Welcome

Engineering Graduate Student Orientation

Term 1218, September, 2021
Thank you for joining us!

To ensure the smooth delivery of this session, please ensure you are following the etiquette for Zoom Meetings listed below:

1. Mute your microphone
2. Keep your camera turned off for the duration of the Orientation Session.
3. Hold all questions until the end! We will open the Chat feature to collect your questions at the start of the Question and Answer period.
### Orientation Agenda

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Welcome

Graduate and Research Office

Kamran Siddiqui
Associate Dean,
Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Graduate Studies

• We’re glad you chose Western Engineering, and want you to have a successful experience here, one which will help you to achieve your personal goals
• Graduate School is about exploring problems in greater depth, asking questions, and developing your skill set
• Learn skills and approaches to thinking about problems that are suitable for an advanced degree. Take advantage of opportunities for personal and skills growth
• Graduate Programs at Western also put a great emphasis on professional development and provide various opportunities
• Make lifelong friends and develop your professional network
Graduate Office

• Kamran Siddiqui – Associate Dean, SEB 2078, ksiddiq@uwo.ca
• Kristen Edwards– Graduate Officer, SEB 2077, khunt29@uwo.ca
• Emericks Rivas– Assistant to the Associate Deans Graduate and Research, SEB 2079, erivas@uwo.ca

• Our office works to support and foster the educational and research pursuits of graduate engineering students while providing the best student experience.
• We (a) work with the departments to provide the overall structure to the graduate programs, (b) help to resolve issues which can’t be addressed at the departmental level, (c) manage scholarship programs
COVID-19 Safety Measures

• The Faculty of Engineering is offering all graduate courses in-person in the Fall term and students are expected to be attending classes on campus, unless approved to take courses remotely.

• Several measures have been implemented due to COVID-19 to ensure the health and safety of students, faculty and staff:
  • Western University is requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination for students, staff and faculty. For more information visit: https://www.uwo.ca/coronavirus/updates/aug11-2021.html
  • Before coming to campus, you must complete the Return to Campus Questionnaire (sent out daily via email with a unique access link)
  • While on campus, you must follow all health and safety procedures
  • Graduate Research students (PhD, MESc) require special permission to access the labs on a preset schedule (supervisors have to submit the access request)
  • Graduate Research Students are permitted to have limited access to graduate office spaces in Engineering Buildings via the online booking tool: https://gradofficebooking.eng.uwo.ca
  • Common sitting areas will remain closed, and there will be NO eating permitted outside of designated eateries
  • Faculty and Departmental Graduate Offices will be accessible in-person, during regular office hours
Best Practices

Student Responsibilities

• Devote your full efforts to your studies and make timely progress towards completion of degree (planning and time management)
• Learn skills and approaches to thinking about problems appropriate for degree (technical and problem-solving skills)
• Exhibit independent judgment, academic rigor, and intellectual honesty (professional development)
• Interact with fellow students, staff and faculty in a professional and mature manner (inter-personal skills)
• Be aware of program requirements
• Complete all health and safety training required for you to conduct research in the labs
• Follow proper Demeanor/Etiquette for online classes
Best Practices

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity: honesty and responsibility in your scholarly/academic work. This includes all assignments, research, and publications.

Plagiarism: supplying work (assignments, research, publications, proposal, etc.) that is, in whole or part, the work of someone else by doing one or all of the following:

- Stealing and passing off the ideas or words of another as one’s own
- Using someone’s work without proper citation or crediting the source
- Literary theft
- Presenting an idea/product as new and original when the work is derived from an existing source
Best Practices

Tips for New Students

• Take the time to read through the different guidelines and procedures so you are informed of what is expected of you (i.e. Department, GTA, SGPS guidelines)

• Never assume you don’t need to know policies or that they don’t apply to you

• Take ethical concerns seriously; even minor concerns can come back to haunt you

• Take advantage of the services offered to Graduate Students at Western – discussed in the following presentations

• Get involved with student-run organizations and other initiatives

• While you are starting the program remotely, we hope to see you all on campus in the near future!
Graduate and Research Office

Thank you
Information Technology Group (ITG)

ITG is a resource available to assist you however needed.

