

Welcome

Engineering Graduate Student Orientation

Term 1221, January, 2022

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

Welcome – Graduate Office	Kamran Siddiqui
Faculty of Engineering ITG Group	Ron Farren
Western Libraries	Shiyi Xie
Health & Safety	Kristen Edwards on behalf of Mike Gaylard
AODA Training	Madeleine Freedman
PEO	Ayman El Ansary
External & Career Services	Lisa Macsween & Emily Torresan
MITACS	Joseph Santarelli
GES	Kyle Dunphy
Student Experience	Monica Munaretto
SOGS	Heidi Kellett
PSAC Local 610 (TA Union)	Mahsa Bataghva
Wrap-up/Q & A/Introduce Graduate Co-ordinators	Kristen Edwards

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

- In-person structured teaching & instruction will remain online for all graduate courses, labs, tutorials and studios until at least January 31, 2022.
- Research continues within physical distancing limitations and at 50% occupancy. We are encouraging research personnel to only come to campus when absolutely necessary.
- Graduate students MUST have approval from their supervisor to attend campus.
- Before coming to campus, you must complete the Return to Campus Questionnaire (sent out daily via email with a unique access link)
- Graduate student desk spaces will be CLOSED until further notice
- Faculty and Departmental Graduate Offices will remain virtual until further notice.
- Western University is requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination for students, staff and faculty. For more information visit:
<https://www.uwo.ca/coronavirus/updates/jan3-2022.html>.
- When classes resume in-person, you must follow all health and safety procedures.

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)

Ron Farren

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/>
 - Computer Lab Information
 - Software available – Installable & Virtual
 - PC Hardware Guidance
 - Printing (Papercut)
 - “How to” information

ITG Website

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL eng.uwo.ca/itg/. The page header includes the text "Information Technology Group" and the Western Engineering logo. A navigation bar contains links for "ABOUT US", "SERVICE ALERTS", "SERVICES", "ENG SOFTWARE", "HELP AND SUPPORT", and "KNOWLEDGE BASE".

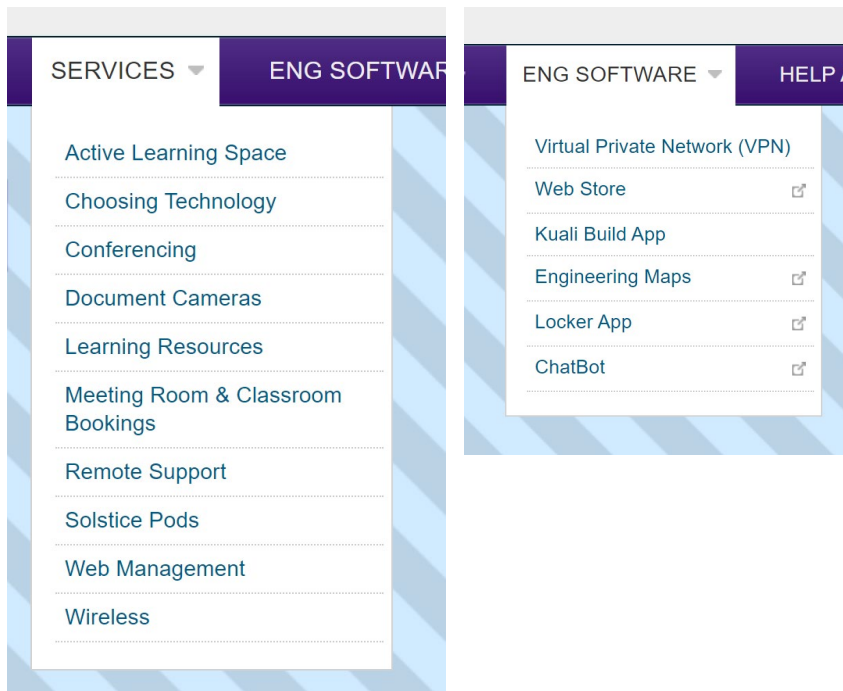
The main content area features a large purple and blue striped background with the text "INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GROUP" in large purple letters. Below this, a COVID-19 update is displayed: "COVID-19 UPDATE - WE'VE MOVED OUR SERVICES VIRTUALLY CONTACT ENGHELP@UWO.CA FOR ALL SUPPORT INQUIRIES EFFECTIVE MARCH 19, 2020 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE".

At the bottom, there is an "Upcoming Events" section with a calendar view:

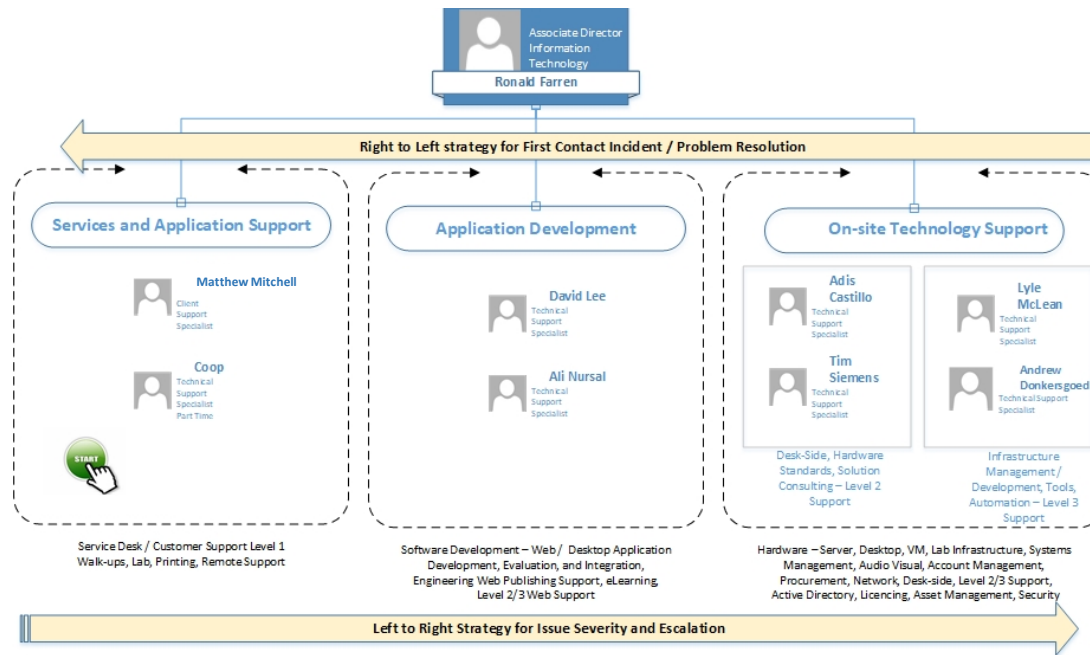
Month	Event	Time
SEP	Faculty Council	12:30 pm
OCT	Virtual Go ENG Girl 2020	10:00 am
OCT	Halloween Potluck Lunch	

On the right side of the page, there is a chat window titled "Technical Support Specialist" from "ITG, Faculty of Engineering". The chat interface includes a greeting "Hey there! How can I help you?", a text input field with the placeholder "Type your request", and a plus sign icon in the top right corner.

