

GRADUATE STUDENTS
Satisfied with your program? Western wants to know.
Look for the survey in your inbox.
Please note: all emails will come from grad-survey@uwo.ca.

HAVE your say
GIVE your input
MAKE a difference

Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey (CGPSS)
grad.uwo.ca

Have Your Say, Give Your Input and Make a Difference!

This month, Western will launch the **Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey (CGPSS)**, the largest graduate student survey of its kind in Canada.

Graduate students have an important opportunity to have their say, give their input, and make a difference to enhance the quality of their program and the quality of the graduate student experience here at Western.

The survey is confidential, voluntary, and offers significant cash prizes for students and programs.

Look for your unique link to the survey in your inbox from grad-survey@uwo.ca.

[CGPSS Survey Details](#)

Events on Campus

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| <p>Feb 5-28</p> <p>Black History Month</p> <p>This February, the Office of EDI and campus partners are hosting free events that honour Black resistance and celebrate Black excellence. Registration may be required for some events - see descriptions for details. Everyone is welcome to attend!</p> <p>Black History Month</p> | <p>Feb 11</p> <p>Therapy Dogs</p> <p>They're back again! Visit with the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dogs in the Weldon Community Room between 1:30 to 3 p.m.</p> <p>Therapy Dogs</p> |
| <p>Feb 11-12</p> <p>hirewestern Career Fair</p> <p>Meet with more than 120 employers on February 11 and 12 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Mustang Lounge (UCC). Attending employers are excited to share the full-time, part-time, and work integrated learning opportunities in their organizations.</p> <p>Career Fair</p> | <p>Feb 13</p> <p>Sexual Wellness Fair</p> <p>Drop by the Mustang Lounge (UCC) from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for the Sexual Wellness Fair! Access FREE condoms and sexual health products, take part in trivia and games with prizes, and snap a photo at our photobooth. Plus health supports will be onsite to answer any questions.</p> <p>Sexual Wellness Fair</p> |
| <p>Feb 18-19</p> <p>Dissertation Writers' Retreat</p> <p>Get support making progress in writing your dissertation and establishing good writing habits. Hosted jointly by the Own Your Future program and the Writing Support Centre.</p> <p>Retreat Registration</p> | <p>Feb 26</p> <p>The Roots of Rest</p> <p>Nurture your mind and body—join us for a succulent planting workshop on February 26, from 3:30 to 5 p.m., and also learn about how the different types of rest can impact our wellness. All supplies provided—pot, plants, soil, and a succulent plant. This event is exclusively for graduate students.</p> <p>Register for Workshop</p> |

[See All Events](#)

Campus Life

WESTERN NEWS: Team of Western students wins NASA Space Apps Challenge



(L to R) Dakota Cecil, Maximilian Vovk, Ian Chow and Simon Van Schuylenbergh (Photo source: Christopher Kindratsky/Western Communications).

A team of physics and astronomy graduate students won the Best Use of Science Award in the [NASA Space Apps Challenge](#) for their SkyShield app, which educates users about the solar system and identifies threats to Earth and space infrastructure.

[Read Full News Story](#)

GET INVOLVED

- Gain valuable experience and develop your transferable skills through the [Western Peer Leader program!](#) Recruiting now for Summer 2025 and Fall/Winter 2025-26.
- The next [Learn to Lead Summit](#) is taking place on February 7. Strengthen your leadership skills and earn recognition on your Co-Curricular Record.
- Join [SOGS Study Hall](#), a monthly study session at the Grad Club with your peers. Coffee and tea provided. Happening the second Thursday of each month - February 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. [Register to join here.](#)
- Join the Move Your Mood initiative with [FREE weekly yoga and meditation classes](#)—no experience needed! Mats and equipment are provided; just bring yourself and a positive attitude. Space is limited, and registration is first-come, first-served for a single week and class type. Don't miss out!
- Western wants your feedback on the provisions of the [Code of Student Conduct](#) as part of the normal five-year review process. Since the last revision, there have been changes to the university landscape and culture. This is an opportunity to ensure the Code reflects the current needs of our student population. Provide your anonymous feedback [here.](#)

GRAD STUDENT LIFE

- Stay on top of grad school with GRADUpdATE**—your monthly dose of tips and strategies for success. In our [February issue](#), we discuss imposter syndrome.
- Check out upcoming **SOGS Events this month**, including Black History Month Themed Trivia Night, MPP Candidates Debate, and more! Keep an eye on [SOGS.ca/events](#) for more details.
- Student Central** has new hours of operation for in-person services and Western Chat. [Student Central](#) will be closed Monday - Friday for in-person visits from 12 - 1 p.m. [Western Chat](#) will be open Monday - Friday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- The [Tim Hortons Express](#) in Social Science is now open! Swing by Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for your daily coffee fix or a quick snack before class.
- Need to brush up your resume before the Career Fair? Drop in to UCC 210 to **meet with a Peer Advisor**. Open daily, [see hours](#).
- Get ready for your summer jobs or meet academic requirements by enrolling in our [Standard First Aid and CPR-C courses!](#)

GRADCAST: Check out the official podcast of the Society of Graduate Students (SOGS)



[GradCast](#) is the official podcast of the Society of Graduate Students (SOGS) at Western, showcasing the research and experiences of graduate students. New episodes drop every Tuesday, featuring a different grad student guest.

