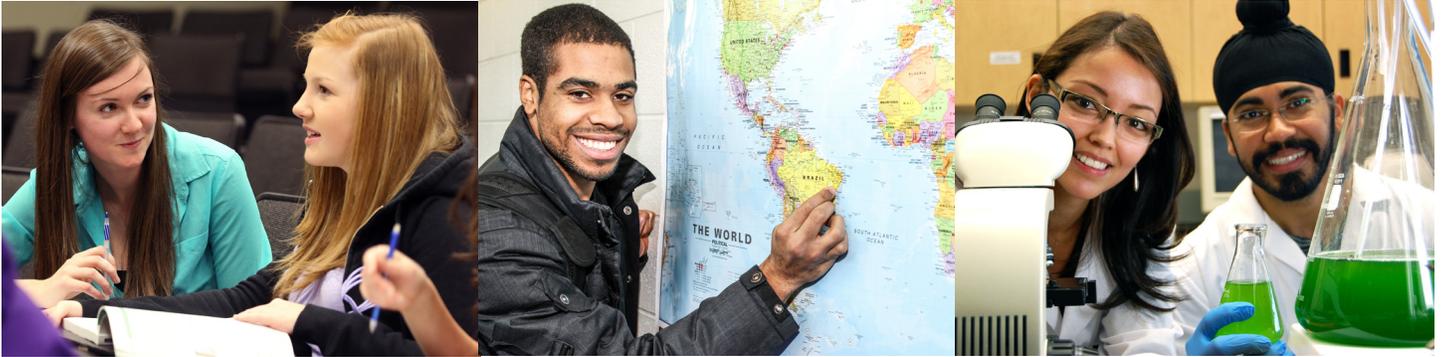


# The Next Five Years: Achieving Excellence on the World Stage



## Strategic Plan Executive Summary – 2014-2019

**Mission:** Western Engineering creates, disseminates and applies knowledge for the benefit of society through excellence in teaching, research and scholarship. Our graduates will be global citizens whose education and leadership will serve the public good.

**Vision:** Western Engineering will be a destination of choice for the world's brightest minds seeking the best learning experience at a leading Canadian research university.

### Research Impact

Making an impact on complex global problems requires a diversity of skills, ideas and talents. In order to address the need for more interdisciplinary and collaborative research, Western Engineering will look for opportunities to foster groups of researchers who work together within the Faculty, across Western University's campus, as well as with national and international partners.

We will focus on strengthening and promoting our four main areas of research strength, which include:

**Sustainability, Environment, Resiliency and Adaptive Systems** – Addressing the need for green technologies and building sustainable infrastructure by focusing on water, environmental remediation, nanotechnology, natural disaster mitigation and management, and energy (power systems, biofuels and alternative energy systems).

**Biomedical Engineering, Technology in Health and Medicine** – Building on existing collaborations, we will address opportunities for growth in the health-care sector through our strengths in biomedical engineering (imaging, robotics, biomaterials and biomechanics), medical physics, cell biology and anatomy, and musculoskeletal health.

**Innovative Materials and Biomaterials** – Our focus will be on developing advanced materials and biomaterials to help industry stay on the forefront of new manufacturing developments that are essential to economic viability in a competitive global marketplace, building on relationships such as the Fraunhofer Project Centre for Composite Centre for Materials Research and the Soochow-Western Centre for Synchrotron Radiation Research.

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**Ubiquitous Information and Communication** – Cloud computing, big data analytics, high performance computing and ubiquitous communication has created an opportunity for Western Engineering to support a unique student experience in information technology and mobile computing, and further the work in areas such as computer science, software engineering and medical imaging.

## Student Experience

Making an impact on complex global problems requires a diversity of skills, ideas and talents that can also be facilitated through our undergraduate programs. Our goal is to develop globally minded students who are prepared for the challenges of tomorrow by offering unique learning experiences, such as exposure to research, innovation and entrepreneurship opportunities, and experiential learning. We will continue to emphasize our unique dual degree programs, particularly Law and Engineering, to provide students with the foundations to meet these challenges.

Part of creating the best student learning experience is through diversification of the student body. We will work towards increasing the number of women engineering students and create opportunities for indigenous students through improving access to our programs, support and providing opportunities for experiential learning and work with First Nation communities.

To help our students become globally minded leaders, we will expose our students to business and innovation, such as through the Integrated Engineering program and new Engineering Leadership and Innovation Certificate – both supported by the John M. Thompson Chair – and through the BESC/HBA program with the Ivey Business School. Through these unique offerings, Western Engineering will be the destination of choice for exposure to leadership, business and innovation practices in engineering. Undergraduate students also have access to experiential education opportunities, such as co-op, internship, megaproject clubs, and international study.

We will expand our Master of Engineering enrolment through innovative and flexible programs for specific industry sectors to support life-long learning for working engineers.

## International Reputation

In today's competitive market, we are committed to recruiting the world's brightest minds to our graduate and research programs and will look for opportunities to improve the learning experience, such as international exchange programs with leading universities and research centres. Key to achieving our ambitious goals is building on existing relationships with alumni and industry, and expanding our network of international contacts.

## Working Together

As we move forward in the next five years, we will strive for excellence in everything we do. We are proud of the achievements of our faculty and staff, and we will continue to work together to create a supportive workplace environment that rewards innovation and creativity, and enables an effective and responsive organization that is well positioned to meet our goals.

Western Engineering is committed over the next five years to achieving excellence on the world stage. To learn more about our full strategic plan, contact us at [contactWE@eng.uwo.ca](mailto:contactWE@eng.uwo.ca).

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