ITG Support Resources



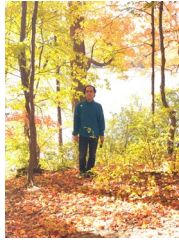
Information Technology Group



Information Technology Group



Adis



Ali



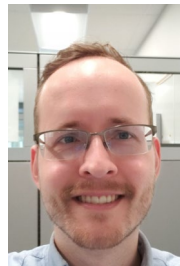
Andrew



David



Lyle



Matthew



Ron



Tim

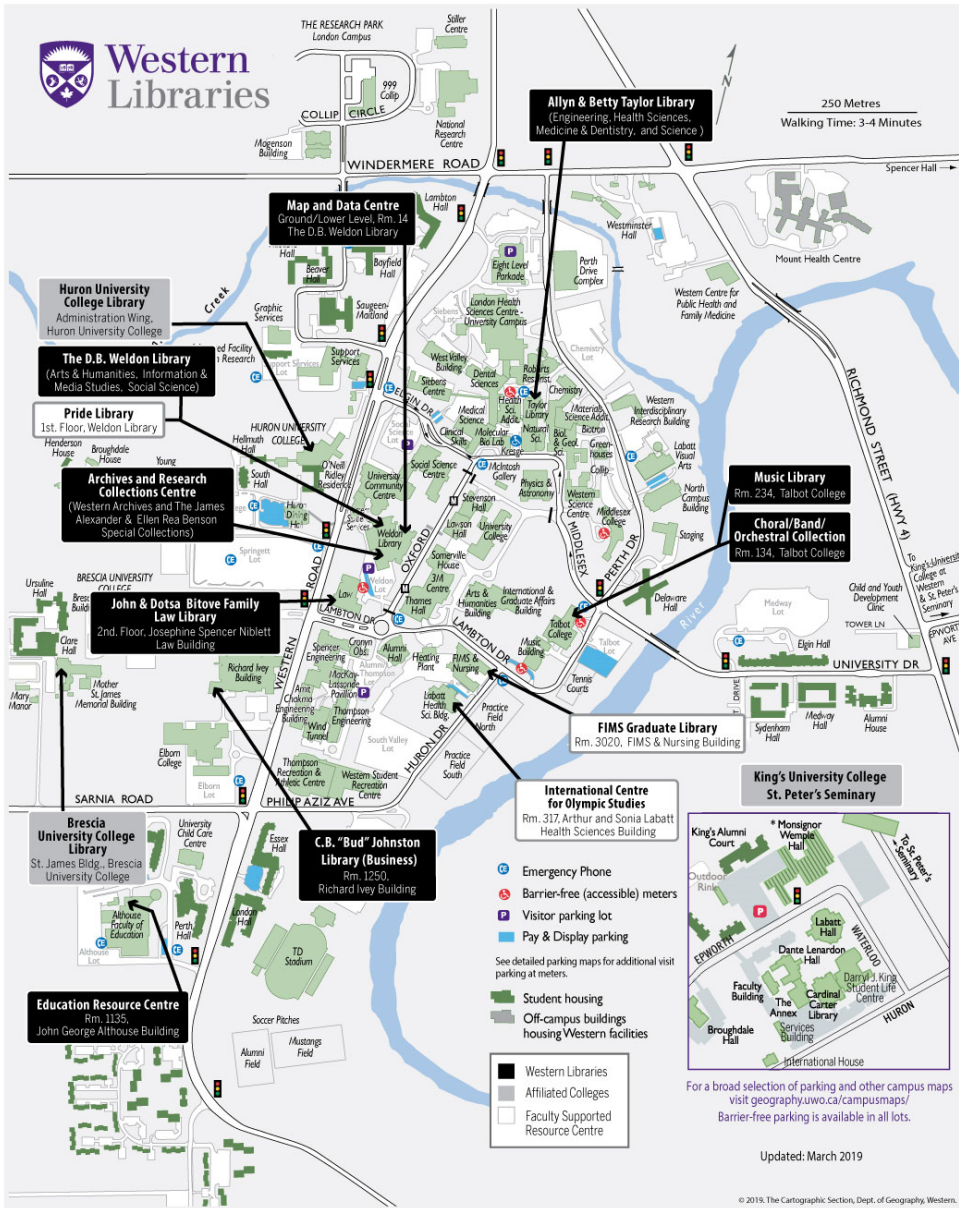
Information Technology Group (ITG)

Thank you

Library Services and Resources

Shiyi Xie
Associate Librarian

January 2022



Western One
Card = Your
Library Card!

Taylor Library



**Collections in
Science,
Engineering,
Medicine, and
Health Sciences**

**Individual and
Group Study
Space**

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

C.B. "Bud" Johnston Business Library



Education Resource Centre



Music Library

John & Dotsa Bitove Family Law Library



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](#)

Finding Resources

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

Ask for Library Help!



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

Health and Safety

Research Students Only

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

- Laboratory Safety – Hazardous Waste
- AODA- Accessibility in Teaching (for students whom will serve as GTAs)

Health and Safety

Additional Training for Research Students

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:

February 28, 2022

- 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 life style. (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

DO NOT OBSTRUCT WORK AREAS OR EXITS

KEEP POWER CORDS TUCKED AWAY

LOCK YOUR LAB WHEN NOT IN USE

TRANSPORT CHEMICALS SAFELY

PROPERLY LABEL ALL HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

NO FOOD OR DRINK ALLOWED



In case of emergency call 911
More information: uwo.ca/hr/safety/



PROPER LAB ATTIRE NEVER GOES OUT OF STYLE

TIE BACK LOOSE HAIR

USE EYE PROTECTION AT ALL TIMES

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/



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](#)

Teaching Students with Disabilities:

*A Toolkit for Faculty,
Graduate Teaching Assistants,
Librarians and Archivists*

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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

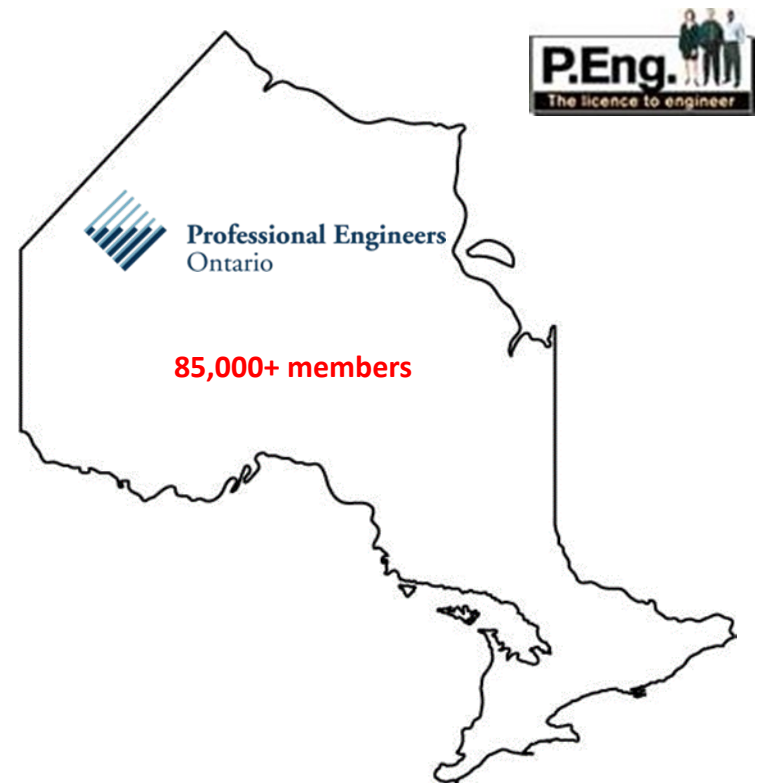
PEO: Organization that regulates the practice of Engineering in Ontario



40 Sheppard Ave. W., Toronto, Ontario

The Association:

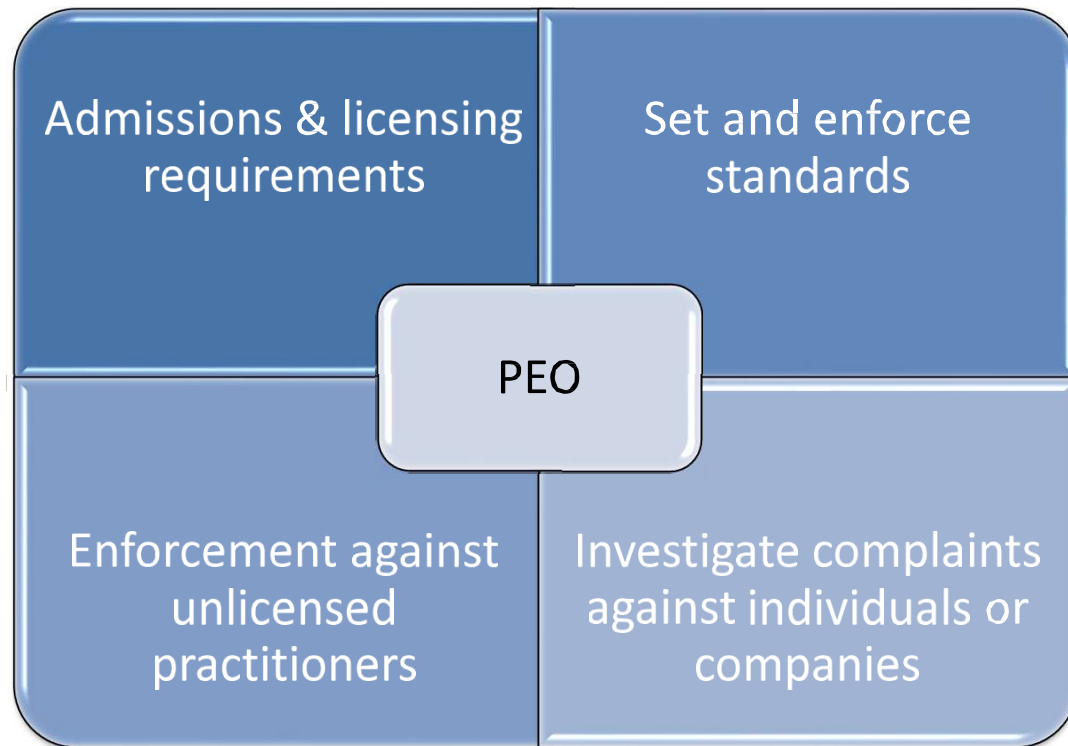
- Staff & Volunteers
- Council
- 36 Chapters
- Task Forces / Committees



