

NOVEMBER 21, 2025

EGSA Newsletter



READING WEEK POLL

Were you around the Faculty of Education building recently?

Did you spot the EGSA bulletin board right across from the Education Resource Centre?

We're running a poll to ask:

- Do grad students need a Reading Week?
- Which week in the term would a Reading Week work best?

If you weren't on campus, you can cast your vote online [here](#).
If you've already voted on the bulletin board, **please do not vote again online**.

Note: This poll is for feedback and discussion purposes. Your voice helps us better understand what grad students need.

Newsletter Highlights

Reading Week Poll

Meet the SOGS
Councillors

Robert Macmillan
Symposium in
Education (RMSE)

Upcoming Events &
Opportunities

Indigenous Resources

Building a strong
supervisor-graduate
student partnership

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MEET THE SOGS COUNCILLORS

SOGS is a democratic student government that entrusts elected Executive Officers and Council members with running the Society's day-to-day and long-term affairs. SOGS Council represents all faculties and departments at Western University.

Councillors represent the voices and interests of their constituents. They regularly connect with their peers to share updates about SOGS activities, programs, and decisions, and bring forward student feedback and concerns to Council meetings.

Meet the Councillors who represent Education graduate students — and learn how you can nominate yourself to serve as a Councillor!

Alfred Adu-Bobi

I am a fourth-year PhD student in the CPELS program. Since 2022, I have served as a SOGS Councillor and am an active member of both the SOGS Policy Committee and the Racial Equity & Inclusivity Commission. I bring a unique perspective on the diverse challenges that graduate students face and am eager to apply my skills and knowledge to enhance the welfare and well-being of the student community.

Get in touch:
aadubobi@uwo.ca



Sarah Sullivan

I'm a first year PhD student in CPELS with a focus on critical policy. I've spent the past 12 years of my career as an administrator at a large Ontario University and believe that this experience allows me a unique understanding of the innerworkings of an institution. I look forward to using this experience as a SOGS Councillor!

Get in touch: ssulli44@uwo.ca



**Cheyenne Richards-
Anthony**

I am a first-year M.A. Counselling Psychology student. As a SOGS Councillor and the Indigenous Student Representative for EGSA, I am dedicated to creating an inclusive, culturally appropriate, and compassionate environment for students at Western.

Get in touch: crich6@uwo.ca



Kelly Wang

As a former journalist, I believe that communication is key. As a SOGS Councillor, I'm dedicated to ensuring that education students' concerns are not only heard but acted upon. Outside of my role as Councillor, you can find me hosting for GradCast, the official podcast of SOGS, and navigating the adventures of first year PhD life as a CSSAL student.

Get in touch: ewang54@uwo.ca



Jing Ren

Get in touch: jren254@uwo.ca



**Omotoyosi (Toyosi)
Ogunbanwo**

I am a first-year PhD student in the CPELS program and my research focus on school leadership work in K-12 education. I currently serve as the Vice President of the Education Graduate Students Association (EGSA). Previously, I was a member of the SOGS Graduate Peer Support Committee and served as a SOGS Councillor representing the Faculty of Education during my MA studies (2022-2024). I am excited to be part of the team once again!

Get in touch: oogunba@uwo.ca



Hector Chen

Get in touch:
hector.chen@uwo.ca

Valentina Wang

I'm a first-year master's student in the Counselling Psychology program. As a SOGS Councillor, I'm passionate about supporting student wellbeing and advocacy. In addition to my role as Councillor, I also serve on the Health Plan Committee, where I contribute to discussions around improving and maintaining equitable health coverage for students.

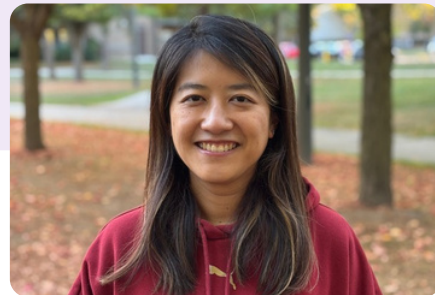
Get in touch:
hwan347@uwo.ca



Antonia Yip

I'm passionate about good governance and making sure things run smoothly (and fairly!). Alongside my role as Councillor, I also serve on the Board of Directors and the Policy and Finance Committees. I was part of the ONCA Financial Compliance Taskforce, and I'm now helping shape the Legal Fees Spending Guidelines.

