



# MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

June 2020

## NEWS & SERVICES

### Statement on Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-racism

On the GSA-UW issued a [statement](#) in support of Black Lives Matter and anti-racism.

We acknowledge that our statement is only a first step to addressing systemic oppression. We are currently developing a multi-pronged action plan to implement support and address changes, internally and externally to the GSA-UW. We want to make sure we think things through so our plan is long-term, sustainable, and collaborative, especially with students, faculty, and staff who are already heavily invested in these matters.

We recommend that our members also engage their [GSA Council](#) representatives on these matters, as you can have a significant impact on how these matters are addressed in your department/program. Your GSA Council representative will ensure that your continued feedback is shared with the rest of the GSA Council, GSA Board, and GSA Executive Team. You can also connect with your [Departmental GSA](#) to discuss these issues and programming that could help support our peers during these times. Taking this initiative at various levels will be more impactful than a simple top-down approach and can help move us forward to create a system of change.

### GRT & ION UPass – New Opt-in Option for Spring 2020

Due to changing circumstances brought on by COVID-19, we have had to make some adjustments to our GRT & ION UPass service for Spring 2020. The GSA-UW and WUSA will be providing an opt-in option for an unlimited GRT & ION UPass for the months of June-August 2020 for \$98.60. Graduate students who still require access to the service during the remainder of the Spring 2020 term can opt-in for the service. This is not a mandatory fee. GRT & ION tickets and the reduced student pass can be purchased at the SLC Turnkey Desk.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the GRT & ION UPass Service for Spring 2020, please [contact us](#).

### Vital Signs Survey & GSA COVID-19 Impact Survey Results

The results of the Vital Signs Survey and GSA COVID-19 Impact Survey are now available on our website on our new [Surveys, Referendums & Results page](#).

### Legal Service Referendum Results

From May 11 to May 18, 2020 the GSA-UW held a referendum regarding the implementation of a new expanded Legal Protection Service. The referendum passed with 85% voting in favour of the referendum question. The results report of there referendum is also available on [Surveys, Referendums & Results page](#).

## Annual General Meeting 2020: Postponed

The [AGM 2020](#) has been postponed until further notice due to COVID-19. [GSA Director Elections for 2020](#) have also been put on hold until a new date for the AGM 2020 has been determined. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.

## GSA Student Advocacy & Support

The GSA-UW is here to help support graduate students who may be experience challenges. We offer confidential advising about navigating university policies, filing a grievance, appeal, or petition, and providing a support person for meetings. This service is managed by [Ashley, our Director of Student Wellness](#). Click [here](#) for more information about this service. To book an appointment, [contact us](#).

## Empower Me

Graduate students at the UWaterloo have access to Empower Me—a 24/7, 365 days mental health and wellness service that seeks to contribute to a resilient student community by supporting existing on-campus and Studentcare mental health resources. Empower Me allows students to connect with qualified counsellors, consultants, and life coaches for a variety of issues, in confidence. As a graduate student, you're entitled to sessions delivered in person, by telephone, by video-counselling, or by e-counselling. To connect with Empower Me and learn more, visit [here](#).

## CAMPUS RESOURCES & INFO

[UWaterloo COVID-19 Updates](#)

[Research Lab Access Request](#)

[UWaterloo Library Services & Operations – COVID-19 Updates](#)

[Graduate Student Funding and Fee Information](#)

## GET INVOLVED

[Get involved](#) in campus life and join the GSA team!

**GSA Board of Directors:** Get involved in overseeing the corporate interests of the GSA-UW by joining our [BOD](#). Email [Sara, our Director of Student Engagement](#) at [gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca) for more information.

**GSA Council Representatives:** [Represent](#) your department in our council meetings. Email [Sara, our Director of Student Engagement](#) at [gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca) for more information.

The following departments require a Council representative:

- Public Issues Anthropology (ARTS)
- Catholic Thought (ARTS)
- Economics (ARTS)
- Public Service (ARTS)
- Social Work (ARTS)
- Sociology (ARTS)
- Theological Studies (ARTS)
- Master of Business, Entrepreneurship & Technology MBET (ENGR)
- Combinatorics & Optimization (MATH)
- Computational Mathematics (MATH)
- Pure Mathematics (MATH)

- Biochemistry & Chemistry (SCI)
- Geography and Environmental Management (GEM) dept. (ENV)

## VIRTUAL EVENTS

### Graduate Student Online Workshops Project

The Graduate Student Online Workshops Project is a collaborative virtual event series between McMaster Graduate Student's Association and the GSA-UW, focused on developing and sharing graduate student skills during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Moving to an online model for content delivery has certain challenges over in-person seminars but provides many opportunities including dramatically increased accessibility for cross-disciplinary knowledge sharing and networking among our fellow graduate students and between our universities.

More information will be shared soon.

## VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE

[gsauw.ca](http://gsauw.ca)

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram: @gsa.uwaterloo

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