www.peo.on.ca

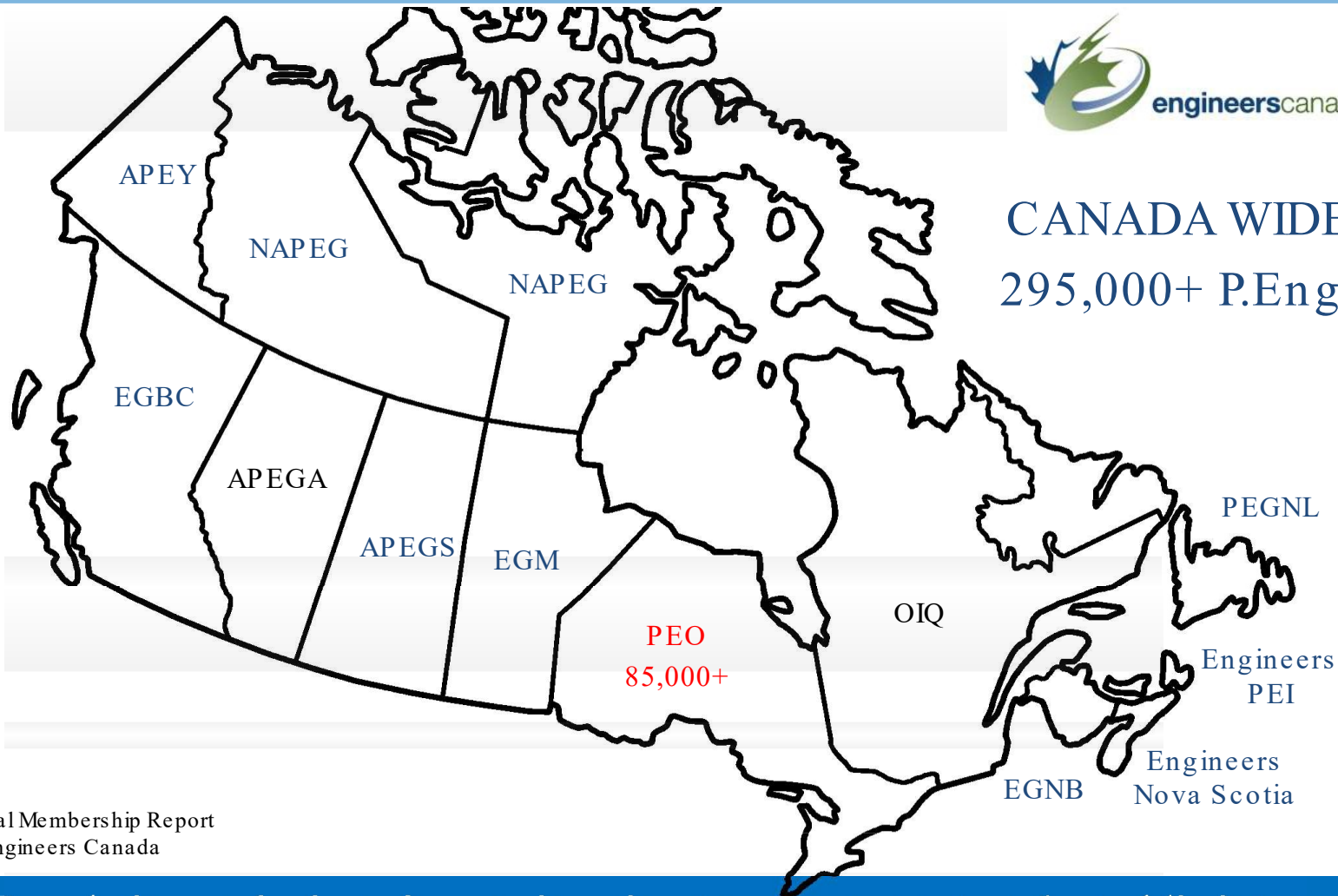
Role of PEO:

Regulate the profession while maintaining public safety





Professional Engineers
Ontario



CANADA WIDE
295,000+ P.Eng.

*National Membership Report
2018 Engineers Canada

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?

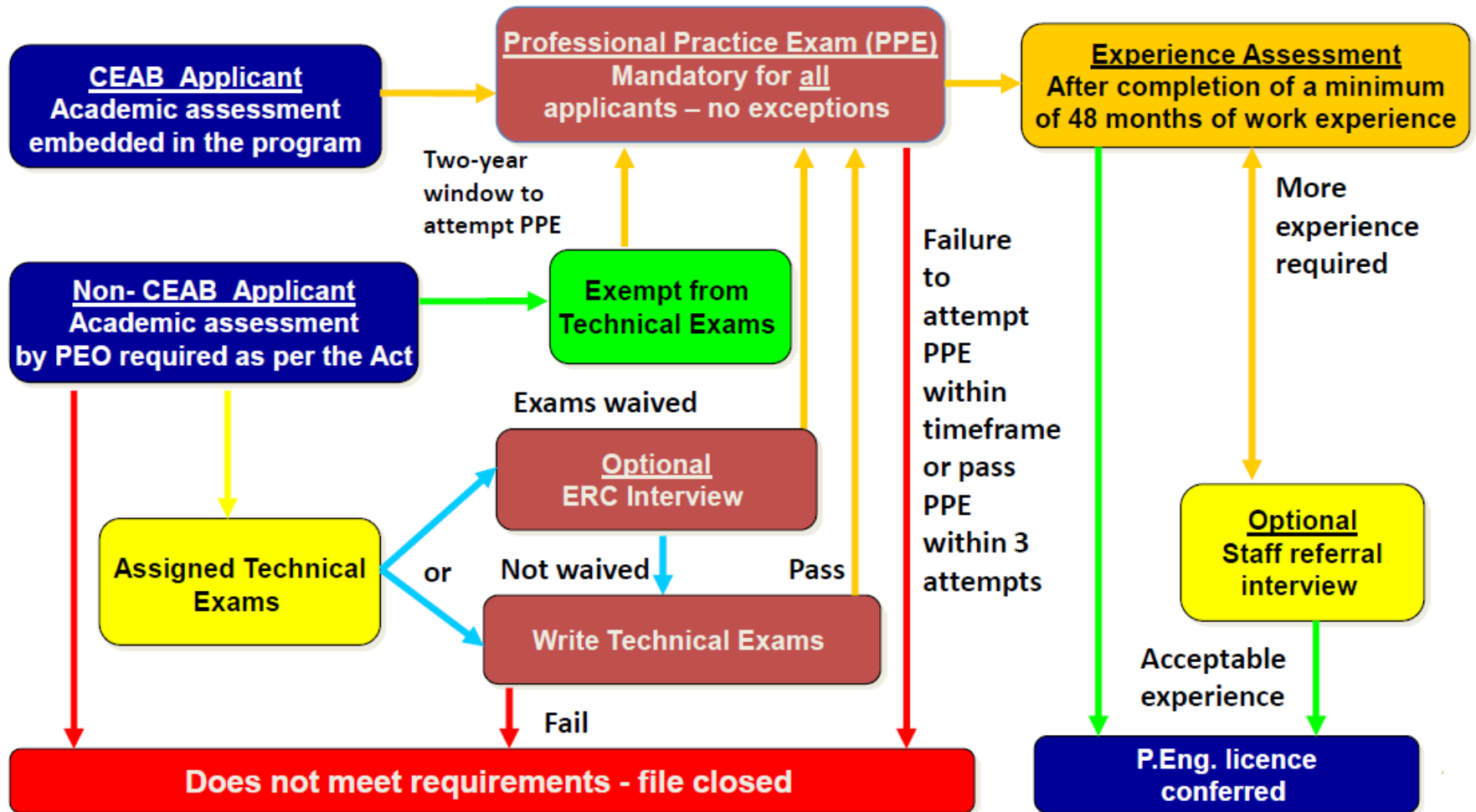
- Is required by law in Ontario
- Provides you the right to use “P.Eng” and “Engineer” titles
- Recognition by employers and clients
- Commitment to the profession
- Career advancement
- Participation in a self-regulated profession

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



Professional Engineers Office

Thank you

Engineering Career Services



Engineering Career Services

What's in it for you?

