

Kicking off the term!

Welcome to **What's Up Western Grad Students**—your go-to guide for campus life, news and events! Stay connected with our monthly emails to keep up with everything happening on campus.

As you dive into your studies, remember that Western offers a range of supports to help you throughout your academic journey. Visit the Student Experience website to learn more!

Student Experience Website

Events on Campus

Sept 5-26

Riverfest 2024

Riverfest returns for its third year at Western! Throughout the month of September, take part in events that celebrate and connect with Deshkan Zibi (Thames River), an integral part of Western's natural heritage. Co-organized by the Indigenous Students' Association, Indigenous Student Centre and Western Sustainability.

Learn More

Sept 10

Campus Resources Fair

Join us for the Campus Resources Fair on Tuesday, September 10 between 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the UCC Atrium to learn about resources available to support you during your time at Western.

Learn More

Sept 12

The Concert Season Begins!

Join us at the Don Wright Faculty of Music for 350+ FREE concerts and recitals that take place between September and April. Check out the Fridays at 12:30 p.m. Concert Series, Opera at Western and more! All are welcome to attend.

Check it Out

Sept 16

AI & Grant Writing

Western Education's Research Office invites you to join them for a discussion on, "AI & Grant Writing." Western University's Chief AI Officer Dr. Mark Daley will lend his insights and expertise to explore the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in grant writing. Toward the end of the presentation, attendees will learn about how the Faculty of Health Sciences is helping its researchers navigate the use of AI in grant writing.

Learn More

Sept 19

Therapy Dogs

Save the date! Therapy Dogs are back every month this year, starting with Thursday, September 19 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. in the Weldon Library Community Room. Drop by to de-stress and see your favourite pups!

Learn More

Sept 23

NDTR Flag-raising

All are invited to wear an orange shirt and join the Office of Indigenous Initiatives on Monday, September 23 at 10 a.m. at Concrete Beach for the annual Orange Shirt flag-raising ceremony recognizing the upcoming National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30.

Learn More

Sept 23-29

SOGS Fall OWeek

Take part in SOGS Fall Orientation Week! Events will take place throughout the week ranging from roller skating to a burger and ice cream social to apple picking. SOGS is subsidizing all of the ticketed events to make OWeek more affordable and accessible. Visit sogs.ca/orientation for more info and follow [@westernsogs](https://twitter.com/westernsogs) on social media for updates!

More Info

Sept 28

Western Homecoming Football Game & Student Fan Festival

The Western Mustangs Homecoming Football Game is on Saturday, September 28 at 1 p.m. The [Student Fan Festival](#) is also returning from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with over 20 FREE food trucks, giveaways, live entertainment and more. Just bring your Western ONECard for free entry!

More Info

See All Events

Campus Life

WESTERN NEWS: Western researchers discover protein to stop DNA damage

Lead researcher Robert Szabla and his team used the Canadian Light Source (CLS) at the University of Saskatchewan to analyze a "superpower" protein with the ability to neutralize DNA damage. (Gerd Altmann/Pixabay)

Western researchers have discovered a protein with the never-before-seen ability to stop DNA damage in its tracks.

The finding could provide the foundation for developing everything from vaccines against cancer to crops that can withstand the increasingly harsh growing conditions brought on by climate change.

Read Full News Story

INSPIRING MINDS: Fiona Evison

Fiona Evison is a PhD candidate at the Don Wright Faculty of Music. Her research focuses on the post-pandemic revival of a community children's choir in a resource-scarce region of Ontario. She explores whether composing and performing their own music can enhance the well-being of both the children and adult staff involved. Using her theory of relational composition and Seligman's PERMA model, Fiona examines five key areas of well-being: Positive Emotion, Engagement, Relationships, Meaning, and Accomplishment. Through the facilitation of new songs performed in concert, her research highlights the positive impact of these choral activities on the group's overall well-being.

Read More

TRI-AGENCY MASTER'S SCHOLARSHIPS

The federal Tri-Agency scholarships, and the provincial Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) and Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship in Science and Technology (QEII-GSST), are the largest scholarship programs that support graduate students at Western.

As both are merit-based scholarships, with similar award criteria, students are required to submit one application to be considered for both awards. This single application reduces duplication, increases efficiencies and optimizes student potential.

The application period for the Tri-Agency Master's Scholarships runs from September 1 to December 1. These scholarships have increased in value to \$27,000 per year.

As both Tri-Agency and OGS/QEII-GSST are merit-based scholarships, with similar award criteria, students are required to submit one application to be considered for both.

