



MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

January 2020

NEWS & SERVICES

Increased Financial Supports for Graduate Students in Winter 2021

GSA-UW, GSPA, and GSEF have collaborated once again to provide graduate students with an additional \$60,000 in funding, an extension of the financial support that was made available for Spring and Fall 2020. [Read more.](#)

Monthly GSA Key Performance Indicators Report: [December KPIs](#)

For questions regarding the report, please email gsa-admin@uwaterloo.ca.

GSA-UW Statement on the Graduate House Winter 2021 Closure

The GSA-UW has issued a statement on the closure of the Graduate House for Winter 2021. The full statement can be found on the [News section](#) of our website.

GSA Services Update: How to Opt In/Opt Out for Winter 2021

On January 5, 2021 we sent out an email with information on how to opt-in/opt-out of several GSA services for the Winter 2021 term. If you did not receive that email, you can find this information on the [News section](#) of our website.

GRT & ION UPass Refund Program

The GRT & ION UPass Refund Program for Winter 2021 has launched. All refund requests must be submitted before January 25, 2021. 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](#).

Graduate Student Initiatives Fund (GSI)

Apply for funding through GSI to organize a social event, reception, a workshop, a panel, a guest lecture, hosting a conference for graduate students, etc. The upcoming deadline for this month is **January 18, 2021**. Visit the [GSI webpage](#) to apply and for more details.

Regional Housing Issues Survey

The GSA-UW launched a survey on graduate and undergraduate student housing experience in collaboration with WUSA on December 7. This survey will help gauge housing issues for graduate students to inform our GSA-UW advocacy efforts. The survey is available for you to complete until **January 22, 2021**. [Survey information and link](#)

New International Graduate Students Blog

We are excited to launch an International Graduate Students Blog this month! "The Grad Student Adventurer" blog features posts on culture, life, career, studies, and resources. Our first post will be an editorial written by Navya (GSA International Coordinator). This blog is for and written by grad students. If you're interested in writing a piece, please email Navya at gsa-international@uwaterloo.ca.

***New* BIPOC Graduate Student Collective**

This Winter 2021, we are excited to launch our BIPOC Graduate Student Collective, a dedicated community space that will centre the academic and social experience and needs of Black, Indigenous and students of colour at the UWaterloo. A dedicated webpage with more information will be made available on our website in the days to come. In the meantime, for more information, please email us at gsa-equity@uwaterloo.ca. **Join us at our virtual launch on January 19!** [Registration Details](#)

***New* Around the World Digital Quilt**

Whether you're studying remotely in another city, country, or locally in the Waterloo region, join us in making our very first grad student digital quilt. Submit a drawing, photo, poem, or short story describing where you are in the world right now. This can be a photo of your workspace complete with coffee and papers, a painting of a snowy landscape, a poem about life in your city... be as creative as you like! We offer an optional quilt making workshop and live reveal. Deadline for submission is **March 8, 2021**. Visit our website for [more information](#).

EVENTS

January 14: Virtual Trivia Night hosted by Organize UW @7:00pm [Registration Details](#)

January 15: Community Meet & Greet @7:00pm

Come meet graduate students from different departments and faculties across campus at our meet & greet event. Add to your network and make some friends along the way! This event will be hosted on Zoom. [Registration details](#)

January 18-22: Community Stroll – Remote

Join in on our third community stroll at your own pace. You will be given two trail map options to choose from, a music playlist, and some interesting information on Canadian wildlife you might see along the way. You will also have the opportunity to be connected to a strolling pal. [Registration details](#)

January 19: BIPOC Graduate Student Community Collective Meet & Greet @7:00pm

Introducing the GSA BIPOC Graduate Student Collective! Attend our first Virtual Meet & Greet, where we will kick off a monthly series of events and programs that centre the academic and social experience and needs of BIPOC students at the University of Waterloo. Pull up a chair, meet other BIPOC graduate students and share your ideas for what you think our Collective should be doing to create safer spaces for Black students, Indigenous students and students of colour on campus and in our community. Hosted and moderated by the GSA Equity Coordinator Aaron Francis. This event will be hosted on Zoom. [Registration Details](#)

January 22: UWaterloo African Graduate Student Association Virtual Social Event @6:00pm

The University of Waterloo African Graduate Student Association (UWAGSA) is working in collaboration with the University of Alberta Black Graduate Association (UofABGSA) and the University of Toronto Black Graduate Association (UofTBGSA) to host a 2021 Inter - University Virtual Social. Participants can expect fun games, networking opportunities and relevant discussions related to the black graduate student experience in Canada. [Registration link](#)

About Us: The UWAGSA is a student-led association of graduate students of African descent at U Waterloo. We were founded over 3 years ago and have been supporting students of African descent to feel at home in Waterloo and

navigate their academic, social and wellness journeys. Our goal is to create a responsive and inspiring community for our membership to advance their academic and personal goals. We welcome everyone, especially students who identify as black or of African descent, and invite all to actively participate in our association.