• Onsite Help Desk – ACEB 2420 (Monday – Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm)
  • Computer repairs, configuration, technology troubleshooting.

• Remote Support for technology issues (Monday – Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm)

• Support for your computing needs
  • Server Disk Storage, Web page Setup, Consulting, etc.

• ITG Web Site - [https://www.eng.uwo.ca/itg/](https://www.eng.uwo.ca/itg/)
  • Computer Lab Information
  • Software available – Installable & Virtual
  • PC Hardware Guidance
  • Printing (Papercut)
  • “How to” information
ITG Website

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GROUP

COVID-19 UPDATE - WE’VE MOVED OUR SERVICES VIRTUALLY

CONTACT ENGHELP@UWO.CA FOR ALL SUPPORT INQUIRIES EFFECTIVE MARCH 19, 2020 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
ITG Support Resources
Information Technology Group

Adis                Ali               Andrew         David
Lyle             Matthew            Ron                 Tim
Information Technology Group (ITG)

Thank you
Western One Card = Your Library Card!
Taylor Library

Collections in Science, Engineering, Medicine, and Health Sciences

Individual and Group Study Space

Western Libraries
The D.B. Weldon Library

Collections for Arts & Humanities, Information & Media Studies, Social Sciences

ARCC – Archives and Research Collections Centre

Special Collections, Storage, & University Archives

Located off of first floor of Weldon

Map and Data Centre

Provides map, data, and GIS services

Located in the basement of Weldon
Library Collections

- Books, Journals, Multimedia (e.g. audio, video), Databases, Data sources, Standards, Maps

- Over $15 million spent annually to purchase and subscribe to library collections
Resources

Western Libraries (http://www.lib.uwo.ca/)

- Videos & How-Tos
- Databases
- Citation Guides
- Scholarship@Western
- Research Data Management
- Research Metrics
- Geospatial Hub
- Copyright
- Research Skills Workshop
Research Guides

- List reference tools, databases, and course guides specific to a particular subject.
- There’s a Research Guide for every academic program at Western.
- Topic guides include: Finding Patents; Finding Standards
Interlibrary Loan Service

- **RACER**
- Register for your individual account
- Free of charge
- Various *Profiles* to access different searchable collections
- Use *Blank Request Form* on the left-hand side bar if needed
Changes to Library Services

- Taylor Library reopens starting August 9
- Weldon Library remains closed due to ongoing construction, with no-contact pick up service available
- Check the webpage for updates and professional libraries’ reopen dates
Ask for Library Help!

Ask
Text
Phone
Email
In Person
wlteach@uwo.ca
Health and Safety

Kristen Edwards (on behalf of Mike Gaylard)
Health and Safety

All Students – MEng and Research

The following training must be completed by all graduate students in Engineering:

- Worker Health and Safety Awareness Training
- WHMIS - Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System
- Safe Campus Community
- COVID-19 Return To Campus Essentials
Health and Safety

Research Students Only

In addition - the following training must be completed by all Research (MESc and PhD) graduate students in Engineering:

• Laboratory Safety – Hazardous Waste
• Workplace Hazards Communication Form
• AODA- Accessibility in Teaching (for students whom will serve as GTAs, e.g. Research students)
Health and Safety

Specific Training

The following may be required based on the specific type of work you are doing:

• Biosafety
• Radiation Safety – Nuclear
• X-Ray Safety
• Laser Safety
Health and Safety

All training must be completed by:

**October 31st 2021**

- If you fail to complete all required training your student account will be sealed – This means you will not be able to access any Western services, register for classes, or pay tuition. You will also not be registered for the next academic term.
- Please submit certificates of completion to your graduate program coordinator.
Health and Safety

Graduate Student Health and Wellness

- Services available on campus for living a healthy lifestyle. (eg; Campus Recreation, cultural events, Faculty of Music presentations, and McIntosh Gallery)
- Services available for students seeking help regarding mental health concern
  - Campus Mental Health Resources
  - Interactive Learning Module – Mental Health
LAB SAFETY... IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

