



NEWS & SERVICES

Meet the 2022 GSA Team!

The GSA is excited to introduce our 2022 team! GSA team members each have unique skills and backgrounds they bring to their roles, and together they are focused on continually improving the graduate student experience at the University of Waterloo. Check out our executive and support staff profiles [here](#) to learn more about our team.

GSA Services

The GSA provides graduate students with academic support, a social community, mental and physical health supports, legal aid, as well as advocacy and representation. Click [here](#) to learn more about the GSA services that we provide!

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

We recently sent out an email with information on how to opt-in/opt-out of several GSA services for the Winter 2022 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 2022 will begin **January 5, 2022**. All refund requests must be submitted **before January 25, 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](#). Note: If you are on a short-term, temporary remote course delivery period for January 2022 as announced by the University of Waterloo, you are NOT ELIGIBLE for the U-PASS refund/exemption.

We're hiring researchers! GSA Housing Advocacy Research & Action Group

The Graduate Student Association (GSA-UW) is committed to fostering a supportive, healthy and safe, as well as a reliable environment for all graduate students during their time at UWaterloo, inclusive of affordable housing (see [GSA Political Position](#)). To that end, we are interested in forming a housing research and action group that can support our advocacy strategies for affordable and proper housing in Waterloo Region. Interested candidates can submit their CV and a one-page cover letter to gsa-admin@uwaterloo.ca. For more information, please visit our [Get Involved](#) webpage, under Employment Opportunities. **Application deadline: January 31.**



New on Website: Information on Graduate Student Workers

It is important for graduate student workers to have the knowledge and tools to effectively advocate for their rights as workers in order to ensure a fair, safe, and optimal work environment. The GSA is excited to launch new efforts to centralize resources and information on graduate student workers. Visit our [new page](#) now!

January 26: Graduate Student Workers Support Office Hours @ 1:00 PM

The GSA Labour Coordinator is also holding monthly office hours this semester, which you can [register for on the GSA website](#). Keep an eye out for upcoming events! You can share questions, concerns or clarifications about your role as a teaching assistant, research assistant, or sessional instructor.

Call for Candid Talks with Grads Speakers

We are looking to bring students together to join group conversations to discuss issues faced by graduate students. These sessions will be facilitated through collaboration with [Counselling Services](#) and will include a short presentation at the beginning of each session providing an overview of the topic discussed that month.

We are currently looking for graduate students interested in presenting on the issues below. Presentations will be 5-10 minutes and will be paid (\$50). We are specifically seeking students who have lived experience with the issues or are currently researching these issues in their respective fields. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact the GSA Student Wellness Coordinator, Ashley Ryan, at gsa-wellness@uwaterloo.ca.

- Transitioning back to campus after COVID-19
- Learning to love yourself
- Parenting and caregiving in grad school
- Housing conflict (e.g., with your landlord, with roommates)

Student Governance Recap!

Take a step back in time to learn about the area of student governance within the GSA-UW! Re-visit our [Student Governance Panel on YouTube](#) and watch Sara, Tyler, and Matthew chat about the Board, Council, volunteer opportunities, and more! For more information on specific topics discussed on the panel, check out the YouTube video description.

Navigating UW Policies for Grad Students Recap!

Any new environment can be daunting. This video presentation will provide an overview of the policies that will govern your time here at the University of Waterloo, how they will affect you and what to expect. [Find the video resources here.](#)

EVENTS

January 11: Meet & Greet with the GSA Team @ 10:30 AM

Join us next week to learn more about the GSA, our team, what services we offer, and how to get involved in campus #gradlife! Bring your questions to ask to the GSA Executives and coordinators. [Register here.](#)



January 13: Speed Friending @ 7:00 PM

Swing by our Zoom speed friending event to make some new friends and network with other graduate students across different departments and years! Those who attend will have the opportunity to win a prize. [Register here.](#)

January 25: Get to know GSEF: Supporting the Grad Student Experience @ 1:30 - 2:30 PM

[The Graduate Studies Endowment Fund \(GSEF\)](#) aims to empower and support students to improve the grad student experience through providing funding opportunities to student-led

projects and initiatives. Come to this session to learn more about the GSEF team, how GSEF works, and previous and current GSEF-funded projects. We look forward to meeting you! [Register here](#).

January 25: Workshop: Being Proactive for your Work Assignment @ 2:00 - 3:30 PM

In partnership with the Centre for Teaching Excellence, this webinar offers an overview of the resources available to students to best succeed in their work assignments, and discuss the challenges and barriers to access. [Register here](#).

January 26: BIPOC Collective Solidarity Chat @ 7:00 PM

Join us for a BIPOC Collective solidarity chat where we'll be having our first themed discussion! This month's open chat will be centered around culture and identity in Canada. You'll have the opportunity to share your experiences and/or listen to others in a safe and inclusive space. Join us in solidarity from 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM, for an informal community conversation. This event will take place in our Lounge space on our [Discord channel](#). All BIPOC faculty, students, and friends are invited to attend.