- 1-on-1 appointments with career professionals who can help you navigate the myths/facts of job searching
- No waiting! Appointments are typically available within 1 - 3 business days
- Connections to engineering mentors and alumni
- It's **FREE**

Don't wait until your last term to think about your career (but if you have, we can still help!).
Reach out to wecareer@uwo.ca TODAY!

Who's Who in WE Career Services



Kelly Sexsmith, Career Service Officer – Student Specialist

Focus areas: Year 1
+ Chemical, Civil, Integrated, and Mechanical



Kyle Reid, Employer Relationship Developer

Industries: Manufacturing, Chemical processing/Oil & Gas, Engineering consulting, Government agencies



Lisa MacSween, Career Service Officer – Student Specialist

Focus areas: Computer, Electrical, Mechatronic Systems Engineering, Software + Biomedical Option



Emily Torresan, Employer Relationship Developer

Industries: Power generation & distribution, Software development, Banking/Finance/Insurance, Electronics, Medical devices



Teresa Boere, Career Service Officer – Student Specialist

Focus areas: Resume/Cover Letter support, Interview prep, Job search strategies, Career planning, Co-op FAQ's



Stacy Dinel, Administrative Assistant

Focus areas: Appointment bookings, Co-op FAQs, Resource guru

A background image showing a student with long blonde hair writing in a green notebook with a yellow pencil. The student is sitting at a wooden desk. The image is slightly blurred and has a semi-transparent dark overlay.

Career Quiz Time!

- 5 slides - Myth or Fact
- How much do you really know about job searching effectively?

Let's find out.....



Myth or Fact

Career resources and programming are for upper year students looking for co-ops or permanent jobs.

MYTH

Multiple studies have shown engaging early impacts your personal, academic and career outcomes!

Accessing career resources early in your degree gives you:

- insight into job searching effectively
- opportunities to build a network with alumni & industry professionals

Contact wecareer@uwo.ca today!



Myth or Fact

Tailoring your resume to each job you apply to is a waste of time. Recruiters will extract what they're looking for.

MYTH

Recruiters spend an average of **6-10 seconds** visually scanning each resume; longer if the information is relevant to their company's needs

They will not make assumptions about your experiences.

Tailor your resume for each job you apply to!

Need help telling your story to an employer?
Connect at wecareer@uwo.ca for an appointment!



Myth or Fact

It's estimated only 20% of available jobs are advertised
(posted online on sites like Indeed, LinkedIn, etc.)

FACT

It's estimated that up to **80%** of job openings are **never advertised**.

So how do you find these opportunities?

We're glad you asked!

Find them through referrals from your formal and informal networks, and direct contact with employers.

Connect with employers and people working in jobs/industries that appeal to you to build and grow your network!

Connect with us at wecareer@uwo.ca for a **1:1 appointment to discuss how**



Myth or Fact

Interviewers hire the most qualified person for the position
the one available

MYTH

Recruiters are more likely to hire **positive, enthusiastic** people who **want to work for them**, over a candidate who seems more qualified but shows less interest or is unable to articulate how their skills and experiences fit the position

Could you use help with your interviewing skills?
Connect at wecareer@uwo.ca for an appointment on
interviewing tips and strategies.

Psst! We offer mock interviews too!



Myth or Fact

LinkedIn is a great resource for networking and for researching companies and career options.

FACT

You can use LinkedIn to:

- Search alumni from your program
 - What/where was their 1st job after Western Engineering? Where has their career path taken them?
 - Connect and request coffee chats to learn about what they do. Ask if they have advice to offer a new grad
- Read and share industry news or post original content
- Follow thought leaders, influencers, and companies
- Join groups of interest and participate in discussions to build your network
- Search for jobs and access student resources



40% of students
never take
advantage of
the free career
supports offered
by their university
What are you waiting for?

Contact us at wecareer@uwo.ca to learn how we can
help you plan a meaningful career

2/3 of graduates leave
school
feeling unprepared
for the job market

Does that resonate with you?

Visit Career Services in **SEB
2092** for support in preparing for
life after Western Engineering and/or
book an appointment by e-mailing
wecareer@uwo.ca



