

What's Up Western Grad Students

Your Monthly Student Newsletter | May, 2026



Kicking off the Summer Term!

Welcome to *What's Up Western Grad Students*, your source for campus updates, resources, and events. Whether you're continuing your studies this summer or just getting started, we're here to help you stay informed and connected.

Remember many campus services and supports remain available throughout the summer, visit [Student Experience](#) for details.

Starting at Western this May? Check out **Spring Orientation** programming and events designed to help you get familiar with campus.

[Spring Orientation](#)

Events on Campus

May 5

Red Dress Day

Atlohsa invites you to join us on Tuesday, May 5 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Peace Park (331 Thames Street), as we come together to honour Red Dress Day — the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit relatives.

[Red Dress Day](#)

May 7, 14, 21, 28

Global Café

Join Western International every Thursday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the IGAB Atrium for Global Café. Meet people from around the world and learn about different cultures and experiences. Open to all students!

[Global Café](#)

May 7

Indigenous Research Connections

Indigenous Research Connections is pleased to host Dr. Renée E. Mazinegizhigoo-kwe Bédard, Assistant Professor (Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies & Indigenous Studies) in the Wampum Learning Lodge Dome from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 7. No registration required and all are welcome.

[Indigenous Research](#)

May 25-29

Graduate Writing Week

Join the Writing Support Centre online between May 25 - 29 for seminars on topics including The Writing Process, Summarizing Your Research Into an Abstract, and Getting Published.

[Graduate Writing Week](#)

May 28

I'm Graduating, What's Next?

If you're graduating this spring, join a virtual workshop on May 28 designed to support you in your transition into the working world, or if you're preparing for further education, or if you're just not sure what your next steps are.

[Workshop Details](#)

June 4

hirewesternu Healthcare Day

Save the date! On June 4 between 4-7 p.m., meet virtually with employers hiring for both clinical and non-clinical roles in the healthcare industry.

[Healthcare Day](#)

[See All Events](#)

Campus Life

WESTERN NEWS: Western students, local historians bring London's stories to life through Forest City Facts



As London, Ont. celebrates 200 years since its founding in 1826, a new initiative shines a light on local history. Through Forest City Facts, students and faculty from Western's master of arts in the public history field are helping to uncover stories that have shaped — and continue to shape — the city.

[Read Full News Story](#)

GET INVOLVED

Leadership & Job Opportunities

- **Become a Peer Leader:** Learn how you can gain valuable experience and develop your transferable skills through the [Western Peer Leader program!](#) Positions are still available for Summer 2026 and Fall/Winter 2026-27.
- **Summer Job Listings:** It's not too late to find a summer job! Check out the job boards on [Western Connect](#).

Provide Feedback

- **Campus Development and Open Space Strategies:** Provide feedback on Western's updated draft Campus Development Strategy and draft Open Space Strategy online or at upcoming town halls. Your input will help guide how our campus evolves in the future. [Learn more here!](#)
- **Career Interest Survey:** There's still time to participate in the [Brainstorm Student Career Interests survey](#) — you could win a \$500 Best Buy Gift Card or one of 10 cash prizes of \$100!

GRAD STUDENT LIFE

Academic & Career Supports

- **Summer Academic Supports:** Taking summer courses? Connect with [Learning Development & Success](#) and the [Writing Support Centre](#) for help meeting your learning goals and improving your written assignments.
- **Grad Life Coaching:** Access [grad life coaching](#) for support navigating your holistic journey through graduate school at Western.
- **Master's/PhD Planning Group:** Looking for accountability support for your Master's or PhD? Join a [weekly online planning group](#), open to students at any stage of their program.
- **Mindfulness for Academic Success:** is a 6-week in-person program designed as an introduction to mindfulness and meditation practices. Reflect on how being more mindful can help you succeed as a graduate student.
- **Grad Productivity Sessions (new this summer!):** offer a structured, distraction-free online environment where you can co-work and make consistent and meaningful progress on your work.
- **Career Coaching:** Summer is a great time to reset and review your career goals to better strategize your efforts now and during the academic year. [Meet with a career coach](#) to learn how!

Music Ensembles

- **Open Auditions:** Do you play an instrument or sing? Consider auditioning for one of Western's musical ensembles! All Western students — regardless of major — are eligible to audition. Instrumental audition excerpts for 2026-27 are available now.

Campus Recreation

- **Summer Intramurals:** Registration closes Tuesday, May 5, 2026! Sign up now to join men's, women's, or co-ed leagues at competitive or recreational levels —register as a team or individual. Open to everyone, so feel free to invite friends to join your team!
- **Campus Rec Summer Hours:** Campus Rec will be completing its annual facility maintenance and upgrades in early May at the Western Student Recreation Centre (WSRC). These scheduled closures are part of the regular yearly maintenance cycle and are essential to ensuring a safe, high-quality experience for all members. **Closure Schedule:** **Pool:** May 1–10, 2026. **WSRC Building:** May 4–8, 2026
- **Service Interruption Notice:** As the summer term begins, some campus areas will be impacted by **construction and maintenance**, including temporary disruptions to the outdoor stairs beside the Western Student Recreation Centre (WSRC), so please allow extra time when arriving and check which locations may be affected. [Learn more here!](#)

Campus Food Spots This Summer: Summer is here! [See which campus eateries are open](#) and ready to serve you all season long.