January 27: Candid Talks with Grads: Navigating Interpersonal Conflict @ 1:00 PM

Come join us at our next Candid Talks with Grads session, a monthly open discussion and support event that focuses on a different topic each time that is important to graduate students at the University of Waterloo. This month's discussion will deal with interpersonal conflicts with supervisors, friends or family. 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. If you have any questions or concerns about this event, please reach out to our Student Wellness Coordinator, Ashley, at gsa-wellness@uwaterloo.ca. If interested, [register for a spot here](#).

January 31: Grad Community Stroll @ 11:00 AM

Get some movement, check out local wildlife, and meet other students at our winter grad community stroll. We will meet and end our walk at the [Graduate House](#), where you will get some free hot chocolate - to go! Registration is required, and spots are limited. This event is subject to change depending on evolving COVID-19 regulations. If you have any questions about this event, please contact our Student Wellness Coordinator, Ashley, at gsa-wellness@uwaterloo.ca.

Register [here](#) for this event!



GET INVOLVED IN GSA GOVERNANCE

Human Research Ethics Board (HREB)

The Human Research Ethics Board (HREB) is looking for a graduate student representative with a background in kinesiology. Members typically meet monthly (2 hours) and provide feedback on research ethics applications. If interested please contact Karen Pieters at karen.pieters@uwaterloo.ca.

We're hiring! GSA Council Minute Taker

The GSA is hiring a Minute Taker, responsible for taking minutes at GSA Council meetings. The position is compensated for 10 hours per month. If interested please see the [job posting on our website](#) and contact the Council Speaker at gsacounc@uwaterloo.ca.

Get involved with the [GSA-UW Council!](#)

As a councilor, one student from each department sits on the GSA-UW Council and speaks on behalf of their constituents regarding academic and political topics throughout the year. A GSA- UW councilor brings opinions and issues of their department to the forefront, ensuring that decisions being made are in consideration of all students at UW.

If you see your department listed and are interested in applying for a Council position, please email the GSA-UW Elections Coordinator (gsa-elections@uwaterloo.ca) and CC the GSA-UW Council Speaker (gsacounc@uwaterloo.ca). Departments with vacant (or soon-to-be-vacant) positions on the GSA_UW Council are listed below:

- Anthropology (ARTS)

- Biochemistry & Chemistry (SCI)

- Catholic Thought (ARTS)
- Classical Studies (ARTS)
- Economics (ARTS)
- Religious Studies (ARTS)
- Social Work (ARTS)
- Theological Studies (ARTS)
- School of Planning (ENV)
- Earth & Environmental Sciences (SCI)
- Applied Mathematics (MATH)
- Combinatorics & Optimization (MATH)
- Computational Mathematics (MATH)
- Computer Science (MATH)
- Statistics & Actuarial Science (MATH)
- Artificial Intelligence (MATH Cross-Faculty)

DGSAs & COMMITTEE REPS

Departmental GSAs

If your dGSA executive team has changed for Winter 2022, please email our GSA Student Engagement Coordinator (gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca) with updated contact information including the names and email of your dGSA President, Vice-president, and GSA-UW Liaison.

January 18: DGSA Social and Training Update Session @ 4:00 PM

During the winterfall term event series, you will be able to meet other dGSA within your faculty. You will be provided with the resources to better collaborate with other dGSAs to effectively support the students in your departments and faculty. If you have any questions, contact our GSA Student Engagement Coordinator via email at gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca. [Register here](#).

University Committee Representatives:

If your term with a university committee is ending in Winter 2022, please send an email to our GSA Student Engagement Coordinator (gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca) including when your term is expecting to end.

January 20: GSA Grad Rep Committees Social + Update Training Zoom @ 4:00 PM

We have an event series during the winter term that will be an excellent opportunity to connect with other GSA Grad Rep Committees and build a toolkit to better advocate and represent grad students in your respective committees. Register [here](#) for this event. If you have any questions, contact our GSA Student Engagement Coordinator via email at gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee Vacancy

The [Department of Physics and Astronomy](#) is looking for grad students to sit on the departmental Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee. This role includes, collaborating with fellow grad student representatives on researching current departmental EDI initiatives, collaborating with faculty and staff representatives to ensure that EDI initiatives are rolled out successfully, and most importantly, dedication to making sure that everyone within the department feels equally welcomed and valued. The committee meets bi-weekly, and the time commitments to the committee are flexible to allow for maximal representation of the physics grad student community. If folks are interested, they can either contact kbiggart@uwaterloo.ca, or the committee chair Dr. Karen Cummings at karenc@uwaterloo.ca.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Call for Bloggers: International Graduate Student Blog

Are you an international graduate student? We want to hear from you! The International Student Blog is looking for international graduate students to write a blog for fellows. Email Shu-Feng at gsa-international@uwaterloo.ca if you'd like to write a blog! Check out our latest blog [here](#) to learn more about time management tips.