Get in touch: yyip7@uwo.ca



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Jing Wu

Get in touch: jwu2469@uwo.ca

Yutong Gao

I am a first-year master's student in the CSSAL program. I currently serve as the graduate student representative for Academic Curriculum and Awards (ACA) and as a member of the Research Committee. As a SOGS Councillor, I am committed to advocating for international student experiences and contributing to a collaborative, supportive, and inclusive graduate community. I look forward to working with the team to enhance student engagement and academic wellbeing.

Get in touch: ygao848@uwo.ca



Haiyi Yan

I am a PhD student in the Curriculum Studies & Studies in Applied Linguistics (CSSAL) program. In my academic and professional journey, I have been deeply engaged in issues related to language policy, multilingualism, and the experiences of international students. As a SOGS councillor, I am committed to advocating for graduate students' needs, strengthening communication between departments, and contributing to a supportive and inclusive graduate community. I look forward to working collaboratively with fellow councillors and representing our program with dedication and integrity.

Get in touch: hyan248@uwo.ca



We still have vacant SOGS Councillor positions to represent the EGSA at the Society of Graduate Students. If you are interested in leadership, advocacy, or contributing to graduate student governance, we encourage you to nominate yourself. Your participation can make a meaningful difference in the representation of Education graduate students at the university level.

- Click [here](#) to download the nomination form
- Complete pp. 1-2
- Send your form to egsa@uwo.ca
- Attend monthly Council meetings

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ROBERT MACMILLAN SYMPOSIUM IN EDUCATION (RMSE)

A MESSAGE FROM PASCALE GENDRON, THE RMSE CHAIR

Hi everyone,

My name is Pascale, and I am the Chair of the 2026 RMSE.

Today, I am here to recruit volunteers. By volunteering, you have the opportunity to:

- **Engage in academic service** (one of the critical pillars of a scholar's career).
- **Prepare yourself for future roles in organizing larger conferences**, both nationally and internationally.
- **Expand your knowledge and gain insights** into different research methods and perspectives.
- **Network** with faculty and senior students.
- **Enrich your skill set.**

If you are interested, please fill in the sign-up [form](#) by Friday, November 28.

Thank you!

Pascale Gendron (pgendron@uwo.ca)

WHAT IS RMSE?

RMSE began as a collaborative idea back in the early 2010s when Dr. Robert Macmillan, who was the Associate Dean of Graduate Programs and Research at the time, initiated regular meetings with a small team of graduate students. Dr. Macmillan engaged in discussions with graduate students when the concept of an annual symposium was born.

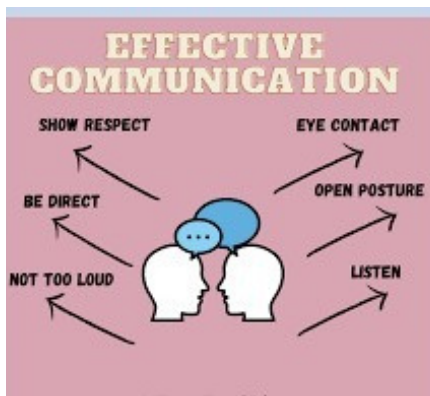
Originally, the RMSE was designed to showcase the research conducted by graduate students within the Faculty of Education. Now, it has expanded to include scholars from all over Canada and beyond, allowing emerging scholars to share their education-related research with the local, national, and international community.

STAY TUNED FOR THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS!

Whether it's your master's thesis, coursework, or any research project, RMSE is a platform for sharing your progress and receiving valuable feedback.



EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION IN PRESENTATIONS



Featuring

*Dr. Albert Malkin, PhD,
BCBA-D, R.B.A. (Ont.)*

Presentation and public speaking skills

**DATE, TIME AND
LOCATION?**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12TH 2025
11:30-12:30PM
IN PERSON IN
EDU-FEB-1010**

REGISTRATION

**LINK: [HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R
/R7T7QKX](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R7T7QKX)**

REGISTER BY NOVEMBER 28TH

REGISTER FAST! ONLY 25 SPOTS AVAILABLE

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UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

END-OF-YEAR HANGOUT (HYBRID/NOV 28, 2025)

As classes wrap up and the term winds down, it's time to relax, recharge, and celebrate the end of another great semester!

Date: Friday, November 28

Time: 4:00-5:30pm

Format: Hybrid; EDU-FEB-1139 (Community Room) & ZOOM

What's happening: Games, good vibes, refreshments, and a chance to win an Amazon gift card!

