



Student Fan Festival & Western Homecoming this weekend!

Don't miss your Western Mustangs Football team take on the McMaster Marauders this Saturday, September 27 at 1 p.m. Head over to the East Gates at Alumni Stadium early to check out the **Student Fan Festival**, running **11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** with 25+ FREE food trucks, entertainment, giveaways and a photo station.

Start your Western HOCO off with a **free pancake breakfast** at Concrete Beach (outside the UCC) from 9 to 11 a.m. thanks to Western Alumni and the USC.

Admission to the Student Fan Festival and Homecoming football game is FREE for all Western students at the East Gate, just bring your Western ONECard for entry!

[Student Fan Festival Details](#)

Events on Campus

Sept 23

USC Day

Celebrate the USC's 60th anniversary at USC Day on Concrete Beach! Learn more about your student council, ask your questions, and grab some giveaways. For full details, follow @westernusc on Instagram.

[Western USC](#)

Sept 25

Global Café

Join Western International from 3 to 5 p.m. in the IGAB Atrium for Global Café. Meet people from around the world and learn about different cultures and experiences. This event is open to all students.

[Global Café](#)

Sept 24

Party Wise: Harm Reduction Fair

The fair aims to make reaching out for help on substance and alcohol use more approachable and accessible. We will have giveaways, games, resource sharing, and HOCO merch. Drop by Concrete Beach (outside the UCC) between 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

[Fair Details](#)

Sept 25

Therapy Dogs

They're back! Drop by for a visit with the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dogs in the Weldon Library Community Room from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

[Therapy Dogs](#)

Sept 29-30

National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

All are invited to wear an orange shirt and join the Office of Indigenous Initiatives on Monday, September 29 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. for Orange Shirt Flag Raising Ceremony at the UCC Concrete Beach. Then drop by the Wampum Learning Lodge on Tuesday, September 30 from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the NDTR Sunrise Ceremony.

[NDTR Details](#)

Oct 2

Taylor Swift Dance Party

Don't have plans for the new album release? Get your tickets now for the Taylor Swift Dance Party at The Wave, UCC! Dance to the classics and listen to *The Life of a Showgirl* dropping at midnight with fellow Swifties. Doors open at 10 p.m. on Thursday, October 2, tickets are just \$8!

[TS Dance Party Tickets](#)

Featured Event:

Learn to Lead

Looking to grow your leadership skills (and your resume)? Learn to Lead offers **free**, strengths-based workshops where you'll gain confidence, develop a growth mindset, build connections with peers across faculties, and practice employer-sought skills like communication, teambuilding, and character-based leadership. Join us for the first summit on **Friday, September 28**.

[Learn to Lead](#)

[See All Events](#)

Campus Life

THRIVE ONLINE: What Studying Abroad Taught Me: From Western to Copenhagen



From ice cream in Copenhagen to lifelong memories, Tessa shares what studying abroad taught her and why it was one of her best decisions at Western. If you're thinking about going abroad, this blog is your sign to go for it.

[Read Tessa's Blog](#)

GET INVOLVED

Leadership Opportunities

- **Soph Leadership Team Applications:** Passionate about supporting students in their transition to Western? Soph leadership team positions are now open for all teams: Residence, Faculty, Off-Campus (OC) and Charity! [Learn more and apply by September 29](#).
- **Western B.L.U.E. Program:** The Black Leadership University Experience Program empowers Black students to lead, connect and create lasting impacts in their communities. Apply by September 28!
- **Standard First Aid & CPR Training:** Gain practical skills and earn certification through this comprehensive course covering first aid, CPR, and AED use. Recognized by WSIB and meeting Ontario Public Pools Regulation requirements. Registration required. [See sign up details](#).

Sports & Recreation

- **Rec Sports Clubs:** Registration is open for Recreational Sport Clubs. Check out all the different Rec Sport Clubs, which provide instruction and skill development, student leadership opportunities, and/or competition. Open to all Western students.
- **Move Your Mood:** free events and fitness classes are still available for the fall. Fitness class registration opens up 7 days in advance. For details and availability visit [campus rec](#) or follow [@western_rec](#) on Instagram.

Share Your Feedback

- **OWeek Survey:** Are you a first-year student? Share your Orientation Week feedback to help us improve for next year — plus, you'll be entered in to a draw win prizes!

STUDENT LIFE

Academic Support

- **Learn2Thrive:** If last academic year wasn't your best, Learn2Thrive can help with strategies, tools, and supports to make a real difference in navigating the challenges that come with university life.
- **Writing Support Centre Seminars:** Learn about overcoming writer's block, referencing your paper, and planning your written assignments with the Writing Support Centre's upcoming seminars.
- **Mindful Moments:** Relax, recharge, and refocus with drop-in meditation Wednesdays from 12 to 12:30 p.m. in UCC 38B.

