



# November 2022



## In a Nutshell

### Current and upcoming surveys

We have recently launched a **survey about COVID's impact on the graduate community** (available until November 18), and from November 7 to December 7, we will be conducting a **survey about the experiences and challenges of all TAs and RAs**. Check out more information about them [here](#).

### New events!

Some of [this month's events](#) include an International Student Drop-In, BIPOC Student Collective, Design Your Own Soup Mix, International Student Mixer, and a Wonders of Winter Community Stroll!

[At the Graduate House](#), there will be World Cup games, a West Coast Swing Dance Night, Trivia Nights, Open Mic Nights, Music Bingos, and a Karaoke Night.

### Awards and Scholarships

This month, we wanted to highlight the **Graduate Student Medical Leave Award**, available for eligible research-based master's and doctoral students who need to go inactive for medical reasons. Read more information about this [here](#).

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# News & Services

## International students will soon be able to work full-time off campus

Between **November 15, 2022**, and **December 31, 2023**, international students will be able to work full-time for off-campus jobs if they meet the eligibility requirements listed on the IRCC website. However, please keep in mind that we must manage and balance our courses/research responsibilities and jobs.

## New International Student Collective page!

There are many resources on the GSA website for International graduate students. We have restructured and grouped them together on a new page. Check out our new International Student Collective page to find all the resources directed to International graduate students!

## The International Student blog is back!

Check out our latest blog post to learn how a recent graduate found his potential beyond earning a master's degree. It's also an excellent time to read a story about the Canadian winter or learn how to drive in the winter!

On top of that, we want to hear from you! The International Graduate Student Blog is looking for International graduate students to write a blog post to share their tips or experiences on any of the following topics:

- Any services or tips useful to fellow international grad students
- Any 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
- Any story you would like to share

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

# Surveys

## Covid Impact Survey

We invite you to fill out the COVID-19 Impact Survey! Our survey was made in collaboration with Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs (GSPA) to better identify and understand the experience, concerns, and issues that our graduate community is facing due to the pandemic.

**The survey was sent to your email and will take approximately 10 minutes to complete and will be available until November 18 at 4:00 PM.**

Participation in this survey is voluntary and confidential. Those who chose to enter their email will be entered into a draw to win one of the following prizes:

- 1 x \$50 Tim Hortons gift card
- 1 x \$50 Starbucks gift card
- 1 x \$50 Amazon gift card

### **TA/RA Survey for Graduate Students**

**Keep your eyes peeled for this upcoming survey!**

Are the TA/RA positions meeting your needs and expectations?

The GSA is working to understand the current experiences, challenges, and workload of all TAs and RAs. For that reason, we are conducting this survey to capture your voices and get your input in order to help us improve the RA experience. The survey should take no more than 10 minutes to complete.

**This survey will be launched on November 7 and will be open until December 7.**

As soon as it is launched, you will be able to find the link to it [on this page](#). Be sure to check it out!

**Remember, your voices matter.**

## **Events**

**November 7: International Student Drop-In @ SLC Grad Lounge (3216) @ 3:30 - 4:30 PM**

All **current and new** international graduate students are welcome to join us with **Kristine Meier**, International Graduate Student Liaison from Campus Wellness, for a casual drop-in event to

discuss how to prepare for Canadian winter and your well-being. No registration is required, but the first 10 students can get free cookies!



**November 9: BIPOC Student Collective @ Graduate House @ 4:00 - 6:00 PM**

While so many of us work tirelessly to better our campuses and communities, we would all do well to remember that we are not alone in this struggle. Join us at the Graduate House for an in-person BIPOC collective solidarity chat with FREE FOOD.



This event will take place at the Graduate House Upstairs lounge on Wednesday, November 9, starting at 4:00 PM. EVERYONE is welcome. Don't hesitate to join us!

**November 16: Design Your Own Soup Mix! @ GSA Office (SLC 3222) @ 1:00 - 3:00 PM**

Colder weather means a great opportunity to make some soup! Swing by the GSA Office (we will be in the boardroom!) to design your very own take-home dry soup mix. There will be many ingredients to choose from while supplies last! Sign up to be reminded about this event so you don't miss out.



**November 21: International Student**



### **Mixer @ Graduate House @ 4:30 - 5:30 PM**

Join us at Graduate House Green for a warm indoor event designed for international graduate students! Meet new friends from around the world, learn about campus and the GSA, and enjoy free pizzas 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 if you have paid GSA/GH fees.