In this episode, [Jessica Eblie](#), a master's student in Media, Journalism, and Communications, shares how her music background enriches her work as a journalist.

[Listen to Jessica's Episode](#)

WESTERN WELLNESS

Join us for **Wellness Groups & Events** this month:

- Grief Loss & Support - Starting February 6 - Thursdays 2:30 to 4 p.m.**
This 6-week group aims to create a safe, nurturing and non-judgmental space to help process the loss of an individual through emotional support, connection, validation and education around the grieving process.
- Relationship Basics - Starting February 26 - Wednesdays 1:30 to 3 p.m.**
This 4-week group focuses on learning how to form the meaningful and fulfilling relationships that you want. *Please note this group is for female & non-binary identified students.*

To view all wellness groups for the winter term, visit [uwo.ca/health](#). To register for a group email health@uwo.ca.

- Self-Defense Training Course - February 18, 19 & 20 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**
Join this free, three-day course to learn practical self-defense techniques that require no special skills. *Open to all female and non-binary members of the Western community.* This trauma-informed program, led by the Western Special Constable Service and Student Experience's GBSV Prevention Education team, focuses on personal safety, awareness, risk reduction and avoidance. *A \$20 deposit is required upon registration and will be fully refunded upon course completion.* [Learn more here!](#)

Reach out for support when you need it!

Health and Wellness appointments are available Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Some same-day and next-day appointment slots are available—call **519-661-3030** to book an appointment.

[Wellness & Well-being](#)



Come cheer on your Mustangs!

Free drop-in admission for Western students to all regular season home games with valid Western ONECARD.

- Women's Hockey** vs Waterloo Warriors - Friday, February 7 at 7 p.m. at Thompson Arena
- Men's Volleyball** vs Windsor Lancers - Friday, February 7 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, February 8 at 1 p.m. (Seniors Game) at Alumni Hall
- Men's and Women's Basketball** vs Windsor Lancers - Saturday, February 8 at 6 p.m. (Women's) | 8 p.m. (Men's) at Alumni Hall
- Women's Hockey** vs Brock Badgers - Saturday, February 8 at 7 p.m. at Thompson Arena

With games and events on campus every week, check out the full Western Mustangs sports schedule to see what's happening each and every week and come cheer on your Mustangs!

[Sports Schedule](#)

For more info, follow [@WesternMustangs](#).

INSPIRING MINDS: Ananya Srivastava



Ananya Srivastava, PhD candidate in Geology (Planetary Science and Exploration), is contributing to the 2028 ExoMars Rosalind Franklin rover mission by analyzing Mars's surface to identify key exploration targets. She also leads initiatives in equity, diversity, and STEM outreach while supporting lunar exploration through NASA's Artemis III and the Canadian Space Agency's Lunar Rover mission.

[Read About Ananya's Research](#)

OWN YOUR FUTURE

Upcoming Workshop:

PhD Career Prep Series Part 1 - Beyond Academia

What are the unique career challenges facing PhD students? How can you leverage the skills you've gained during your doctoral experience to embark on a successful career journey after graduation? This introductory workshop will help you answer these questions by identifying and articulating your transferable and foundational skills and competencies. Using the *Own Your Future* self-assessment, we'll show you how to showcase your unique strengths in 5 areas:

- Leadership
- Teaching & Learning
- Communications & Relationship Building
- Thriving
- Career Engagement

You will also receive helpful resources to continue to develop strong skills and competencies in these five areas.

Date: Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Time: 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Location: International and Graduate Affairs Building (IGAB), Room 1N05

[Register For Workshop](#)

IMPORTANT DATES

- Feb 14:** Due date for second installment of winter term tuition for those paying in 2 installments.
- Feb 28:** [February In-Absentia Convocation](#)
- Feb 28:** Last day to withdraw from a graduate course beginning in the winter term without academic penalty. Students who drop after this date will receive an F on their transcript.

Have feedback or want to share your story? Email us at WhatsUpWestern@uwo.ca