January 26: Around the World Digital Quilt Making Workshop @12:00pm

Need help thinking of ideas or need a space to work on your [quilt piece](#)? Join us at our quilt making workshop! The session is optional and a drop-in so come and go as you like. [Registration details](#)

More events to come, stay tuned!

GRADUATE STUDIES ENDOWMENT FUND

The Graduate Studies Endowment Fund supports improving the academic and social experience of graduate studies at the University of Waterloo. To this end, we regularly provide financial assistance for student-driven projects and initiatives through [two sources of funding](#). In the past, we have funded:

- Conferences
- Social events
- Graduate space improvements
- Anything that will help improve the graduate student experience

Deadlines are the **first of every month** for the small project fund (<\$600) and **February 12** for the large project fund (>\$600). **Apply today!** Email the GSEF Coordinator at gsef@uwaterloo.ca or visit gsef.uwaterloo.ca for more information.

We also have openings for students on the Project Review Committee and Board of Directors! To apply, send your resume/CV and a cover letter to gsef@uwaterloo.ca by **February 5**. Click [here](#) for more information about the openings available.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- **Winterloo Festival** by The City of Waterloo - January 23 - 31, 2021 (<https://www.winterloofestival.ca/>)
- **Trail Mix** by The City of Waterloo - Forwell Trail (University Ave - Manulife/King Street): <https://www.winterloofestival.ca/around-waterloo/trail-mix>
- **Saturday Farmer's Market** at Kitchener's Farmer's Market - (<https://www.kitchenermarket.ca/>)
- **The Met Opera Free Virtual Shows** - January 4 – 20, 2021 | 7:30 PM EDT (<http://metopera.org/>)
- **Concerts for Kids** by Windsor Symphony - Saturdays, January 9 – March 20, 2021 | 11:00 AM (<https://www.windsorsymphony.com/digital-kids>)
- **Create 31** by Create_Waterloo - Throughout January participate in 31 days of creativity (https://www.instagram.com/create_waterloo/?hl=en)
- **Staying Healthy and Well: Free Gentle Movement Meditation** by Angela Bryson - January 13th | 1:00PM to 2:00PM (<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/131640583529>)
- **Writer's Group - Transition from Reader to Writer** by the Waterloo Library - January 11: 7:00pm - 8:00pm (<https://calendar.wpl.ca/event/4749922>)
- **In Conversation with Author Terry Fallis** (Bestselling Author) - January 20 7:00pm - 8:00pm ()
- **Family Amazing Race - In the Snow!** By Winterloo - January 23 1:00pm - 4:00pm (<https://terryfallis.com/> and <https://calendar.wpl.ca/event/4720143>)

- **Winterloo Visual Bingo** by Then and Now in Uptown Waterloo - January 24 All day (<https://www.wpl.ca/play-anytime>)
- **I SPY Family Game** by Family Literacy Week - January 25 at 10:00am - 10:30am (<https://calendar.wpl.ca/event/4759175>)
- **Paint Along** by Grandmillennial Canvas Stretching - January 25 at 3:00pm - 4:00pm (<https://calendar.wpl.ca/event/4750256>)
- **Virtual Book Club** by The Waterloo Library: The Last Train to London by *Meg Waite Clayton* - January 14 at 11:00am to 12:00pm (cbrown@wpl.ca or www.wpl.ca)
- **Adult Cookbook Book Club** by Waterloo Read Squared - All January (<http://waterloo.readsquared.com/>)

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES

Graduate students serve on [university-level committees](#) to represent graduate student needs and experiences at an administration level.

Call for Applications to the Joint Policy Review Committee:

The GSA board is looking for 2 members of the graduate student community to serve on the Joint Policy Review Committee (JPRC). The JPRC reviews and recommends changes to the policies of the GSA, the GSA board, and the GSA Council, to make sure its policies are up to date with the current graduate student needs and standpoints. If you are interested in policy, governance, or the GSA, we encourage you to apply. Interested students are encouraged to submit a brief statement of interest and their CV/Resume to gsaoffice@uwaterloo.ca.