Engineering Career Services

Thank you



Mitacs

Supporting Collaborative
Research

Mitacs has the experience

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

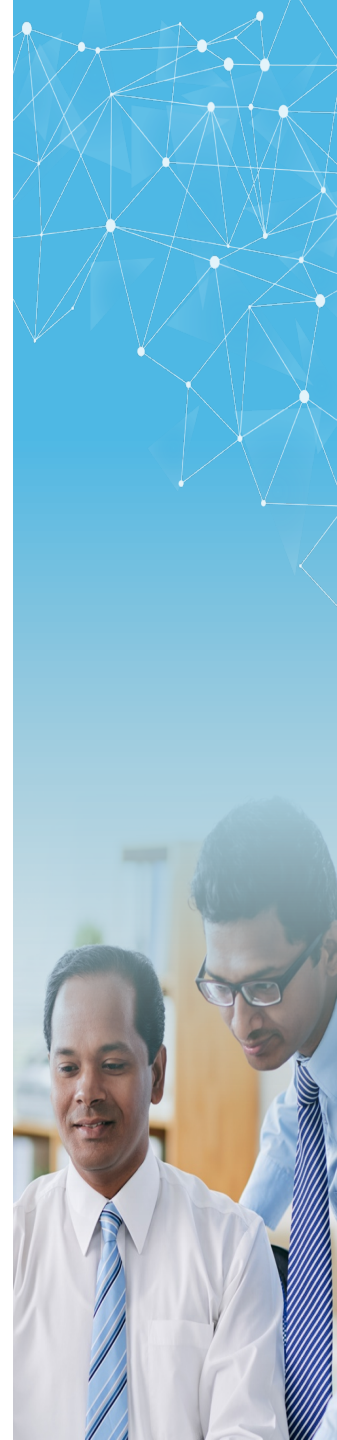
20 years in operation

35,000+ research projects

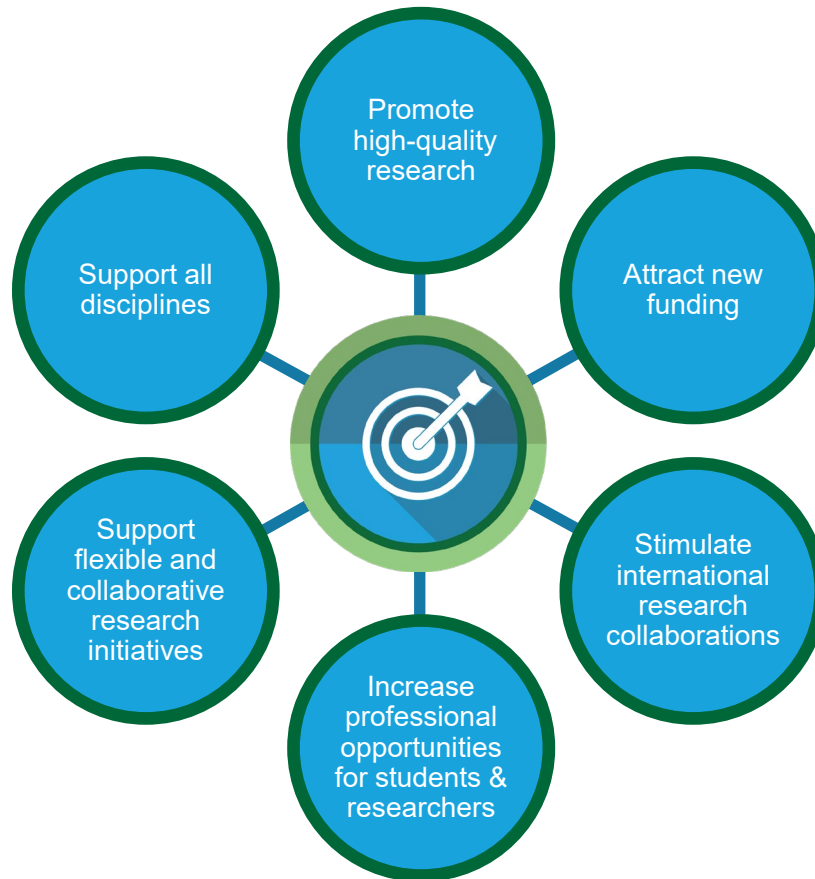
67 post-secondary partners in Canada

6,000+ company partners

200+ staff, **30+** offices, **4** regional hubs:
Vancouver | Toronto | Montréal | Ottawa



Our program objectives



The benefits to you



Provides additional funding support for students and postdoctoral fellows without using existing budgets



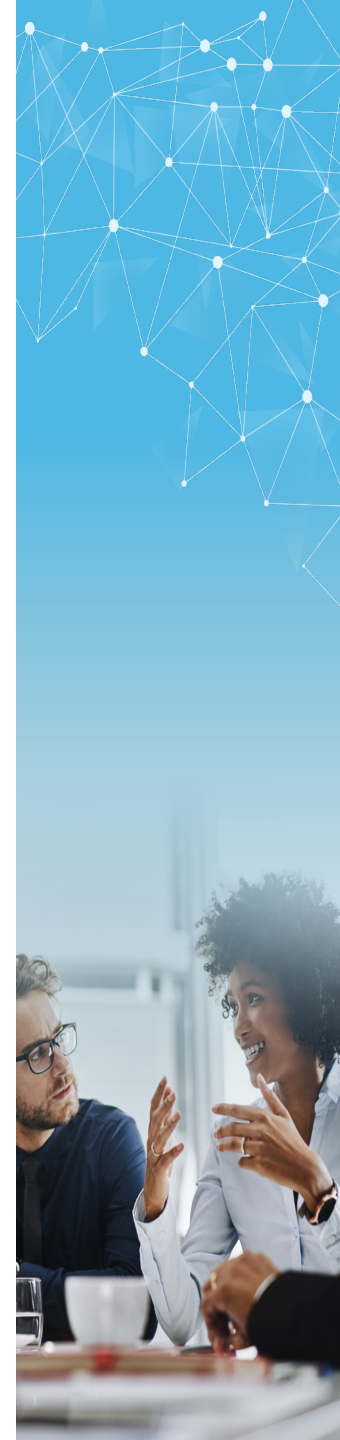
Publication rights maintained



Intellectual Property is negotiated directly between the academic institution and the partner organization



Additional exposure and knowledge, enhancing your education





Accelerate

Mitacs

Mitacs Accelerate

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



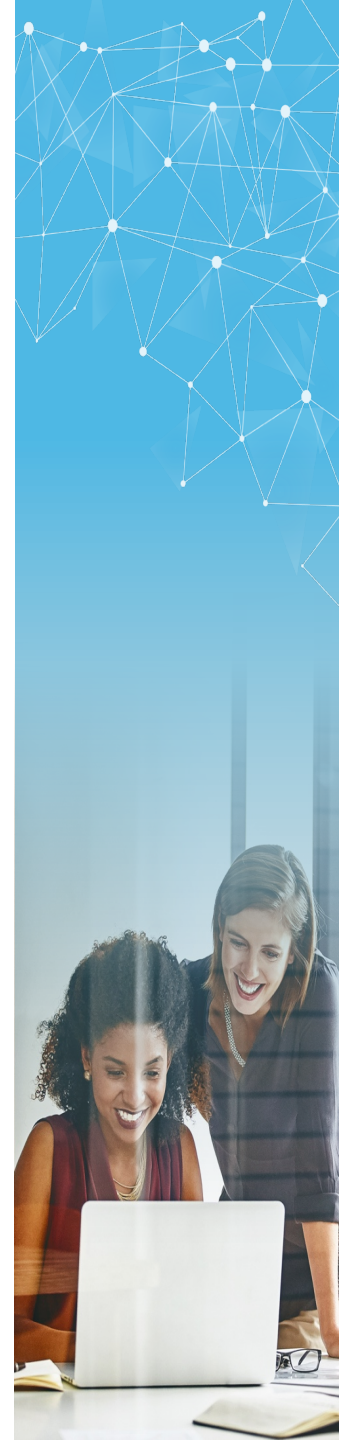
Open to academic institutions across the country

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

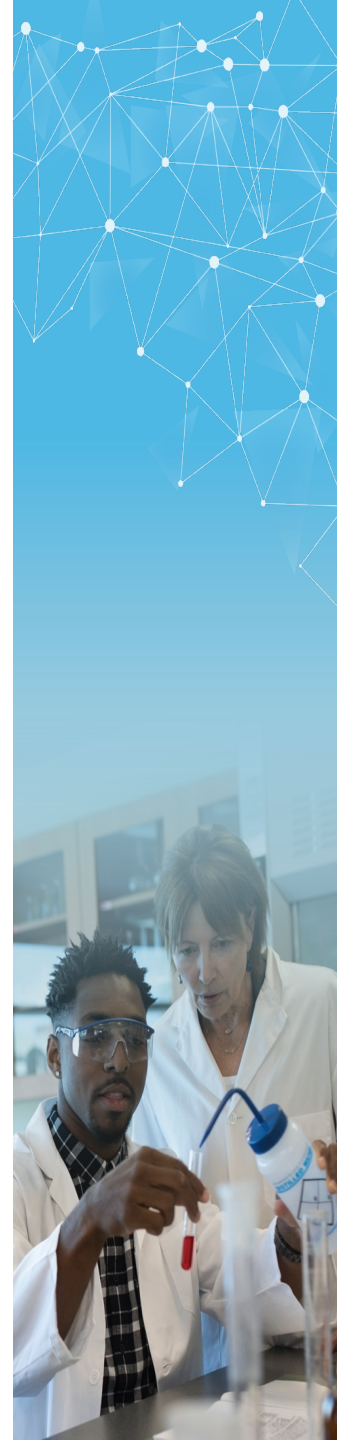
Funding from
\$15,000 to multi-million \$

Over 95%
application
success rate

Quick, simple
application process

Decision within
6–8 weeks

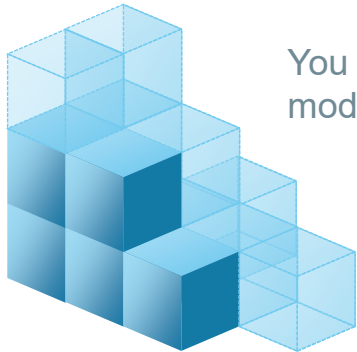
Both domestic and
foreign students and
postdoctoral fellows
are **eligible**



Mitacs Accelerate



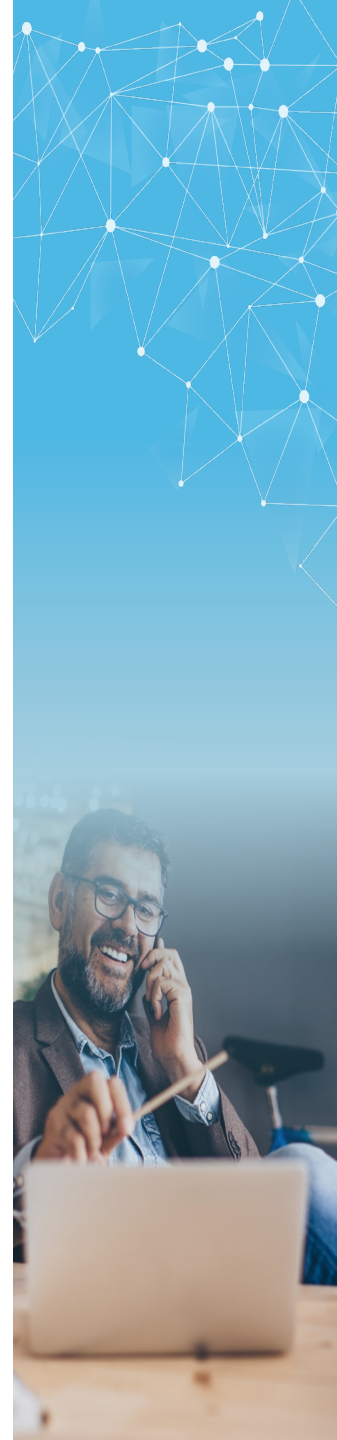
An intern spends a minimum of 4-to-6 months — or **one module** — on a project.