Come connect with your peers, share some laughs, and enjoy a well-deserved break before the final stretch.

RSVP by Monday, November 24!

We are also looking for a few volunteers, you can indicate your interest in the RSVP.

WRITING RETREAT (ONLINE/DEC 2, 2025)

- Struggling to carve out focused time for writing?
- Hoping to make progress before the end of the term?
- Looking for a supportive, structured space to stay motivated?

If so, we invite you to join EGSA and ICRC for a virtual Writing Retreat! This retreat offers uninterrupted writing time, gentle accountability, and optional one-on-one writing support.

Date: Tuesday, December 2

Time: 10:00am-12:00pm & 2:00pm-4:00pm

Format: Online (Zoom)

Writing Support: Haiyi Yan and Kelly Wang from ICRC will be available for individual consultations in breakout rooms.

Register here by Monday, December 1.

STAY IN TOUCH



egsa@uwo.ca



[EGSA Western University](#)



[Education Graduate Student Association \(EGSA\)](#)



[westernegsa](#)



[westernegsa](#)



[westernegsa](#)

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UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

NAVIGATING GRAD LIFE (JAN–FEB 2026)

Graduate life can be a juggling act: research, teaching, family commitments... we get it!

That's why EGSA is launching a new series of interactive sharing sessions designed to help you thrive during your studies.

Tentative topics include:

1. Work–Study–Life Balance
2. Publishing During Your Grad Studies
3. Funding and Opportunities

We'd love your input!

Is there a topic you'd like to see covered? Let us know. This series is built for grad students!

RESEARCH CAFÉ (WINTER TERM)

Grab a cup of coffee and join us at the EGSA Research Café!

In the winter term, we'll host 3–4 informal sessions where students can:

- Share and discuss their research in a relaxed setting
- Learn about the work happening within and beyond our fields
- Challenge each other's ideas in a supportive environment

We're currently planning the schedule. If you have preferences for which days and times work best, please share your thoughts with EGSA.

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

A big thank-you to everyone who signed up for the EGSA Mentorship Program!

If you registered, check your inbox. A confirmation email has been sent.

Due to the recent resignation of our coordinator, we're taking a short pause on new sign-ups. But don't worry. The program will be back and better in the Winter Term!

We're also looking for a new coordinator to help lead the next round, someone who enjoys organizing in-person or online activities and social events that bring our grad community together.

If that sounds like you, fill in this [form](#) to express your interest. We'd love to have you onboard!

INDIGENOUS RESOURCES

The Office of Indigenous Initiatives has created a guide to answer frequently asked questions about smudging. The following content is extracted from the [brochure](#) to promote understanding across our community.

WHAT IS SMUDGING?

Smudging is a spiritual and cultural practice observed by many Indigenous Peoples, particularly among First Nations and Métis communities. It involves the burning of one or more sacred medicines—commonly tobacco, sweetgrass, sage, and/or cedar. The smoke produced is used for cleansing purposes, such as purifying a person, a space, or a group, and is often part of ceremonies or personal reflection.

CAMPUS PROCEDURES FOR SMUDGING

“Smudge-friendly” locations do not require advance permission to smudge. These designated spaces include:

- Indigenous Student Centre – WSSB 2100
- Indigenous Studies – SSC 3207
- Indigenous Education – FEB 1092
- Indigenous Student Space – HSA 43
- Kresge Prayer Room, KB 7
- Wampum Learning Lodge

If you have more questions about smudging or pipe ceremonies, please contact the Office of [Indigenous Initiatives](#) or speak with a Knowledge Keeper or Elder.

EXTERNAL RESOURCES

The following is [Atlohsa](#)’s weekly programming, shared by our Indigenous Student Representative Cheyenne Richards-Anthony.

MEDICINE WHEEL RECOVERY GROUP

Every Monday, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
343 Richmond Street, Elders’ Lounge
Contact: 226-919-4679

YOUTH DROP-IN

Every Tuesday, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
343 Richmond Street, Elders’ Lounge
Contact: 548-588-1449

MEN’S DRUM GROUP

Every Thursday, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
343 Richmond Street, Elders’ Lounge
Contact: 548-388-9549

CRAFT FRIDAY

Every Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
343 Richmond Street, Elders’ Lounge
Contact: communications@atlohsa.com

BUILDING A STRONG SUPERVISOR–GRADUATE STUDENT PARTNERSHIP

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Entering graduate school is exciting—but it also comes with one key relationship that really matters: the one you build with your supervisor. Whether you're a master's student or heading into PhD territory, your communication habits with your supervisor can make or break the experience. Here are some practical strategies that I've found helpful:

SET EXPECTATIONS EARLY

Right at the start, schedule a meeting (even a brief one) to talk about roles, responsibilities, preferred communication styles, and meeting frequency. Asking questions like : “How often would you like to meet?”, “How do you prefer to receive updates (email/text/in-person)?” helps avoid misunderstandings later.