Call for Action: Join International Graduate Student Discord

Great news! Our Discord for international graduate students has officially launched! Join our Discord by clicking [here](#) to connect with other fellows, attend virtual events, and stay updated about on-campus jobs!

THE GRADUATE HOUSE

OPEN DAILY!

Monday to Friday from 11:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

Welcome to Winter Term 2022! Things will look a bit different starting this month, but we are happy to announce that the Graduate House is open for takeout food and drinks!

The Graduate House is an essential component of graduate student life, and we're working hard to make it available to students. The quality food with local ingredients you love is available for takeaway. And graduate students who paid their fees can still get discounts and free coffee!

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 strict protocols will be in place to ensure the safety of our staff, members, and patrons.

Winter 2022 Giveaway at the Graduate House!

We're giving away free takeaway drinks to the first 24 graduate students from each Faculty on designated dates only between 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM. WATCards and Government ID required.

- January 19: Faculty of Health
- January 20: Faculty of Engineering
- January 21: Faculty of Math
- January 26: Faculty of Environment
- January 27: Faculty of Arts
- January 28: Faculty of Science

Chalice of Champions

Did you just defend your thesis? If you answered YES, then stop at the Graduate House and celebrate with a FREE PINT ON US. You get FEATURED on our Instagram story as well!

Graduate Student Endowment Fund

The [Graduate Studies Endowment Fund](#) supports improving the academic and social experience of graduate students at the University of Waterloo. To this end, we regularly provide financial assistance for student-driven projects and initiatives.

Position Openings

Are you enthusiastic about student-driven initiatives and want to support the graduate student experience at the University of Waterloo? GSEF is recruiting student representatives for the following positions below.

- Faculty of Math - Board of Directors
- Faculty of Arts - Board of Directors

- Faculty of Engineering - Project Review Committee

To apply, send your resume/CV and a cover letter to the GSEF Coordinator at gsef@uwaterloo.ca by **January 19**. Check the [GSEF website](#) for more information about the openings available.

Funding Opportunities Available

If you or your student group have an idea to improve the academic, social, or 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 the funding application deadlines for the Winter 2022 term.

- Small project application (January 10, February 1, March 1, April 1)
- Large project application (February 11)
- Environmental Sustainability Award (February 11)

Check out the GSEF website to learn more about [GSEF-funded student projects](#) and how to [apply for funding](#)! If you have any questions, email the GSEF Coordinator at gsef@uwaterloo.ca.

Organize UW

Monthly updates on the #OrganizeUW unionization campaign for graduate student workers. The union drive is supported by [CUPE](#). Visit the campaign [website](#) (which features a comprehensive [FAQ page](#)), email the organizers (organizeuw@joincupe.org), or attend **weekly Tuesday 1:30 PM drop-in video calls** [at this link](#). Follow OUW on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).

Upcoming and Recent Events

Winter 2022 events TBD. Keep an eye on our social media!

Recent News and Articles

New provincial restrictions getting you down? Worried about workplace safety in the time of omicron? Concerned about how all this will affect your mental health? Us too. Revisit our Pandemic Working Conditions and Graduate Student Mental Health [article](#) for one narrative of solidarity.

Helpful Resources

- [Mental Health and Unions](#) recorded webinar
- [Climate Justice and Unions](#) recorded webinar
- [International Students & Unions](#) recorded webinar
- [Anti-Racism and Unions](#) recorded webinar
- [Health, Safety & Unions](#) recorded webinar
- [Safe Return to Campus](#) recorded webinar
- [Mandarin translation](#) of the unionizing process

Campaign Endorsements

[View the list](#) of UWaterloo campus organizations that have publicly endorsed the drive.

Community Engagement & Events

#PoliticsToday Series Recap!

While we plan an entire new #PoliticsToday series of events for 2022, check our video on the Canadian Governance Structure from our very first #PoliticsToday event series! This series focuses on political issues and engagement in Waterloo Region and the broader political sphere in Canada. [Find the video here.](#)

Applications Now Open! Concepts Ambassador Program

If you're a current University of Waterloo student interested in entrepreneurship and innovation, Concept's brand-new Ambassador program may be for you. For all interested individuals, please see [here](#).

Until January 9: Bingeman's Gift of Lights

For tickets, see [here](#).

January 21 - 22: [Greenhouse](#) Transportation Hack for Health

For more information and to register, see [here](#).



[COVID-19 Updates](#)

[GSA Website](#)

[Contact Us!](#)

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