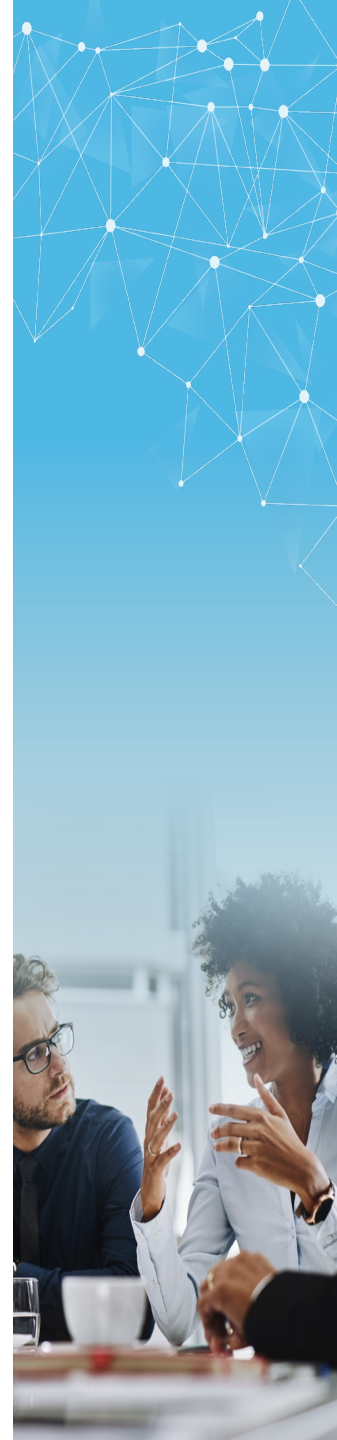
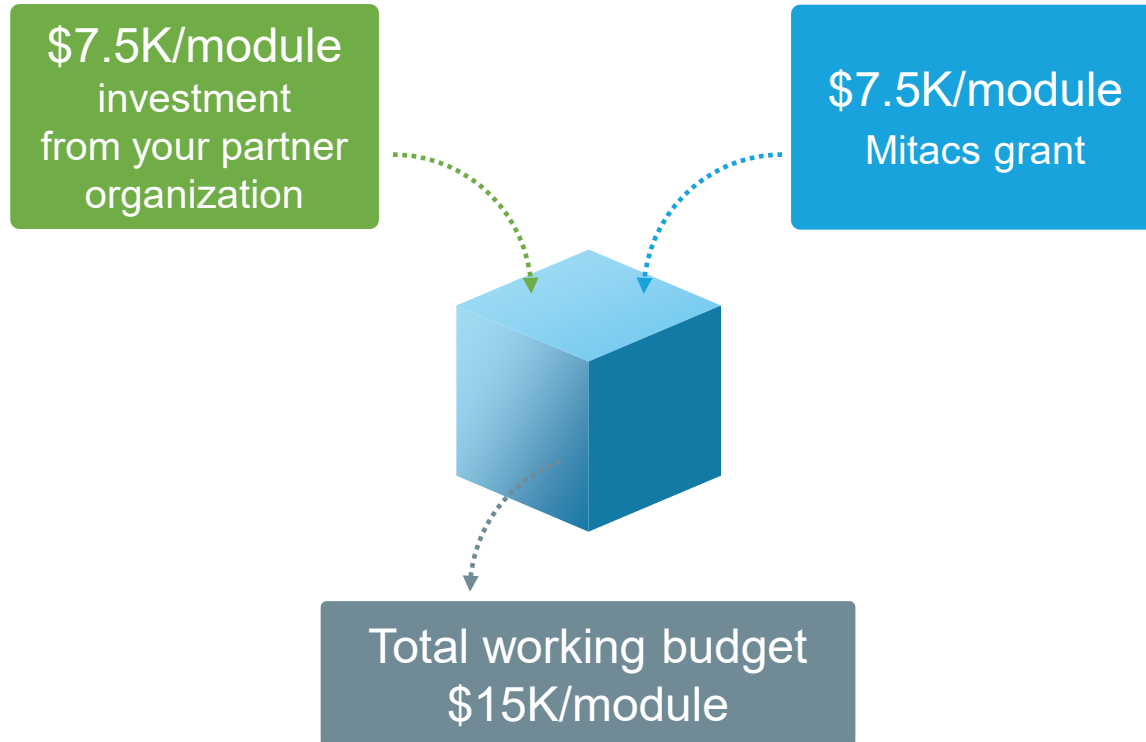
You can have as many modules as you need.



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



Mitacs Accelerate



Example Project

A sweet discovery

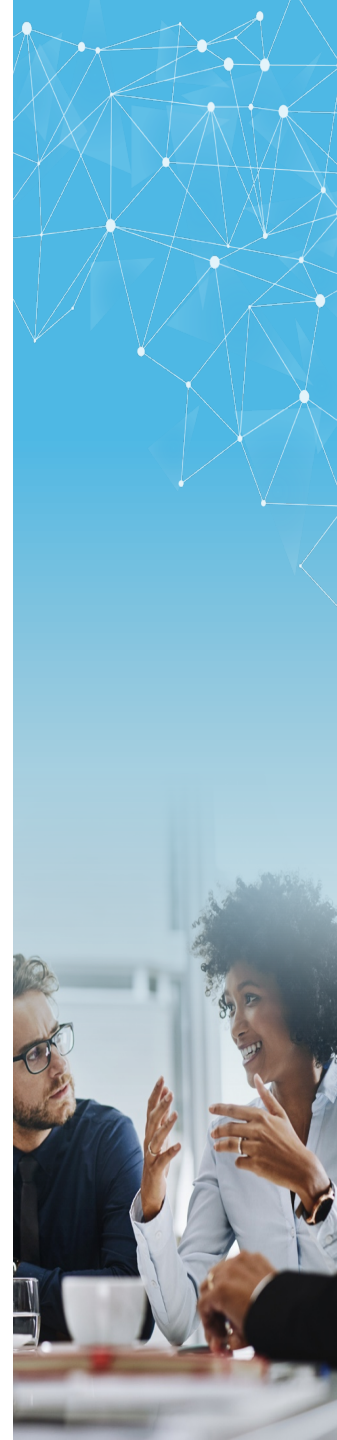
- Sugar & Company to commercialize their all-natural sugaring paste
- Investigated the molecular structure of the three main components of sugaring paste
- Manipulated the structures to get the desired results and consistency from every batch



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 



QUESTIONS?

Mitacs

Thank you for your time!

Joseph Santarelli,
MESc
Business Development
Specialist



jsantarelli@mitacs.ca



519-476-2561



[@MitacsCanada](https://twitter.com/MitacsCanada)



[linkedin.com/company/mitacs/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/mitacs/)

Mitacs

Graduate Engineering Society Winter Orientation



What is GES?

