4:00 to 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 Graduate House for another in-person BIPOC collective with FREE FOOD. The event will take place at the Graduate House upstairs lounge on Wednesday, May 25 at 4:00 PM. Come join us!



Graduate House

OPEN DAILY!
Monday to Tuesday from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM
Wednesday to Friday from 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM



Join us at the Graduate House for the spring term! Drop it 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, Graduate Students who paid their Graduate House fees for the term get food discounts and free coffee (make sure to bring your own mug for takeaway, however!)

[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.

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, May 11 AND May 18: Trivia Night @ 6:00 - 8:00 PM

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, May 12: Music Bingo @ 6:00 - 8:00 PM

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!

Thursday, May 26: Karaoke Night starts at 6:00 PM

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!

Friday, May 27: Live Music with Graeme Zinck starts at 4:00 PM

Come drop by to enjoy some live music while you meet new folks, enjoy food, and drink some local craft beer. Graeme is a fellow UW graduate student and a local musician.

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

We have some outdoor game gear 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

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).

- Anthropology
- Catholic Thought
- Classical Studies
- Economics
- Political Science
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Theological Studies
- School of Architecture
- Management Sciences
- 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.

DGSAs & Committee Representatives

May 31: DGSA Social and Updated Training

We are excited to get this semester started with our first DGSA Social and updated training of Spring 2022 at our very own Graduate House. Please join us on **May 31, 4:00 - 5:00 PM**. This will be an excellent opportunity to connect and have a drink with other DGSA and GSA-Graduate Committee Reps across the campus and review how the GSA can support your DGSA initiatives or Committee goals. For the event registration, visit our [Events Webpage](#). If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email the GSA-UW Student Engagement Coordinator at gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca.

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION:

Sexual Violence (SV) Prevention Strategy Language

It takes a community to make meaningful change. For 3 ½ days in May The Spark Strategy, an external consultancy group, will utilize an innovative new approach to sexual violence prevention. They achieve this through facilitating sessions incorporating design based thinking to allow students, staff and faculty at our institution to co-create a prevention strategy specific to UWaterloo. Their process acts as a catalyst for our organization to develop a solution specifically for our campus culture.

The commitment includes:

- Attending sessions on May 17, 18 and 19 from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (12 hours in total)
- Completing a pre and post-survey

Each day include an informal lunch hour where participants can connect and debrief. Location TBD.

If you feel there are individuals who would be interested in participating in this opportunity, please email Amanda Cook at amanda.cook@uwaterloo.ca. The folks we are looking for do not need to be experts in sexual violence prevention but should have an interest in, and willingness to, participate in meaningful conversations around this topic.

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. Check out recently funded projects on the [GSEF Blog](#) to learn more.

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 (May 1, June 1, July 1, August 1)
- Large project applications are due every sixth Friday of the term (June 10)
- Environmental Sustainability Award applications are due every sixth Friday of the term (June 10)

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.

Organize UW

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

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

NEW!

We are no longer holding our weekly, online drop-ins on Tuesday at 1:30PM. 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.

Catch Us in the News!

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

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!](#)