



# MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

October 2020

## NEWS & SERVICES

### **New 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 will be releasing a monthly key performance indicator report. Below you will find our first KPI report:

[September 2020 KPIs](#)

For questions regarding the report, please email Khalid, GSA Reporting Coordinator via email at [gsa-reporting@uwaterloo.ca](mailto: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.

### **Equity Advisory Committee**

The GSA is now represented on the UWaterloo's Equity Advisory Committee by GSA Equity Coordinator, Aaron.

### **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 October 15, 2020. Visit the [GSI webpage](#) to apply and for more details.

### **GSA-UW Letter Supporting Mandatory TA Mental Wellness Training**

The GSA has written an open letter in support for mandatory mental wellness training for teaching assistants at UWaterloo. The letter can be found on the [News section](#) of our website.

## EVENTS

### October 19: GSA Student Advocacy & Wellness Series Part 2

Join us on Monday October 19 from 2:00-3:00 pm as we discuss the petition, grievance, and appeal policies and processes at UWaterloo. At the end, you will have the opportunity to ask questions. Registration is required. A Zoom link will be sent to you prior to the event upon registration. Feel free to contact Ashley, GSA Wellness Coordinator via email at [gsa-wellness@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:gsa-wellness@uwaterloo.ca) with any questions about the event. Registration:

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

### October 20: International Graduate Student Virtual Meet & Greet

Join us for our first "International Grad Students Virtual Meet & Greet" to meet new people, answer ice breaker questions, and have fun! We have two sessions with different time slots, 10-11 am EST and 9-10 pm EST, so that grad students studying off campus can also have the opportunity to connect with peers all around the globe. Registration required:

[Morning registration \(10:00am EST\)](#)

[Evening registration \(9:00pm EST\)](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

### October 21: Trivia at Graduate House

Join us for our first in-person trivia night at the Graduate House on October 21 at 4:00pm. Social distancing measures in place.

### October 23 & 24: Pumpkin Pickup & Decorating Contest

Register to pick up a free pumpkin to decorate, enter our pumpkin decorating contest, and get a Halloween goodie bag! [Registration and event details.](#)

### October 27: Haunted Story Walk

Come face your fears on our haunted story walk! Stroll along Laurel Trail at night and stop to listen to creepy stories along the way. This event will be socially distanced. Registration is required. [Registration and event details.](#)

### October 30: Halloween at Graduate House

## GRADUATE STUDIES ENDOWMENT FUND

Don't forget that GSEF has a couple big deadlines coming up!

**October 16:** deadline to apply for project funding! You can use the funds to improve the experience of your fellow graduate students, Check out the [GSEF website](#) for more details. **Apply today!**

## GRADUATE HOUSE

We're open!

Monday to Friday

11:30am – 6:00pm

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

## 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, GSA Community Development Coordinator, via email at [gsa-community@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:gsa-community@uwaterloo.ca).

### Upcoming Events in the Region:

- **Ken Seiling Waterloo Region Museum** - The Human Plus: Real Lives + Real Engineering Exhibit <https://www.waterlooregionmuseum.ca/en/exhibits/human-plus.aspx>
- **Orchard Home Farm** - Apple Picking <https://www.orchardhomefarm.com/>
- **Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery Exhibition** - By Your Own Stars curated by Jennifer Bullock <https://kwag.ca/content/your-own-stars-works-permanent-collection>
- **Snyder Family Farm** Fall Farm Fun <https://snydersfamilyfarm.com/>
- **Uptown Gallery** Waterloo Town Square - Timeless Exhibition by Chesley House, Sanela Dizdar, and ManChoi Chow [www.uptwongallerywaterloo.com](http://www.uptwongallerywaterloo.com)
- **Schubert and The Swedish Mozart** Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Signature 2 on October 23, 2020 (Live Stream Concert: <https://kwsymphony.ca/concerts/schubert-and-the-swedish-mozart/>)
- **Kitchener-Waterloo Virtual Oktoberfest** - <https://www.oktoberfest.ca/> on October 9 – 10, 2020
- **Nature Walk and Talk** by Humans in Nature: At Strasburg Woods, Rush Meadow Street, Kitchener, ON N2R 1K4 on October 10, 2020.

## UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES

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

Join the Games Institute; Research, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Council; and Council for Responsible Innovation & Technology, on October 21, from 1-3pm, for the Racial Equity Board Games Panel, featuring race and game studies scholars Drs. [Kishonna Gray](#), [Lai-Tze Fan](#), and [Aynur Kadir](#). Register today at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/racial-equity-board-games-panel-tickets-124147874635>

### The following university-wide committees have vacancies:

**Human Research Ethics Board (HREB)** - The HREB is looking for a graduate student to serve on the Board, beginning January 1st, 2021 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 review prior to each meeting. Interested students are encouraged to reach out Karen Pieters at [karen.pieters@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:karen.pieters@uwaterloo.ca) for more information or to submit their application for the position.

**Graduate Student Relations Committee** – The GSRC is looking for a graduate student to serve on the committee as soon as possible. Interested applicants can submit a one paragraph overview of their academic program and brief statement indicating why they are interested in getting involved, along with a copy of their CV. Applications and inquiries can be sent to GSA President, David via email at [gsa-president@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:gsa-president@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](mailto: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

A group of graduate students have started a grassroots union drive with the Canadian Union of Public Employees ([CUPE](#)). This past July, the GSA voted in favour of supporting this campaign and its outreach efforts, including informing the graduate student body through our communication channels. We are pleased to offer some initial insights and encourage you to connect with the organizers for more information and opportunities at: [organizeuw@joincupe.org](mailto:organizeuw@joincupe.org)

Below you will find details about the structure of a union, its impact on working graduate students, the unionization process, volunteer opportunities and upcoming events. Be sure to visit the campaign website at <https://organizeuw.org/> for further information. Faculty-specific webinars are also in the works. Stay tuned!

- Learn the [basics of unionization](#)
- [Webinar on the union drive](#), health & safety issues, and experiences from a CUPE local President
- [Comprehensive FAQ](#) page, [process](#) for unionization and organizer [goals and principles](#)
- Subcommittee for [International Student](#) issues- contact us for more info
- In-person (covid-safe) [card signing at Waterloo Park](#) Oct 15, 16 and 17 from 1-3pm on the north end of the Cricket Pitch (east of Albert St)
- [Name the Goose contest](#) with swag prizes!
- [Volunteer](#) with the organizers to support the drive - seeking champions for each department and faculty
- Weekly drop-in Q&A sessions with the organizers: Tuesdays @1:30pm [at this link](#) - come say hello!

## CAMPUS RESOURCES & INFO

[UWaterloo COVID-19 Updates](#)

## VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE

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

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram: [@gsa.uwaterloo](#)

Facebook: [@gsauw](#)

Twitter: [@GSA\\_UWaterloo](#)

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