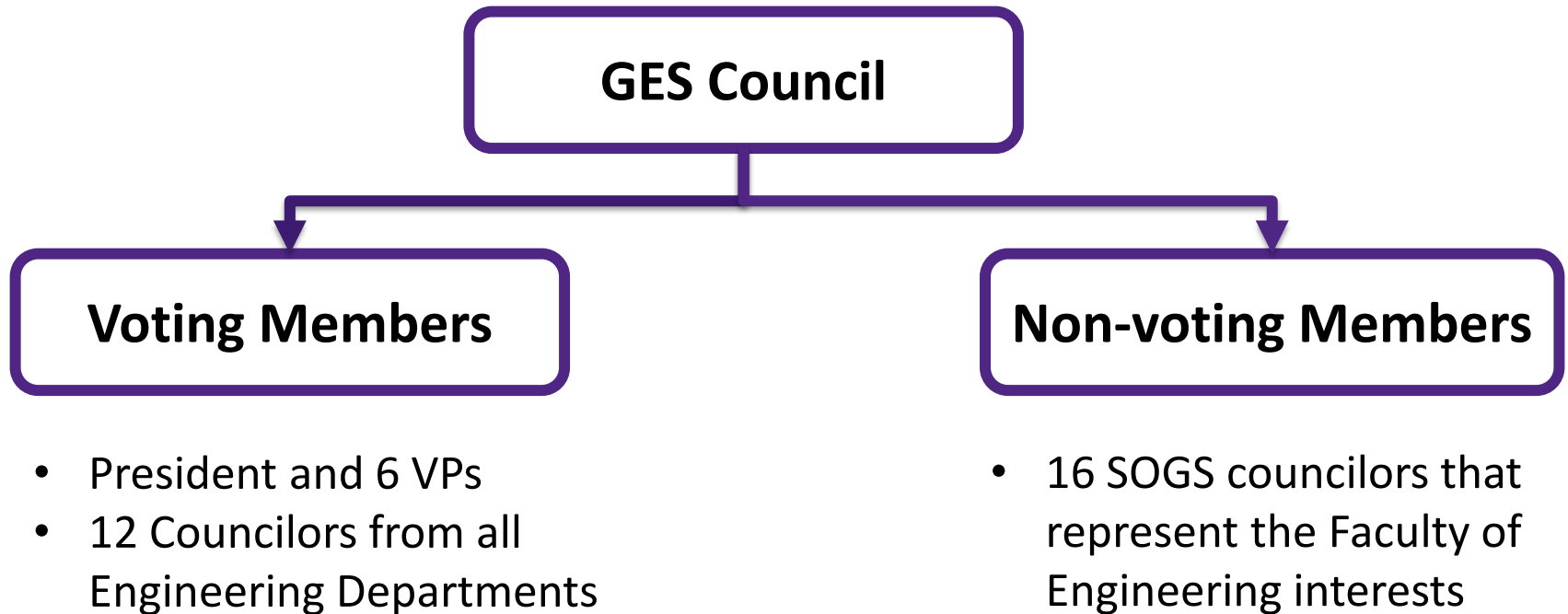
The aim of the **Graduate Engineering Society** is to organize **social** and **professional** for its members. It represents and promotes the **academic interests** of the current engineering graduate students.

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



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 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 event coming up over the academic year!

- GES and MSc Lounge Renovation Project (**Late Winter 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

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 (January 20)

GradLife Events

- September and beyond

- Advising

- Campus Engagement



Monica Munaretto

Manager

Graduate Student Life

gradlife@uwo.ca



SOCIETY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
MIDDLESEX COLLEGE, ROOM 8
LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA
SOGS@UWO.CA | 519.661.3394 | SOGS.CA



@WESTERNSOGS



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.**

*SOCIETY OF
GRADUATE STUDENTS*

STRUCTURE OF THE SOCIETY

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

2020-21

6,605
MEMBERS



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

GRAD CLUB
LEVY
=\$3.33
PER TERM

HEALTH
PLAN ADMIN
FEE
=\$8.71
PER TERM

BUS PASS
=\$86.88
PER TERM

SOGS
MEMBERSHIP
=\$27.46
PER TERM

CFS
MEMBERSHIP
=\$5.86
PER TERM

HEALTH &
DENTAL
PLAN
=\$653.19
PER YEAR
*PRO-RATED

BUS PASS
ADMIN FEE
=\$3.48
PER TERM

FULL-TIME FEES



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/](https://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



SOGS.CA/BUS-PASS/

Student SERVICES

ATTENTION NEW GRADS!

**health plan
opt-in/opt-out**

September 1 - 30, 2021



TRY
STUDENTCARE'S
FREE
"EMPOWER ME"
PROGRAM TO
BETTER SUPPORT
YOUR MENTAL
HEALTH AND
WELLNESS THIS
YEAR!

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



[STUDENTCARE.CA](https://www.studentcare.ca)

Academic SUPPORT



[SOGS.CA/
PEER-ADVISOR/](https://sogs.ca/peer-advisor/)

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



Financial ASSISTANCE



SOGS **BURSARIES**
VALUED AT \$1,500 EACH

\$324,000
awarded in
2019-20!



SOGS **FOOD BANK FOR NON-TA'S**

Receive \$75+ gift cards to combat food insecurity



CHILDCARE SUBSIDY



PROFESSIONAL PLACEMENT SUBSIDY

Subsidies are valued at \$500 each!



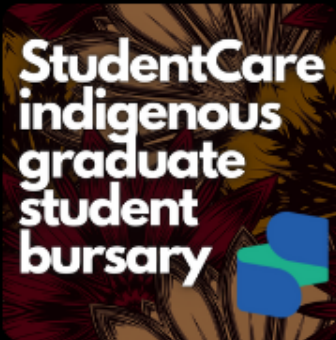
SOGS **EMERGENCY LOAN PROGRAM**

Interest-free loans up to \$1,000!



TRAVEL SUBSIDY

Valued at a max. of \$250!



StudentCare indigenous graduate student bursary

\$2,000 award x1 annually



Research Completion Subsidy
SOGS **PSAC 610**



NON-TA UHIP SUBSIDY

More info forthcoming!



[SOGS.CA/FINANCIAL-SUPPORT/](https://sogs.ca/financial-support/)

Financial AWARDS & FUNDS

For students in a part-time program!



Peggy Collins Memorial Award

Academic Fund

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



For students who pay more in tuition than they are funded



125TH SCHOLARSHIP

Wellness Fund

Social Fund



[SOGS.CA/FINANCIAL-SUPPORT/](https://sogs.ca/financial-support/)

Student ADVOCACY



SOGS IS LOCAL
#47 OF THE
CANADIAN
FEDERATION
OF STUDENTS

 CFS-FCEE.CA



Student ADVOCACY



ACCESSIBILITY
COMMISSIONER



INDIGENOUS
COMMISSIONER



GENDER
CONCERNS
COMMISSIONER



PRIDE
COMMISSIONER



RACIAL EQUITY
& INCLUSIVITY
COMMISSIONER



[SOGS.CA/COMMISSIONERS/](https://sogs.ca/commissioners/)

#GradLifeWesternU



OFFICIAL
RADIO SHOW
OF SOGS - A
SHOW FOR
GRADS. BY
GRADS.
CELEBRATING
GRADS AT
WESTERNU!



GRADCASTRADIO.PODBEAN.COM/

WESTERN
RESEARCH
FORUM =
LARGEST
ANNUAL GRAD
STUDENT
CONFERENCE
AT WESTERNU!



SOGS.CA/EVENTS/



[HTTPS://IR.LIB.UWO.CA/WRF/](https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/wrf/)

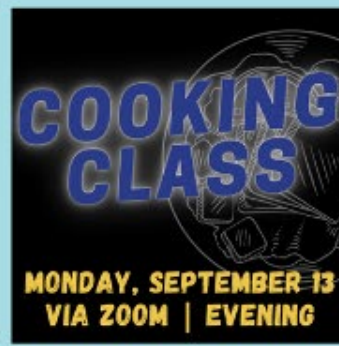
FALL 2021:

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
at the Grad Club

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
AFTERNOON



LOADS OF PRIZES!



SCAVENGER HUNT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
- SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

LEARN MORE:
[SOGS.CA/
ORIENTATION](https://sogs.ca/orientation)

SOGS



JOIN A COMMITTEE!



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](https://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!



[SOGS.CA/DISCORD/](https://sogs.ca/discord/)

Extraordinary Procrastination

Starts Here!

