



UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

CONTEXT:

The University of Waterloo Graduate Student Association (GSA) is issuing short-term research contracts to support our mission and mandate.

The GSA is the official representative of graduate students at the University of Waterloo and is tasked with promoting and representing graduate student interests to the university administration and all levels of government. The GSA serves graduate students of the University of Waterloo with dedication and commitment to enhance the quality of their academic and social experience.

REQUIREMENTS:

The research topics listed in this document all have the same required deliverables. In order to receive payment, the required deliverables must be completed to the satisfaction of the GSA President and/or Vice President.

The requirements are as follows:

- Coordination meetings with GSA (~2 hours)
- Written report (5 – 10 pages not including bibliography/appendices, single spaced, 10 Arial, Chicago citation)
- PowerPoint presentation to GSA Council (10 – 15 minutes)

FORMAT:

All written reports and PowerPoint presentations must use the following format, [modeled after public sector briefing note templates](#):

1. Purpose
2. Issue
3. Background
4. Key Considerations
5. Conclusions and Recommendations to GSA Council

RESEARCH TOPICS:

- A review of sexual violence and assault at uWaterloo (\$500)
- A review of animal welfare within uWaterloo research labs (\$500)
- A review of university expenditures in Canada (\$500)

TIMELINE:

Research contracts are to be issued in June and completed by November 2020 (timing is flexible).

PUBLISHING NOTE:

The reports and presentation will be the property of the GSA, and will be posted on the GSA website. The author(s) will be identified on the final document.

APPLICATIONS:

Resumes/CVs, along with a brief statement of interest (2-3 paragraphs), should be sent to gsa-vp@uwaterloo.ca by **May 30th, 2020 at 11:59PM**. Please specify which research topic you are applying for – and use the subject line “GSA Research Contract Application”.

A REVIEW OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ASSAULT AT UWATERLOO (\$500):

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) and the University of Waterloo are committed to fostering a supportive and safe climate for all students, faculty, and staff. Currently, there is a great deal of focus on the issue of sexual violence in Canada and, in particular, how universities respond to cases of sexual assault. To that end, a review of sexual violence and assault statistics occurring on-campus and within the Region of Waterloo—as well as mitigation strategies and resources for victims—will help to provide guidance for the GSA’s advocacy efforts directed towards improving municipal resources, as well as the University of Waterloo’s resources and training programs. Note that this research should include a review of mandatory ethics and policy training for academic faculty.

Research and recommendations are required on this topic in order to assist the GSA with understanding and communicating any gaps in campus training and response programs pertaining to sexual violence and assault, in addition to identifying wider trends and resources within the Region of Waterloo.

A REVIEW OF ANIMAL WELFARE WITHIN UWATERLOO RESEARCH LABS (\$500)

Select research projects conducted out of the University of Waterloo make use of animal testing. The University of Waterloo runs the Animal Care Committee (ACC), which is tasked with fulfilling the University’s responsibilities for the use of live, non-human vertebrate animals in research and teaching, and ensuring the quality and operation of the animal housing facilities. However, it is uncertain if the University of Waterloo is prioritizing animal welfare or research objectives. To that end, a review of the University of Waterloo’s treatment of research animals is requested in order to determine any issues pertaining animal welfare, and to determine if the campus is aligning with best practices within Canada.

Research and recommendations are required on this topic in order to assist the GSA with advocating for the welfare of animals used in research projects at the University of Waterloo.

A REVIEW OF UNIVERSITY EXPENDITURES IN CANADA (\$500)

The GSA is committed to mitigating barriers to pursuing graduate education in Ontario, and to supporting the academic and social experience of graduate students at the University of Waterloo. To that end, gaining a better understanding of the University of Waterloo’s funding priorities is required. A comparative financial assessment of the top universities in Canada will assist with the GSA’s advocacy efforts pertaining to student tuition and academic research funding on campus. Specifically, a comparative assessment of the past five fiscal years should contain: annual spending on operations; annual spending on administration; annual spending on faculty; number of administrative staff; number of faculty; number of undergraduate students; number of graduate students; total revenue (gross and percentage of total revenue) collected from undergraduate tuition (domestic and international); and, total revenue (gross and percentage of total revenue) collected from graduate tuition (domestic and international).

Research and recommendations are required on this topic in order to assist the GSA with advocating for the prioritization of student financial wellbeing and investments in academic research.