Student Perks

- **The Beaches Discount:** The USC has unlocked a special discount for you! Kick off the school year with The Beaches right here in London. Use code "WESTERN" for \$45 student tickets (+ fees/tax) to the Nov 10 show. Limited-time offer!
- **Imaginus Poster Sale (Sept 22-26):** The Imaginus Poster Sale is back! Decorate your dorm or new apartment on a budget with affordable posters. Check out [@westernusc](#) on Instagram for the chance to win your favourite poster!

Community & Sustainability

- **EDI Fall 2025 Workshops:** Deepen your equity, diversity, and inclusion knowledge with two dynamic workshops designed to turn inclusion and courageous conversation into everyday practice.
- **Bikeshare @ Western (Launching late September):** Discover London and campus in a whole new way! Free bikes will be available at the Rec Centre, making getting around faster, easier, and more sustainable.

Lectures & Learning

- **Goodman Lecture Series (Sept 23-25):** The symposium brings three internationally renowned Goodman lecturers to Western to discuss the state of democracy in the United States, Canada, and Europe.
- **Sleeping with the Ancestors: How I Followed the Footsteps of Slavery (Sept 29):** Join Joseph McGill Jr. in Weldon Library Community Room 120 (11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.) as he tells the story of his groundbreaking project to sleep in former slave dwellings, revealing the fascinating history behind these sites and shedding light on larger issues of race in America.

Your voice is important: Strategic initiatives for community input in 2025–26



The new academic year brings fresh opportunities to engage our community in a range of strategic initiatives. Within Western's Operations and Finance portfolio, four key institutional strategies will benefit from your input: Climate & Sustainability, Campus Development, Open Space, and Responsible Investing. Visit our Community Updates webpage to learn more and find out how to get involved.

[Community Updates](#)

WESTERN WELLNESS

Wellness Groups

The Health & Wellness team is offering several group care sessions this fall, where students can connect, share experiences, and learn new skills to support their well-being. Here are a few upcoming groups:

- **Queer Connections - Bi-weekly starting Sept 25 from 2:30 to 4 p.m.**
A 90-minute group for 2SLGBTQIA+ students, offering discussion, support, and connection on topics that matter to the community.
- **Group for International Students - Oct 7 & 21 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.**
Our Group for International Students offers a way for you to connect and share with others as well as a place to find support for the issues that affect you as a student at Western and in Canada. We will be offering a range of session topics. Snacks and drinks will be available!

[See all Groups & Register to attend](#)

PurpleCARE is your health, dental and travel coverage, along with a virtual health care option. Register Now to Access Your Benefit Cards! You'll need: **Plan Number: 177890 & Certificate Number: Your Student ID**. Don't wait, get set up today!

MUSTANGS MINUTE

Current Western students get into all regular season home games (on campus) for FREE with a valid Western ONECard. Check out some upcoming games:

- **Friday, Sept 26: Homecoming Weekend**
 - Women's Soccer vs York at 6 p.m., Western Alumni Stadium
 - Men's Soccer vs York at 8:15 p.m., Western Alumni Stadium
- **Saturday, Sept 27: Homecoming Weekend**
 - Baseball vs Guelph at 1 p.m. & 4 p.m., Labatt Park
 - Football vs McMaster (Homecoming) at 1 p.m., Western Alumni Stadium
 - Softball vs Laurier at 2 p.m. & 4 p.m., Byron Sports Complex
- **Saturday, Oct 4:**
 - Men's Rugby vs Guelph at 1 p.m., Alumni Field
 - Softball vs Windsor at 2 p.m. & 4 p.m., Byron Sports Complex
 - Men's Rugby vs Queen's at 3:30 p.m., Alumni Field
- **Sunday, Oct 6:**
 - Women's Soccer vs Guelph at 1 p.m., Western Alumni Stadium
 - Men's Soccer vs Guelph at 3:15 p.m., Western Alumni Stadium

See our full schedule to see what's happening and where, and come cheer on your Mustangs!

[Sports Schedule](#)

HOT TAKE

What are you most looking forward to Homecoming Weekend?

- Free Food
- Football Game
- Friends & Socializing
- Showing Off My Purple Pride

[Vote Now](#)

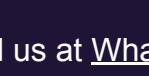
Important Dates

- **Sept 30:** Non-instructional day (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation). [This toolkit](#) supports educators, staff, and leaders at Western University by offering guidance and context for observing NDTR and advancing Reconciliation throughout the year.

- **Oct 13:** Thanksgiving

[See More Dates](#)

Have feedback? Email us at WhatsUpWestern@uwo.ca



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[Unsubscribe info here.](#)

Western Student Experience