P.S. The Food Hub has new Artisan sandwiches you won't want to miss and the campus-favourite Angry Goose Food Truck is making a return. Keep an eye on [@westernufood](#) for when it's back.

INSPIRING MINDS: Yuhan Zhao



Yuhan Zhao, MA Candidate in the Faculty of Education, shares her research exploring educational practices and student learning, and how her work aims to create meaningful impact in the field.

[Read more about Yuhan's Research](#)

WESTERN WELLNESS

Student Health & Wellness Services are open all summer! Book an appointment to meet with a doctor, or [mental health counsellor](#). Summer hours are Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mental health counselling is also available virtually for students, whether you're on campus or not.

Wellness Resources
Check out the [Wellness Resource Library](#) for a range of tools and supports to help you navigate stress, loneliness, rest, and your overall well-being.

Become a Wellness Peer Leader
Want to get involved? The wellness team is hiring Peer 2 Peer (P2P) Wellness Leaders for the Fall/Winter 2026-27 terms! Apply today to make an impact on campus next year. Search postings on [Western Connect](#) (Job ID: 127164).

MUSTANGS MINUTE

Western Mustangs Host 85th Annual Awards Celebration

The Western Mustangs community gathered at Alumni Hall in April to celebrate excellence, legacy, and achievement at the 85th Mustangs Awards Celebration. With more than 800 student-athletes, staff, alumni, and supporters in attendance, the evening highlighted the accomplishments of the 2025-26 season. Beyond athletic success, the event emphasized leadership, academic achievement, and community impact as key pillars of the Mustangs experience.

Among the evening's top honours, **Hallee Knelsen** was awarded the **Karen Danylchuk Award** as the top female senior student-athlete, while **Aaron Thompson** received the **G. Howard Ferguson Award** as the top male graduating student-athlete. Both awards recognize excellence across athletics, academics, and campus involvement.

The celebration also recognized emerging and standout talent. **Sydney Cowan** and **Jackson Mackay** were named **Female and Male Rookie of the Year**, respectively, after making immediate impacts within their programs. **Sophie Coutts** earned the **F.W.P. Jones Trophy** as the top female contributor to intercollegiate athletics, while **Lukas Geske** received the **Dr. Claude Brown Memorial Trophy** as the top male contributor. **Jonelle Clarke** and **Jackson Mackay** were named **Mustangs Female and Male Athletes of the Year**, highlighting their outstanding success at the provincial and national levels.

Bronze W and Graduating Rings were also recognized at the event, and the evening concluded with the presentation of the **Mustangs Purple Blanket awards**, recognizing graduating student-athletes who have demonstrated sustained excellence in both academics and athletics. The award winners reflect the tradition of excellence within Western Mustangs Sports & Recreation.

[Read Full Story](#)

OWN YOUR FUTURE

Upcoming Workshop: Own Your Future: Conference on Teaching

Graduate educators are teaching in and through a world marked by rapid change, including new technologies, shifting student needs, evolving learning environments, and expanding possibilities of what teaching can be. This year's conference theme, Future-Ready Teaching, offers graduate students and postdoctoral scholars the time and space to explore how we can approach teaching with curiosity, flexibility, and a sense of shared purpose as we consider what practices we want to bring forward with us in this moment.

This year's full day conference (online via Zoom with optional in-person watch party) is designed to celebrate the many ways graduate educators are already shaping the future of teaching through their curiosity, expertise, and commitment to their values. We welcome proposals that highlight practical strategies, creative experiments, and reflective insights that help us teach with confidence and care—whether in classrooms, labs, tutorials, community settings, or digital spaces.

Date: May 14, 2026
Time: 9 a.m. to 4:50 p.m.
Location: Virtual

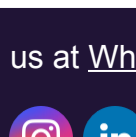
[Register Now](#)

Important Dates

- **May 1 (Beginning of Summer Term):** Summer term officially begins. Since this date does not necessarily coincide with the beginning of classes, students should contact their program for the specific date when courses start.
- **May 7:** Due date for summer term tuition (first installment).
- **May 14:** Grade submission deadline for winter term grades for continuing students.
- **May 30:**
 - Last day to enrol in graduate courses starting in the summer term. Students who are not enrolled by this date cannot receive academic credit for the summer term.
 - Last day to declare an audit for a course starting in the summer term.
 - Last day to drop a graduate course beginning in the summer term without it appearing on the transcript. Students who drop after this date but before July 1 will receive a WDN on their transcript.

[See More Dates](#)

Have feedback? Email us at WhatsUpWestern@uwo.ca



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[Unsubscribe info here.](#)