**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!**



GRADCLUB.SOGS.CA

THE GRAD
CLUB
EST. 1979

EATERY & PUB

Hours of Operation:

MONDAYS - FRIDAYS
11AM - 7PM

TAKE-OUT & PATIO
SERVICE

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

Middlesex College, room 19

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](https://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:
SOGS.COMMUNICATIONS@UWO.CA

SOGS ACCOUNTING:
SOGS.ACCOUNTING@UWO.CA

SOGS GOVERNANCE & POLICY:
SOGS.GOVERNANCE@UWO.CA

SOCIETY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS
WESTERN UNIVERSITY
MIDDLESEX COLLEGE, ROOM 8
LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA
SOGS@UWO.CA | 519.661.3394 | SOGS.CA



@WESTERNSOGS



SOGS.CA/CONTACT/



PSAC 610 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 **GTA**s and **PDA**s 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

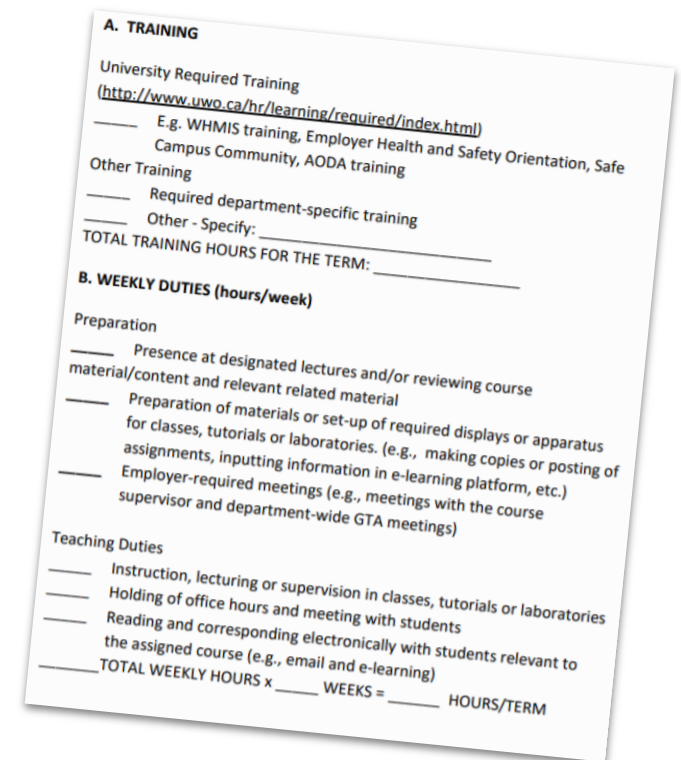
And much more! See: <https://www.psa610.ca/benefits-1>

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 or 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/duties_specification_agreement.html



A. TRAINING

University Required Training
(<http://www.uwo.ca/hr/learning/required/index.html>)
 E.g. WHMIS training, Employer Health and Safety Orientation, Safe Campus Community, AODA training

Other Training
 Required department-specific training
 Other - Specify: _____

TOTAL TRAINING HOURS FOR THE TERM: _____

B. WEEKLY DUTIES (hours/week)

Preparation
 Presence at designated lectures and/or reviewing course material/content and relevant related material
 Preparation of materials or set-up of required displays or apparatus for classes, tutorials or laboratories. (e.g., making copies or posting of assignments, inputting information in e-learning platform, etc.)
 Employer-required meetings (e.g., meetings with the course supervisor and department-wide GTA meetings)

Teaching Duties
 Instruction, lecturing or supervision in classes, tutorials or laboratories
 Holding of office hours and meeting with students
 Reading and corresponding electronically with students relevant to the assigned course (e.g., email and e-learning)

TOTAL WEEKLY HOURS x _____ WEEKS = _____ HOURS/TERM

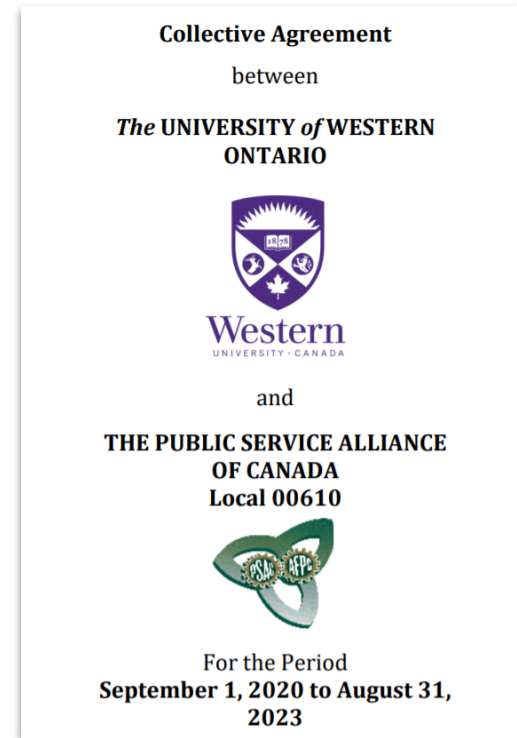
Why do I need to track my hours?



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

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.psa610.ca/resources>



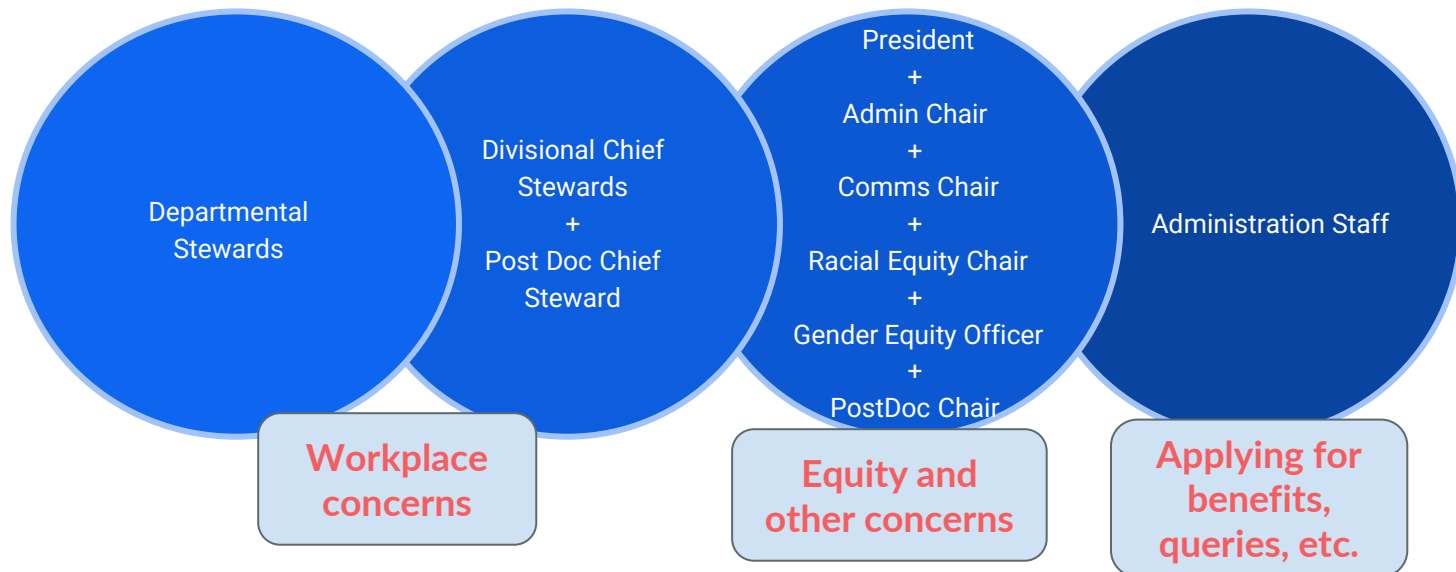
What is a grievance?

- ❖ A grievance is a **FORMAL** work-related dispute involving the interpretation, application, administration or **violation of the Collective Agreement (CA)**
- ❖ Common grievances:
 - Overtime Hours
 - Harassment and/or discrimination
 - TA appointments
- ❖ 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

See:

<https://www.psic610.ca/resources>

Who can I contact at PSAC 610?



Contact info:

<https://www.psa610.ca/executive>

Health and Safety

❖ Vaccine policy on campus

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

❖ 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 610 for any guidance** you might need in accommodation



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

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

- ❖ Questions about policy, testing, accommodations, medical support or advice?
 - Work-related: takecare@uwo.ca , Student-related: avpse@uwo.ca



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

Leanne Robichaud

Civil and Environmental Engineering

TBA (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.



Western
UNIVERSITY • CANADA