



MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

November 2020

NEWS & SERVICES

Monthly KPI Report

The GSA-UW strives to communicate with members about our ongoing efforts to enhance the quality of graduate student experience at UWaterloo. To establish more transparency in this respect, we are releasing a monthly key performance indicator report. Below you will find our October KPI report:

[October 2020 KPIs](#)

For questions regarding the report, please email Khalid (our GSA Reporting Coordinator) via email at gsa-reporting@uwaterloo.ca

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.

Graduate Student Initiatives (GSI)

Do you have an idea to enhance the graduate student experience through an academic or social initiative? Graduate students are eligible to 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 **November 15, 2020**. Visit the [GSI webpage](#) to apply and for more details.

GSA-UW Letter Supporting On-Campus Ombudsperson

The GSA-UW has written an open letter in support of an on-campus ombudsperson at UWaterloo. The letter can be found on the [News section](#) of our website.

Upcoming Surveys: Keep an eye out!

The GSA-UW will be launching surveys on the impact of COVID-19 on the graduate student experience during this Fall 2020 term, and municipal housing issues experienced by graduate and undergraduate students in collaboration with WUSA. These surveys are intended to better understand the impact of the pandemic and gauge regional housing issues for graduate students to inform our GSA-UW advocacy efforts. Please keep an eye on your email inbox and our social media for their release and more information.

EVENTS

November 12: Live Music at the Graduate House @ 4:00pm

Join us in-person at the GH or live on the GH Instagram account (@the_graduate_house) to enjoy an afternoon of good music. COVID-19 safety protocols are in effect. Featured Artist: Dan Walsh (<https://www.bentbeard.com/>)

November 17: Graduate Community Stroll @ 11:00am EST

Come get some exercise and meet other students at our first socially distant community stroll. We will meet and end our walk at the Graduate House. Registration is required and spots are limited. This event is subject to change depending on evolving COVID-19 regulations. [Registration details](#)

November 18: #PoliticsToday Part 1: Introduction to the Canadian Governance Structure @ 3:00pm EST

We have started a new speaker series called #PoliticsToday that will focus on political issues and engagement in Waterloo Region and the broader political sphere. In Part 1, Matthew Rafuse will review some necessary history surrounding the founding of Canada and its relationship with the U.K., the structure of the government (Executive, Legislative and Judicial), the legislative process, and the current state of politics in the country on a national and provincial level. [Registration details](#)

November 18: Trivia Live at the Graduate House and on Zoom @ 4:00pm EST [Registration Link](#)

November 23: Building Your Career (Remotely) Part 1: Networking Tips From Your Peers @ 10:00am EST

We are excited to host a series of career building opportunities for graduate students. These sessions are open to all graduate students and will contain specific emphases on international graduate students who may experience additional barriers to career development during this time. In Part 1, learn tips from a panel of your peers from a variety of disciplines on how to network professionally in an online environment. There are two ways to participate: [Register](#) and submit your questions in advance by emailing gsa-international@uwaterloo.ca, or watch live on Facebook through our GSA-UW account and ask your questions there!

November 25: Building Community – Student Success Office @ 7:00pm EST

Meet and connect with other international students and learn ways to stay connected online through GSA-UW representatives, International Peer Community volunteers, and WUSA representatives! [Registration and event details](#)

November 27: Virtual Movie Night: “Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle” @7:00pm EST

Grab a snack, find a comfy place to sit, and join us at our virtual movie night! You will have the opportunity to chat with grad students from other departments, and potentially make a couple of new friends! Register by November 27th at 4 pm and we'll email you the link to join. Note: Please download Teleparty (formerly known as Netflix Party) on your web browser prior to the event. Instructions for how to do so can be found at www.netflixparty.com.

[Registration link](#)

November 30: FYI with GSI (Fund Your Initiative with Graduate Student Initiatives Funding) @ 2:00pm EST

Enhancing the graduate student experience through an academic or social initiative can be rewarding, especially during a time when we're mainly remote. Through this session you'll receive GSI application tips (including how to make initiatives virtual!) from graduate students who have hosted initiatives through GSI. Information about other funding opportunities to supplement GSI, including the Graduate Studies Endowment Fund (GSEF), will also be explored. Submit your questions in advance by sending them to gsa-admin@uwaterloo.ca or ask them during the session. [Registration link](#)

GRADUATE HOUSE

We're open!