KEEP YOUR WORKSPACE SAFE

- Lock your lab when not in use
- Transport chemicals safely
- Properly label all hazardous materials
- Keep power cords tucked away
- Do not obstruct work areas or exits

NO FOOD OR DRINK ALLOWED

PROPER LAB ATTIRE NEVER GOES OUT OF STYLE

- Tie back loose hair
- Wear protective gloves
- Secure loose clothing
- No shorts, sandals or flip flops allowed
- Wear a lab coat

REMOVE YOUR LAB COAT AND GLOVES BEFORE EXITING THE LAB

In case of emergency call 911
More information: uwo.ca/hr/safety/
Western Engineering
Health and Safety

Thank you
Accessibility in Teaching

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)

Implications for Graduate Students at Western

Maddie Freedman, BA (Hons.)
HR & Facilities Assistant
Accessibility at Western

Western University is committed to increasing accessibility for persons with disabilities who study, visit, or work at Western.

Accessibility is about identifying and removing barriers so persons with disabilities can receive service in a respectful way.

Goal of Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) is an accessible Ontario by 2025 through the development and implementation of accessibility standards that relate to Customer Service, Information/Communications, Employment and Transportation.
Accessibility in Teaching

All new research students are required to complete the online learning module: ‘Accessibility in Teaching’

Course objectives:

- Find out about the fit of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) with Western’s Culture

- Understand your role in implementing the Accessibility Standards for Customer Service under the AODA and Western’s Guideline Regarding Accessible Goods and Services.

- Learn how to increase the overall accessibility of your teaching at Western and how to help and interact with students with disabilities
Accessibility in Teaching

You will have access to the Accessibility learning module via your Western OWL account (https://owl.uwo.ca/portal)

Training site: http://uwo.ca/hr/learning/required/index.html

How to Enroll in this course using OWL:

• Click above link

• Login to OWL using your Western User ID/Password

• Click ‘Join Site’ in left navigation

• Click on "Learning Modules"
Accessibility in Teaching

- Centre for Teaching and Learning - Accessibility in Teaching
Questions

Please visit:

http://accessibility.uwo.ca/
Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)

Thank you
Welcome

Professional Engineers
Ontario

Ayman El Ansary
PEO Western Regional Office
Introduction to Professional Engineers of Ontario

Presented by:

Dr. Ayman El Ansary
PEO Western Regional Office
PEO: Organization that regulates the practice of Engineering in Ontario

40 Sheppard Ave. W., Toronto, Ontario

The Association:
- Staff & Volunteers
- Council
- 36 Chapters
- Task Forces / Committees

85,000+ members

www.peo.on.ca
Role of PEO:
Regulate the profession while maintaining public safety

- Admissions & licensing requirements
- Set and enforce standards
- Enforcement against unlicensed practitioners
- Investigate complaints against individuals or companies
Regulating and advancing engineering practice to protect the public interest
Practice of Professional Engineering

All three items *must* be present:

1. Any act of planning, designing, composing, evaluating, advising, reporting, directing or supervising (or the managing of any such act);

2. That requires the application of engineering principles; and

3. Concerns the safeguarding of life, health, property, economic interests, the public welfare or the environment.
Why be a Professional Engineer?

• Is required by law in Ontario
• Provides you the right to use “P.Eng” and “Engineer” titles
• Recognition by employers and clients
• Commitment to the profession
• Career advancement
• Participation in a self-regulated profession
Requirements for Licensure

1. Be of good character (Part of the application form)

2. Meet the academic requirements

3. Pass the National Professional Practice Exam

4. Satisfy the experience requirements (48 months of acceptable engineering experience, 12 months must be within a Canadian Jurisdiction)
PEO Licensure Process

- **CEAB Applicant**
  - Academic assessment embedded in the program

- **Non-CEAB Applicant**
  - Academic assessment by PEO required as per the Act

- **Professional Practice Exam (PPE)**
  - Mandatory for all applicants – no exceptions
  - Two-year window to attempt PPE

- **Exempt from Technical Exams**
  - Exams waived

- **Optional ERC Interview**
  - Not waived
  - Pass
  - Write Technical Exams
  - Fail

- **Experience Assessment**
  - After completion of a minimum of 48 months of work experience
  - More experience required