We invite students to submit an application to the appropriate agency for a federal Tri-Agency Master's Scholarship. Eligible applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of Canada by the application deadline date of December 1, 2024.

Learn More & Apply

GET INVOLVED

- Registration for [Intramurals](#) is now open! Meet new people, enjoy friendly competition with a fun community and learn a new skill. No sports experience required. League space is limited, and registration is first-come, first-served. Wait-lists are also available if a sport is full.
- Registration for [Recreation Sport Clubs](#) will open on Monday, Sept 16. Sport Clubs provide instruction and skill development, student leadership opportunities, and/or competition. They are designed to enhance the Western University student experience and promote life-long learning and appreciation for physical activity, leadership, and service.
- [Western Mustangs Open Team Tryouts](#) - Interested in trying out for a Western Mustangs varsity sports team or club? Now is your chance!
- [Western Campus Recreation](#) offers a variety of programs for all skill levels and abilities, including Group Fitness, Aquatics & First Aid, Drop-In Sports, and much more. Check out our video tours, self-guided walking tours or our equipment usage videos. For more information on all of this and more, visit our [Orientation page](#).

GRAD STUDENT LIFE

- Learn about career-related topics including developing a strong resume and cover letter, personal branding and more with our [Career Workshop series](#).
- Employers are already recruiting** for Summer 2025 and beyond, and they want to meet you! Check out the organizations hosting events this month [here](#).
- Upgrade your LinkedIn profile with [free professional headshots](#) available now in the Careers & Experience office! Available Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. in UCC 210.
- [Connecting for Climate Change Action](#) blends storytelling with Western and Indigenous sciences to inspire students to act on climate change. Register now for the next course, running from Sept 16 to Dec 16, 2024! Open to everyone at no cost on Coursera. [Register online](#).

WESTERN WELLNESS

The Health & Wellness team in Thames Hall is here to support you! Whether you're looking for a [physical health appointment](#) or [counselling services](#), we're here to help. All appointments with Western Health & Wellness Services are free of charge and can be booked by calling 519-661-3030. Register with the clinic so you can book follow-up appointments [online](#). After-hours crisis support can be found on the Health & Wellness [website](#).

Group Care & Workshops

There are a number of mental health support groups and workshops offered this term, covering a range of topics: Coping Well, Queer Connections, Relationship Basics and more!

These mental health groups and workshops offer a safe, affirming space for students to come together and discuss the issues impacting their well-being and ability to thrive as a student. Counsellors will facilitate, provide support and suggest strategies during sessions. Visit the [Group Care & Workshops](#) webpage for more information and to register!

MUSTANGS MINUTE

It has been a successful start to the season for your Western Mustangs. Come out and cheer on your Mustangs at home this week:

- Men's Lacrosse:** Friday, Sept 13 at 8 p.m. vs McMaster at Alumni Field
- Men's and Women's Soccer:** Sunday, Sept 15 at 1 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. vs McMaster at Western Alumni Stadium
- Women's Rugby:** Sunday, Sept 15 at 4 p.m. vs York at Alumni Field

See our full Western Mustangs sports schedule to see what's happening every week and come cheer on your Mustangs!

Sports Schedule

Western students get into all regular season home games (on campus) for FREE with a valid Western ONECard. For more info, follow [@WesternMustangs](#).

OWN YOUR FUTURE

Upcoming Workshop: Writing Impactful Research Proposals

A research proposal can determine your path through graduate studies, your potential funding, and your academic and professional future. In this seminar we'll look at the components that make up successful research proposals to meet the expectations of both your supervisor and committee, and multidisciplinary scholarship review committees.

Date: October 1, 2024
Time: 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Location: Online / Virtual

Register to receive your Zoom link!

Register Now

IMPORTANT DATES

Sept 9:

- Due date for fall term tuition (first installment).

Sept 30:

- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (NDTR) will be observed at Western University this year on Monday, September 30. A campus wide commitment to observing NDTR is essential to "advancing reconciliation with Indigenous communities," as mandated in Towards Western at 150. While NDTR is one day observed annually, the work of Truth and Reconciliation must be embraced daily to foster meaningful and lasting change. Western has designated September 30 as a non-instructional day, which means no regularly scheduled classes will be held.
- Last day to enrol in graduate courses starting in the fall term. Students who are not enrolled by this date cannot receive academic credit for the fall term.
- Last day to declare an audit for a course starting in the fall term.
- Last day to drop a graduate course beginning in the fall term without it appearing on the transcript. Students who drop after this date but before November 1 will receive a WDN on their transcript.