### **November 30: Wonders of Winter Community Stroll @ Waterloo Park @ 5:00 - 6:30 PM**

Come on out to our Wonders of Winter Community Stroll evening happening on Wednesday, November 30! This is a great opportunity to breathe in the crisp air, meet some new friends, and check out the beautiful light displays in Waterloo Park.

We will meet at Graduate House and head to the festival at 5:00 PM. However, we strongly encourage you to come earlier to enjoy some free hot chocolate.

Register for a spot [here](#), where you can also find more information about this event.



## **Get Involved in GSA Governance**

### **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](mailto:gsa-elections@uwaterloo.ca))

- |                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| - Accounting & Finance (ARTS)  | - School of Architecture (ENG)   |
| - Anthropology (ARTS)          | - Mechanical & Mechatronics      |
| - Catholic Thought (ARTS)      | Engineering (ENG)                |
| - Classical Studies (ARTS)     | - Combinatorics & Optimization   |
| - Economics (ARTS)             | (MATH)                           |
| - Master of Digital Experience | - Computational Mathematics      |
| Innovation (ARTS)              | (MATH)                           |
| - Political Science (ARTS)     | - Chemistry & Biochemistry (SCI) |
| - Social Work (ARTS)           | - Earth & Environmental Sciences |
| - Theological Studies (ARTS)   | (SCI)                            |

## Awards & Scholarships

### Graduate Student Medical Leave Award

Did you know that eligible research-based master's and doctoral students who must go inactive for medical reasons (e.g., physical or mental health) may be eligible to receive a Graduate Student Medical Leave Award?

Eligible students who provide medical documentation (e.g., official medical documentation completed by a health care practitioner) to AccessAbility Services, to support their request for going inactive due to medical reasons, will be automatically considered for this award, valued at a maximum of \$5,000.

## 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! We also have a fresh [new website and menu](#) for you to explore!

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

### **Thank You for Fifty Years at The Graduate House!**

We want to thank everyone that attended our 50th Anniversary Celebration on October 21st, as well as all the students, prof, staff, and everyday folks who continue to support The Grad House. The anniversary was a fantastic opportunity to show off what GH is all about - bringing impassioned local food, breweries, and talent to the University of Waterloo. Special thanks to Oakridge Farms, Wellington, Neustadt Springs, and Block 3 breweries, and local musicians Treephones, Hyness, and CxViolet, all for making the night a memorable one. The Grad House is inspired to keep bringing to campus the best of what KW has to offer, and we are privileged to continue to provide a great, diverse haven for students to hang out. Follow our Instagram to see highlights from the 50th Anniversary Bash and check out all the great things we have in store for UW in the future!

### **Graduate House Events**

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

#### **November 2: 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!

#### **November 3: Open Mic Night @ 6:00 - 8:00 PM: [Read, Sing, Jam, Joke](#)**

Check out local talent or take the stage yourself. Instruments and acts of all kinds are welcome!

#### **November 10: 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!

**November 16: 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!

**November 18: West Coast Swing Dance Night @ 7:00 - 9:00 PM: Learn to Dance, Together!**

Join dance instructor Mikaela Lewis to learn how to dance, West Coast Swing style! Mikaela is a PhD student at the University of Waterloo who also operates her own dance studio Remix Swing. Learn from the best, for FREE!

**Starting November 21: World Cup: All Games in House Hours!**

Come to The Grad House to see all World Cup games played within our hours! Kicking off November 21 with Senegal vs. Netherlands, count on us to provide local beer, good food, and all the football you could ever want!

**November 23: 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!

**November 24: 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 your favorite hits or belt out to any song at your request!

**November 30: Open Mic Night @ 6:00 - 8:00 PM: Read, Sing, Jam, Joke**

Check out local talent or take the stage yourself. Instruments and acts of all kinds are welcome!

## 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

The committee to organize uWaterloo (aka OrganizeUW) is a grassroots campaign to unionize the academic workers at the University of Waterloo. You can get more information and sign your card [here](#).

### Looking for a place to kick back and relax?

Interested in making new friends? Then **Stammtisch** is the place for you!

Join us **every Monday from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM** in the Graduate House for Stammtisch. Stammtisch is an incredible community of TAs, RAs, and Sessional Instructors. It's the perfect place to hangout, meet your co-workers, and have lots of fun.

And in case you are asking yourself, "what is a Stammtisch?" Stammtisch (German for "regulars' table", 'stammtisch') is an informal group meeting held on a regular basis. It is not a structured meeting, but rather a friendly get-together.

See you at Stammtisch! [#OrganizeUW](#)

### 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](#)