- **Optional Staff referral interview**
  - Acceptable experience

- **Does not meet requirements - file closed**

Regulating and advancing engineering practice to protect the public interest
Professional Engineers
Office

Thank you
Engineering Career Services
Engineering Career Services

Lisa MacSween & Kelly Sexsmith
Career Service Officer – Student Specialist

Kyle Reid & Emily Torresan
Employer Relationship Specialist

Stacy Dinel
Administrative Assistant

To book an appointment, please email wecareer@uwo.ca
Engineering Career Services

Additional Resources

Job board, event calendar, and other employment resources
www.connect.uwo.ca

Western Engineering Events
http://www.events.westernu.ca/events/engineering/

Career Services Website
https://www.eng.uwo.ca/coop/index.html

Weekly Career Services Email – Every Monday (September – April)
Engineering Career Services

Thank you
Supporting Collaborative Research
Sept 3, 2021

Mitacs
Mitacs has the experience

Mitacs is an independent, not-for-profit organization that fosters global growth and innovation.

- **20 years** in operation
- **67** post-secondary partners in Canada
- **6,000+** company partners
- **35,000+** research projects
- **200+** staff, **30+** offices, **4** regional hubs: Vancouver | Toronto | Montréal | Ottawa

mitacs.ca
Our program objectives

- Promote high-quality research
- Attract new funding
- Stimulate international research collaborations
- Increase professional opportunities for students & researchers
- Support flexible and collaborative research initiatives
- Support all disciplines
The benefits to you

- Provides additional funding support for students and postdoctoral fellows without using existing budgets
- Publication rights maintained
- Intellectual Property is negotiated directly between the academic institution and the partner organization
- Additional exposure and knowledge, enhancing your education
Mitacs Accelerate

Applied research collaborations between researchers & Canadian and international companies and not-for-profit organizations

Open to academic institutions across the country

Participation of graduate students and postdocs in internship modules of 4 to 6 months

Open to all academic disciplines

No competition: Applications are accepted any time
# Mitacs Accelerate

- **More than 20,000 internship modules in Canada since 2007**
- **Small- and large-scale multidisciplinary projects**
- **Funding from $15,000 to multi-million $**
- **Quick, simple application process**
- **Decision within 6–8 weeks**
- **Over 95% application success rate**
- Both domestic and foreign students and postdoctoral fellows are **eligible**
Mitacs Accelerate

An intern spends a minimum of 4-to-6 months — or one module — on a project.

You can have as many modules as you need.

The intern spends a minimum of 25% of their time at each site (post-secondary institution & partner organization)
Mitacs Accelerate

$7.5K/module investment from your partner organization

$7.5K/module Mitacs grant

Total working budget $15K/module
A sweet discovery

- Sugar & Company to commercialize their all-natural sugaring paste
- Investigated the molecular structure of the three main components of sugaring paste
- Manipulated the structures to get the desired results and consistency from every batch

As a graduate student, Joanne says the Mitacs program gave her the opportunity to apply her organic chemistry knowledge in a practical setting — running her own lab and applying science for industry.
Other Opportunities

- Travel abroad with Globalink
- Work on innovation projects with BSI
- Plan a post-doc or new graduate position
- R&D support for your own company
Thank you to our funding partners

Canada

Alberta

British Columbia

Manitoba

New Brunswick

Newfoundland Labrador

Nova Scotia

Nouvelle-Écosse

Ontario

Prince Edward Island

Québec

Government of Saskatchewan
QUESTIONS?
Thank you for your time!

Joseph Santarelli, MESc
Business Development Specialist
jsantarelli@mitacs.ca
519-476-2561
@MitacsCanada
linkedin.com/company/mitacs/
What is GES?

The aim of the Graduate Engineering Society is to organize social and professional for its members. It represents and promotes the academic interests of the current engineering graduate students.