Arts Faculty Council:

The Arts Faculty Council is looking for two Arts graduate students to serve as GSA-UW representatives for a one-year term (with the possibility of renewal). Representatives are required to attend three meetings annually and review all necessary documents prior to each meeting. They are also required to vote on matters relevant to the Arts Faculty Council and submit updates to the GSA-UW. If you are interested in applying or have questions, please email Caroline Brookes at cbrookes@uwaterloo.ca

Human Research Ethics Board (HREB):

The HREB is looking for a graduate student to serve on the Board for a 3-year term (term length is flexible). Applicants involved in research with human participants and in the social sciences are preferred. Commitment involves a 2-hour monthly meeting and document reviewal prior to each meeting. Interested students are encouraged to reach out Karen Pieters at karen.pieters@uwaterloo.ca for more information or to submit their application.

COUNCIL & BOARD MEETING MINUTES

In an effort to be more transparent about our governance process and how decisions are being made to enhance graduate student experience at UWaterloo, we will be sharing minutes from GSA Council and Board meetings.

[GSA Council Meeting Minutes](#) | [GSA Board Meeting Minutes](#)

GET INVOLVED

[Get involved](#) in campus life and join the GSA team! Here you'll find a list of volunteer and employment opportunities with the GSA!

GSA-UW Council:

Below are the departments that currently have, or will soon have, vacancies on the GSA-UW Council and are looking for one graduate student to serve as councillor for a one-year term. Councillors work to represent all students in their department and speak on their behalf at monthly GSA-UW Council meetings. For any questions, please contact the GSA-UW Student Engagement Coordinator at gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca.

- Catholic Thought (ARTS)
- Classical Studies (ARTS)
- French Studies (ARTS)
- History (ARTS)
- Political Science (ARTS)
- Public Issues Anthropology (ARTS)
- Religious Studies (ARTS)
- Social Work (ARTS)
- Sociology (ARTS)
- Systems Design Engineering (ENG)
- Chemical Engineering (ENG)
- Applied Mathematics (MATH)
- Combinatorics & Optimization (MATH)
- Pure Mathematics (MATH)
- Statistics & Actuarial Science (MATH)
- Biochemistry & Chemistry (SCI)
- Earth & Environmental Science (SCI)

Interested students are encouraged to submit the Councillor Representative Nomination Form, found [here](#). Further information on the GSA-UW Council can be found [here](#).

ORGANIZE UW

Monthly updates on the #OrganizeUW unionization campaign for graduate student workers supported by [CUPE](#). Visit the campaign [website](#) including a comprehensive [FAQ page](#), email the organizers (organizeuw@joincupe.org), or attend **weekly Tuesday 1:30pm (ET) drop-in video calls** [at this link](#).

You can now follow #OrganizeUW on social media!

Learn about the drive on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/OrganizeUW>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/organizeuw>) and **share these pages** with your peers, labs, and departments. The more visibility for the drive, the more momentum built together!

Community Endorsements

Fossil Free UW is the second campus-wide group to [formally endorse](#) the union campaign led by CUPE (CUPE is the first union to endorse the [Leap Manifesto](#)). The Student Association for Graduate Students in English (SAGE) have [also expressed public support](#) and are organizing a departmental Town Hall for the new year. Stay tuned for additional [community endorsements](#).

Upcoming #OrganizeUW Events

Social

- [Trivia Night with GSA-UW](#) Thurs Jan 14 @7pm ET

Educational

- [Department of English](#) Discussion on Unionization - Wed Jan 13 @2pm ET
- [International Students Informational Webinar](#) - Thurs Jan 21 @5pm ET

Helpful Resources

- [Anti-Racism and Unions](#) recorded webinar
- [Health, Safety & Unions](#) recorded webinar
- International Student posts: [Having a Voice](#); [Visas and Unionizing](#); [Standardized Work Environment](#)
- [Card signing tutorial](#)
- [Mandarin translation](#) of the unionizing process

#WhyNotWaterloo

- Most TAs in Ontario [earn at least \\$8 more per hour](#). At \$33.89/hr, UWaterloo grad student workers have the second-lowest hourly rate in the entire province

CAMPUS RESOURCES & INFO

[UWaterloo COVID-19 Updates](#)

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

gsauw.ca

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram: @gsa.uwaterloo

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Twitter: @GSA_UWaterloo

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