Monday to Friday

11:30am – 6:00pm

<https://gsauw.ca/graduatehouse/>

Instagram: @the_graduate_house

Facebook: @uwgradhouse

Twitter: @UWGraduateHouse

GRADUATE STUDIES ENDOWMENT FUND

[Graduate Studies Endowment Fund \(GSEF\)](#) supports your academic and social experiences in grad school. Our funding will be used to support your personal and community initiatives, not limited to social events, academic development, scholarships...

In October, the Project Review Committee met to discuss [recent applications](#) received from graduate students. During the November Board meeting, GSEF will be continuing to discuss the best way of supporting graduate students. If you have any questions, please email gsef@uwaterloo.ca

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The GSA is excited to launch community engagement initiatives steered towards cultivating strong, positive relationships with our broader community. Graduate students are invited to participate by nominating local community-based organizations with a focus on environmental sustainability, mental wellness and accessibility to graduate studies. For further inquiry and nominee submissions, please contact Margaret (our GSA Community Development Coordinator), via email at gsa-community@uwaterloo.ca.

Upcoming Events in the Region:

- **Public Speaking** by Black Walnut Toastmasters Club, Waterloo – Wednesday, 11 November 2020 at 7:30am – 8:50am (<https://blackwalnut.toastmastersclubs.org/>)
- **Waterloo Handmade Market** by RIM Park, Waterloo – Sunday, 15 November 2020 at 11am – 4pm (www.allcanadianevents.com)
- **Fundamentals of Kizomba - Dance Workshop Series** by The Underdog Dance Corp. – Sunday, 15 November 2020 at 6pm – 8pm (<http://www.underdogdance.com/>)
- **Forest Walk and Meditation** by Laurel Creek Conservation Area, Waterloo – Saturday, 21 November 2020 at 2pm (carrieleesrp@gmail.com)
- **Artist Talk: Deanna Bowen** by Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery – Thursday, 26 November 2020 at 7pm (https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KF2pTGgwRhgQr4YHvn_S8w)
- **Christmas Mini's with Santa** by Benjamin Tree Farm, Waterloo – Saturday, 28 November 2020 at 11am (www.benjamintreefarm.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. Members from the graduate student community serving on this committee bring welcome perspectives from the wider graduate community. 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.

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 Council

Below are the departments that currently have vacancies on Council and are looking for one graduate student to serve as GSA Councillor for a one-year term. Councillors work to represent all students in their department and speak on their behalf at monthly GSA Council meetings. Please contact the GSA Student Engagement Coordinator, Sara, at gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca for more information.

- Public Issues Anthropology (ARTS)
- Catholic Thought (ARTS)
- Classical Studies (ARTS)
- French Studies (ARTS)
- Social Work (ARTS)
- Sociology (ARTS)
- Applied Mathematics (MATH)
- Combinatorics & Optimization (MATH)
- Pure Mathematics (MATH)
- Biochemistry & Chemistry (SCI)

ORGANIZE UW

See below for monthly updates on the grassroots effort to unionize graduate student workers with the Canadian Union of Public Employees ([CUPE](#)). Visit their [website](#) including the comprehensive [FAQ page](#), email the organizers (organizeuw@joincupe.org), or meet with them during their weekly Tuesday 1:30pm drop-ins [at this link](#). If this is the first you're hearing of this campaign, catch up with their [webinar on TA unions, health and safety!](#)

#WhyNotWaterloo?

Did you know graduate teaching assistants at almost every other university in Ontario [earn at least \\$8 more per hour](#) than we do at UWaterloo? At \$33.89/hr, we have the second-lowest hourly rate in the entire province!

Faculty Discussion Series

The first Faculty Discussion on unionization took place with the Environment Faculty! [Read the meeting minutes here](#). Applied Health Sciences, and the Departments of Physics and Biology are coming up this month. Stay tuned or sign up for their newsletters to get up-to-the-minute updates. If you would like to help them organize a discussion with your department or faculty, please be in touch.

New Resources

Did you know OrganizeUW has an International Student sub-committee? [Learn more about their efforts here](#). Organizers were also recently interviewed in [UWaterloo's Daily Bulletin podcast](#), and have put together a [card signing tutorial](#) for your reference. Visit their [volunteer page](#) to learn about other ways to support the campaign.

Name This Clever Goose

Their Name the goose campaign is live! [Find out more here](#). The top 10 names will receive an insulated coffee mug complete with a picture of their clever goose! They also have goose-branded face masks available - reach out to the organizers to learn more about supporting the campaign.

CAMPUS RESOURCES & INFO

[UWaterloo COVID-19 Updates](#)

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE

gsauw.ca

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram: [@gsa.uwaterloo](#)

Facebook: [@gsauw](#)

Twitter: [@GSA_UWaterloo](#)

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