We hold numerous events throughout the year including:

- Resume Writing Sessions
- Mental Health Wellness Sessions
- Euchre Nights
- Networking with Engineering Companies
- Professional Development Events
Structure of GES

GES Council

Voting Members
- President and 6 VPs
- 12 Councilors from all Engineering Departments

Non-voting Members
- 16 SOGS councilors that represent the Faculty of Engineering interests

SOGS Council attendance directly correlates to GES funding and the events we can host!
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity

Currently, Western Engineering has committee for EDI initiatives:

• EDI Steering Committee

• Research/Graduate EDI sub-committee

Any concern or feedback? We welcome you to reach out to GES!
Peer Mentorship Program

GES is looking to pilot a Peer Mentorship Program in September 2021-2022!!

If you have any suggestions or believe this program would be of value, please contact Kyle Dunphy, VP Academic: kdunphy2@uwo.ca
Upcoming Events

GES has the following events coming up over the academic year!

• VP and Councilor Elections (Look for an email coming soon!)
• GES and MSc Lounge Renovation Project (Late Winter Term)
• Virtual Orientation Trivia Night (Fall Term)

For more information visit our website at:
https://www.eng.uwo.ca/graduate/ges.html
Want to get involved?

You can reach out to GES in many ways!

Email: weges@uwo.ca
Facebook: geswestern
Linkedin: https://www.linkedin.com/company/weges/

Main office: Located in Spencer Engineering Building (SEB) 44B down the hall from DaVinci Renaissance Café

Watch you email for VP and Councilor Elections in September
Thank you!
Welcome

Western Student Experience

Monica Munaretto
Manager, Graduate Student Life
Graduate Student Life
Supporting Success in Graduate School

GradLife101 Orientation (OWL)
Welcome Session (September 9th)

GradLife Events
- September and beyond
- Advising
- Campus Engagement

Monica Munaretto
Manager
Graduate Student Life
gradlife@uwo.ca
Our office is located in the lower level of Middlesex College... down the hall from the Grad Club eatery and pub!
OFFICE HOURS:
Mondays-Thursdays
10am-4pm

MEMBER SUPPORT SERVICES:
• BY TELEPHONE
  ◦ 519-661-3394
• EMAIL
  ◦ SOGS@UWO.CA
• DROP-IN, or
• BY APPOINTMENT
The Society of Graduate Students is a:

STUDENT GOVERNMENT.
ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION.
STUDENT UNION.
SOGS operates as a democratic student government with elected representatives across 60+ professional and thesis-based programs at WesternU.

2020-21
6,605 MEMBERS

structure of the society

MEMBERSHIP
COUNCIL
COUNCILLORS
EXECUTIVE OFFICERS
NON-EXECUTIVE & COMMITTEES
STAFF

124 SEATS FILLED!

ELECTED REPS FROM 64 GRAD PROGRAMS ON CAMPUS = 155 SEATS!

STAFF

PRESIDENT, VP ACADEMIC, VP ADVOCACY, VP FINANCE, & VP STUDENT SERVICES

STAFF

COMMUNICATIONS & PROMOTIONS, FINANCE, MEMBERSHIP SERVICES, GRAD CLUB, GRAD CLUB OPERATIONS MANAGERS, GOVERNANCE & POLICY ADMIN.
SOGS

MEMBERSHIP Fees

PART-TIME FEES

- Grad Club Levy = $1.11 PER TERM
- SOGS Membership = $16.89 PER TERM
- CFS Membership Dues = $2.93 PER TERM

FULL-TIME FEES

- Grad Club Levy = $3.33 PER TERM
- Health Plan Admin Fee = $8.71 PER TERM
- SOGS Membership = $27.46 PER TERM
- Health & Dental Plan = $653.19 PER YEAR (PRO-RATED)
- CFS Membership = $5.86 PER TERM
- Bus Pass Admin Fee = $3.48 PER TERM
Student Government

Want to get involved? Contact your dept. student organization or SOGS!

Elections take place in September within your home dept./faculty.

Democratic Governance

152 Seats

126 Councillors

$27,000+ in Council Grants awarded last year

11 Meetings per year + AGM

sogs.ca/council/
Student Services

$90.36 per term = savings of $871.68 per year, based on the LTC monthly pass.