COMMUNICATE YOUR NEEDS AND CHALLENGES

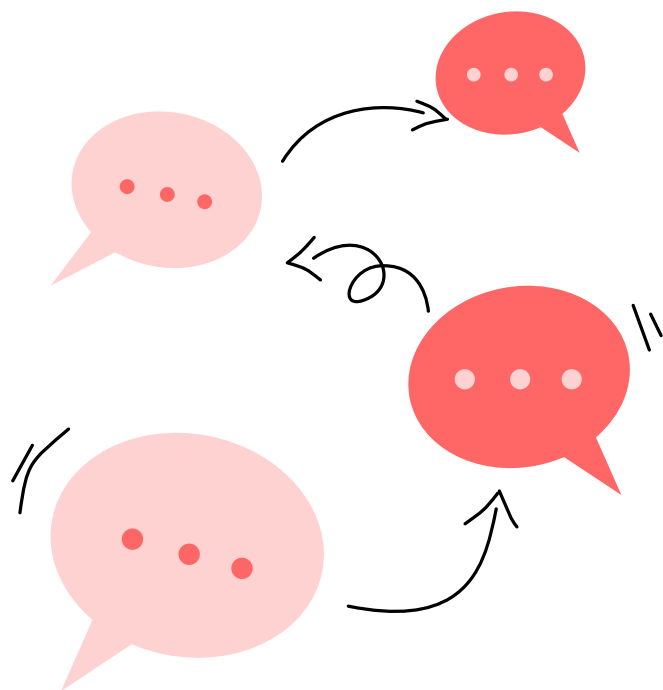
Graduate work isn't smooth all the time. If you're behind schedule, stuck on a method, or juggling life (we know busy lives happen!), let your supervisor know before it becomes a bigger problem. Explaining: “I'm having difficulty meeting the deadline we discussed. Could we re-evaluate and come up with a more manageable schedule?” can clear the air and show you're responsible rather than silent.

ASK QUESTIONS, CLARIFY, AND REFLECT

Don't expect everything to be crystal clear all the time. If your supervisor says something you don't fully understand, it's better to say: “Could you clarify what you mean by ...?” rather than continue in confusion. It strengthens communication, not weakens it.

BUILD TRUST AND PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY

Your supervisor isn't just a “boss” or “advisor” — they're a partner in your professional development. Mutual trust and recognition of the student's broader identity (not just the research project) enhance supervisory relationships. As you grow into your role as a researcher, think about how you can bring your own questions and initiative to meetings—this shows you're stepping into the research role, not just waiting for instructions.



BUILDING A STRONG SUPERVISOR–GRADUATE STUDENT PARTNERSHIP

WHEN THINGS DON'T GO SMOOTHLY

Sometimes miscommunication happens—different expectations, feedback styles, pace, or even cultural/disciplinary differences. If you feel the relationship is stalled:

- Review what you and your supervisor agreed at the start (agenda, frequency, style).
- Ask for a “meta-meeting” to talk about the relationship: “Could we talk about how we work together and how our meetings might be more effective?”
- Reach out for institutional support (e.g., graduate studies coordinator) before it becomes a major problem.

REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

- [Communicating with your supervisor](#) (McGill University)
- [Communication Strategies for International Graduate Students: Surviving and Thriving in Canadian Academia](#) (Western University)
- [Maintaining a positive supervisory relationship](#) (University of Waterloo)
- [Peer Advisor for Academic Matters](#) (SOGS, Western University)

GET INVOLVED & SHARE YOUR VOICE!

We welcome contributions from graduate students for upcoming issues of the newsletter. You are invited to share:

- Academic or personal milestones
- Cultural food recipes
- Exciting news, celebrations, or accomplishments

Your stories help strengthen our community and highlight the diverse experiences within EGSA. Submit your content to egsa@uwo.ca.

Next deadline:

12 December 2025