**Tap Pass**
- New UWO cards electronically "tap" on the bus.

**Paper Pass**
- UWO cards made prior to fall 2016 term.

[Website: SOGS.CA/Bus-Pass]
Student SERVICES

ATTENTION NEW GRADS!

health plan opt-in/opt-out
September 1 - 30, 2021

STUDENTCARE.CA

COVERAGE INCLUDES:

DENTAL
UP TO 70% COVERAGE, $500 PER YEAR

PRESCRIPTIONS
UP TO 80% COVERED, $3500 PER YEAR

VISION
$200 OVER 24 MONTHS

HEALTH PRACTITIONERS
$500 PER CATEGORY, $4500 PER YEAR

TRAVEL
120 DAYS PER TRIP, $5,000,000 IN LIFETIME COVERAGE

TRY STUDENTCARE’S *FREE* “EMPOWER ME” PROGRAM TO BETTER SUPPORT YOUR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS THIS YEAR!
Don't let a prickly situation get you down.

Peer Advisor for Academic Matters Program

- FREE & CONFIDENTIAL ONE-ON-ONE PEER SUPPORT FOR ALL GRADUATE STUDENTS
- RESOURCES TO NAVIGATE ACADEMIC ISSUES

SOGS.CA/PEER-ADVISOR/
Financial Assistance

- **Bursaries**: Valued at $1,500 each
- **Food Bank for Non-TAs**: Receive $75+ gift cards to combat food insecurity
- **Emergency Loan Program**: Interest-free loans up to $1,000
- **StudentCare Indigenous Graduate Student Bursary**: $2,000 annually
- **Research Completion Subsidy**: More info forthcoming!
- **Childcare Subsidy**: Subsidies are valued at $500 each
- **Professional Placement Subsidy**: Valued at a max. of $250
- **Travel Subsidy**:
- **Non-TA UHIP Subsidy**: $324,000 awarded in 2019-20!

Visit [sogs.ca/financial-support](http://sogs.ca/financial-support) for more information.
Financial AWARDS & FUNDS

For students in a part-time program!

Peggy Collins Memorial Award

For students who pay more in tuition than they are funded

125TH SCHOLARSHIP

Academic Fund

Wellness Fund

Social Fund

Helps cover costs related to academic conferences, wellness initiatives, and social events in your department

sogs.ca/financial-support/
Student Advocacy

SOGS is Local 
#47 of the Canadian Federation of Students

CFS-FCEE.CA

Fight the Fees! Students take action!
#GradLifeWesternU

**Star Trek Trivia**
Every 3rd Wednesday of the month, November 20 and December 18 at the Grad Club

**Board Game Night**

**Monthly Karaoke Night**

**SOGS Annual Ugly Sweater Party**

**Official Radio Show of SOGS - A show for grads, by grads, celebrating grads at WesternU!**

[gradcastradio.podbean.com](https://gradcastradio.podbean.com/)

[Western Research Forum = Largest Annual Grad Student Conference at WesternU!](https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/wrf/)

[sog.ca/events/](https://sog.ca/events/)
FALL 2021:

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER THROUGH SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

COFFEE CHATS
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
SOGS DISCORD | MORNING

COOKING CLASS
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
VIA ZOOM | EVENING

GAMING WITH YOUR ADVOCATES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
SOGS DISCORD | EVENING

Grad Club
DROP-IN BREAKFAST
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
MORNING

Grad Club
TRIVIA NIGHT
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
EVENING

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SOCIAL
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
MORNING

BOARD GAME NIGHT
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
EVENING

COFFEE CHATS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
SOGS DISCORD | MORNING

Grad Club
INDIGENOUS STUDENT CENTRE ORIENTATION
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
AFTERNOON

GRAD CAST TRIVIA
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
EVENING

MOVIE NIGHT
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
EVENING

VARSITY FOOTBALL GAME
McMaster at WesternU
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
AFTERNOON

FAMILY BBQ
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
SOGS.ca/ ORIENTATION

LEARN MORE:

LOADS OF PRIZES!
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
AFTERNOON

SCAVENGER HUNT
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
- SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
GET INVOLVED

SOGS HAS 14+ COMMITTEES!

JOINING A COMMITTEE MEANS YOUR VOICE IS HEARD!

CONTACT THE COMMITTEE CHAIR TO NOMINATE YOURSELF.

*EARN A $5 GRAD CLUB GIFT CERTIFICATE FOR ATTENDANCE AT EACH MEETING!

COMMITTEE CHAIRS EARN A $500 HONORARIA ANNUALLY FOR ADMINISTERING A COMMITTEE

SOGS.CA/COMMITTEES
Spread the Love and Support...

by joining our new

DISCORD SERVER

#GradLifeWesternU
Online Community!

- Social Events
- Online Chat
- Peer Support
- Writing Sessions
- And more!

sogsc.ca/discord/
Extraordinary Procrastination Starts Here!

**The Grad Club**
EATERY & PUB

**Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner | Daily Food Specials | Vegan Wednesdays | Weekly Trivia | Events | Catering | Jazz Nights | Meal Kits | Outdoor Patio | Craft Beer | Rick Mcghie | Western Meal Plan | and more!**

**Hours of Operation:**
MONDAYS - FRIDAYS
11AM - 7PM

**Take-Out & Patio Service**

**Contact:**
GRADCLUB@UWO.CA
(519) 661-3082

Middlesex College, room 19

[Website](http://gradclub.sogs.ca)
Congratulations
To our members that pass their thesis defense!

Head over to the Grad Club to claim your free drink from the goblet of knowledge!

SOGS.CA/GOBLET
GET IN TOUCH WITH US!

SOGS EXECUTIVE:
EXECUTIVE@SOGS.CA

SOGS SPEAKER:
SPEAKER@SOGS.CA

SOGS OMBUDSPERSON:
OMBUDSPERSON@SOGS.CA

SOGS COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSIONERS@SOGS.CA

SOGS MEMBER SERVICES:
SOGS@UWO.CA

SOGS COMMUNICATIONS:
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SOCIETY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS
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PSAC 610
Fall 2021 Orientation

https://www.psac610.ca/
Introduction

❖ Which of the following contracts have you been offered by your Department?

➢ Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA)
➢ Graduate Student Assistantship (GSA)
➢ Graduate Research Assistantship (GRA) or Graduate Fellowship
➢ Post-Doctoral Associate (PDA)
➢ Other

❖ Why does it matter?

➢ Only GTAs and PDAs are unionized and have access to PSAC 610 Union’s benefits
➢ Both union members and non-union members pay union dues because of the benefits of having a union in the workplace (1945 Rand Formula)
Who are we?

❖ The Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) is a parent union that represents over 180,000 employees in every province and territory in Canada and in locations across the world.

❖ PSAC 610 is the Local Chartered union at Western University which organizes, represents, negotiates, and fights for better working conditions for Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs) and Post-Doctoral Associates (PDAs).
What kinds of benefits do I get?

- Financial Assistance
- Extended Health Plan
- Summer Support
- Mental Health
- Food Support

And much more! See: https://www.psac610.ca/benefits-1
What is my contract?

- The Duties Specification Agreement (DSA) is a contract between you and your TA supervisor outlining your various duties and required hours as a GTA/PDA

- **Full GTA**: 10 hours/week, 140 hours/term
  **Half GTA**: 5 hours/week, 70 hours/term

- Unless agreed upon, no GTA should perform work outside of the DSA

See:
https://grad.uwo.ca/finances/western_funding/gta/dutiesSpecificationAgreement.html
Why do I need to track my hours?

❖ GTAs are paid on an **hourly** basis and do not need to work for more than what they get paid for!

❖ Tracking hours allows GTAs to have **evidence** to request for overtime pay if necessary

❖ If contracted work does not match assigned hours, GTAs can use **mid-point review** to revise DSA

❖ Overtime requests are **preemptive** (i.e. needs to be submitted with advanced notice)

❖ Hour tracking resource: [https://21b2e0e1-7ac4-46af-a015-8d4174741a49.filesusr.com/ugd/3fe901_c012910d4bdc47839aa85b1f03d47be2.pdf](https://21b2e0e1-7ac4-46af-a015-8d4174741a49.filesusr.com/ugd/3fe901_c012910d4bdc47839aa85b1f03d47be2.pdf)
What is the Collective Agreement?

❖ A legal agreement between Union members - GTAs and PDAs - and the employer - Western University - that is negotiated every three years (2020-2023)

❖ Outlines worker and employers rights and responsibilities, such as wages, hours of work, overtime pay, personal leaves, benefits, harassment and bullying procedures, and more...

See: https://www.psac610.ca/resources
What is a grievance?

- A grievance is a FORMAL work-related dispute involving the interpretation, application, administration or violation of the Collective Agreement (CA).
- PSAC 610 provides advice, support, and legal assistance for members who experience a workplace issue or violation of the CA.
- Workplace disputes (or grievances) need to be filed within 21 days after the incident.
- Common grievances:
  - Overtime Hours
  - Harassment and/or discrimination
  - TA appointments

See: https://www.psac610.ca/resources
Who can I contact at PSAC 610?

Contact info: https://www.psac610.ca/executive
Health and Safety

❖ Sick leave
  ➢ You have **14 hours of paid sick time** per semester (per 140 hour full TAship). If you get sick, stay home and let your supervisor know. If you get COVID-19 and run out of sick time, contact the union and we will help push for additional sick time along with Western accommodation
  ➢ Testing centers available on and off campus

❖ Accommodation during COVID-19
  ➢ Medical accommodation - through Employee Wellbeing on the HR website (https://www.uwo.ca/hr/safety/well_being/index.html)
    ■ **Medical documents are necessary but do not get disclosed to your department**
  ➢ Non-medical accommodation - inform your Grad Chair and they will need to contact the Senior HR Consultant at Western
  ➢ **Ask PSAC for any guidance** you might need in accommodation. We’re all in this together
Health and Safety

❖ Vaccine policy on campus
  ➢ Choice of either **fully vaccinated or rapid testing** 2X per 7 day period
  ➢ Endorsed by the Middlesex-London Health Unit
  ➢ Ontario government has mandated a policy at all Ontario post-secondary institutions

❖ Campus updates
  ➢ **Building ambassadors and health questionnaire** still in effect
  ➢ Ventilation systems tested and upgraded in classrooms to ensure following government stage 3 guidelines

❖ Health and Safety Questions
  ➢ Policy? Testing? Accommodations? Medical Advice or Supports?
    ■ **Work-related:** takecare@uwow.ca
    ■ **Student-related:** avpse@uwow.ca
  ➢ Reach out to your union as well!
I want to get involved!

❖ Become a Department Steward
  ➢ Act as a point of contact for labour disputes
  ➢ Attend Steward meetings

❖ Join a Committee
  ➢ Social Justice
  ➢ Bylaws
  ➢ Communications
  ➢ Gender Equity
  ➢ Financial Assistance
  ➢ Mobilization
  ➢ Political Action
  ➢ And many more…..

Follow us on social media:

Twitter: @PSAC610

Facebook: PSAC Local 610
Checklist

- Know your contract (GTA, GSA, GRA, PDA, other)
- Track your hours
- Know your benefits (Health benefits, UHIP, Financial Assistance, etc.)
- Know your Steward/Be a steward
- Contact us
- Drop-in sessions
Graduate Office

Kristen Edwards
Engineering Professional Development Courses

The Graduate Office, in partnership with the Thompson Centre for Engineering Leadership and Innovation, annual hosts a number of professional development courses to support the professional education of research students.

A full list of this programming is located on our Professional Development page.
Graduate Coordinators

Christine Ellwood
Biomedical Engineering

Jason Cambria
Chemical and Biochemical Engineering

Eduard Sviridenko
Civil and Environmental Engineering

Andrea Krasznai (Research) & Courtney Harper (MEng)
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Joanna Blom (Research) & Claire Naudi (MEng)
Mechanical and Materials Engineering
For More Support:

• Faculty of Engineering FAQ: https://www.eng.uwo.ca/graduate/future-students/preparing-for-western.html

• School of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies FAQ: https://grad.uwo.ca/covid19/

• Western International FAQ: https://iesc.uwo.ca/COVID-19-FAQs.html
Thank you! Questions?

• Use the "Chat" feature in Zoom to send in your questions

• You can broadcast your questions to everyone or send it privately to Kristen Edwards.