

JANUARY 27, 2026

# EGSA Newsletter



## WELCOME BACK!

We hope your first month of 2026 has gone well!

In January, EGSA organized several events to support your graduate studies. Thank you to everyone who joined us for the first session of the Navigating Grad Life series, Work-Study-Life Balance, on January 22, and the first Research Café on January 23.

We have the second session of the Navigating Grad Life series coming up, along with more Research Cafés. We've also relaunched the Mentorship Program for Winter and Summer 2026. Read on and mark these opportunities in your calendar!

## Newsletter Highlights

Research Café

Sports Events Survey

Graduate Student on  
Teacher Education  
Design Group

Navigating Grad Life  
(2) Funding and  
Opportunities

Mentorship Program

Indigenous Resources

Writing Commons



## RESEARCH CAFÉ

Looking for a supportive space to talk about your research? Join us at the Research Café, an informal, student-driven gathering where graduate students can share research ideas at any stage—or simply listen and learn from peers.

- ❖ No pressure to present
- ❖ Friendly, peer-to-peer conversation
- ❖ Open to all graduate students

Upcoming sessions:

**Date:** Friday, February 27, 2026

**Time:** 11:00am-12:00pm (ET)

**Format:** Hybrid

**Date:** Friday, March 27, 2026

**Time:** 11:00am-12:00pm (ET)

**Format:** Hybrid

**Month:** April

**Format:** In-person

## UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

### SPORTS EVENTS

EGSA is exploring opportunities to organize sports events to help graduate students connect, have fun, and stay active. We'd love to hear your thoughts and preferences. Complete this [survey](#) to help us plan activities that best suit our community.

### GRADUATE STUDENT ON TEACHER EDUCATION DESIGN GROUP

In January, EGSAs facilitated the selection of a graduate student to serve on the Teacher Education Design Group. After careful deliberation, Martin Wolak has been selected for the position. Congratulations!

## 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 EGSAs. Submit your content to [egsa@uwo.ca](mailto:egsa@uwo.ca).

Next deadlines:

February 17, 2026, March 20, 2026, April 17, 2026

EGSA

# NAVIGATING GRAD LIFE (2)

# FUNDING AND OPPORTUNITIES

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 | 6-7pm (ET) | Online

## Abstract:

In this session, I will share my experience navigating graduate school, funding, and additional opportunities. I will discuss the valuable experiences that I had during my PhD program working as a Graduate Student Assistant and teaching my own sections of a course by accepting a Graduate Student Teaching Assignment. I will also talk about applying for scholarships, awards, and jobs during graduate school. Then, I will focus on conference travel award applications. In addition, I will highlight some opportunities to participate in seasonal schools for professional development.

## Speaker:

**Dr. Renata Matsumoto** holds a PhD in Education in the field of Critical Policy, Equity and Leadership Studies from Western University. Her areas of research include policy, international education, higher education, immigration, and crises. As a sessional lecturer, she taught a course in the Teacher Education Program of the Faculty of Education at Western University in the Fall 2025 term. During her PhD program, she was a course instructor in the Winter 2024 term and Winter 2025 term and taught her own sections of a course in the Teacher Education Program of the Faculty of Education at Western University. In the 2011-2012 academic year, she was awarded a Fulbright grant to teach Brazilian Portuguese language and Brazilian culture as a Foreign Language Teaching Assistant at Arizona State University. As a research assistant, she has collaborated on multiple research projects with Dr. Melody Viczko since 2021, including a current research study on global migration and climate crises. In addition to her role as research assistant, she is currently working as a temporary ESL instructor at the Thames Valley District School Board.



[CLICK HERE OR](#)  
**SCAN THE QR CODE**  
**TO REGISTER**



# MENTORSHIP MATTERS: YOUR PATH TO GROWTH STARTS HERE

*Empowering connections and fostering growth for everyone*



Hello! I'm Shlair Alqais, your Mentorship Program Coordinator and a first-year MPEd student in Educational Leadership. My goal is to create a supportive environment where graduate students can share experiences, gain guidance, and build lasting connections.



## Three quick tips to get the most from mentoring:

- ✓ Set clear expectations — agree on goals and communication styles early.
- ⌚ Stay consistent — regular check-ins build trust and momentum.
- 🌐 Leverage resources — tap into EGSA events and networks for added support

EGSA Mentorship Program – January to August 2026

**Ready to join?** Sign up as a mentor or mentee by scanning the QR code or via this [registration link](#).

Note: Sign-ups are accepted on a rolling basis, with mentor-mentee matching conducted monthly. Students who signed up in Fall 2025 do not need to register again. Once a suitable mentor/mentee match is identified, we will reach out with the next steps.



Questions? Interested in getting involved as a mentor or mentee?

Contact: **Shlair Alqais**, Mentorship Program Coordinator [salqais@uwo.ca](mailto:salqais@uwo.ca)

## STAY IN TOUCH

 [egsa@uwo.ca](mailto:egsa@uwo.ca)

 [EGSA Western University](#)

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

 [westernegsa](#)

 [westernegsa](#)

 [westernegsa](#)

# INDIGENOUS RESOURCES

## EXTERNAL RESOURCES

Here are some upcoming Indigenous events at [Atlohsa Family Healing Services](#), shared by our Indigenous Student Representative Cheyenne Richards-Anthony.

### ATLOHSA'S MEN'S DRUM GROUP

Our gatherings celebrate our identities as Indigenous people, honour our ancestors, and strengthen our community through the power of song. Join us!

- 📅 Every Thursday from 5:00 p.m. up to 8:00 p.m. (staying the entire time is not required)
- 📍 Location changed to Wiigwaaminaan Lodge (550 Wellington Road, Building/Zone J)
- ℹ️ Light refreshments provided. No need to register; just come ready to share and learn songs.

### MEDICINE WHEEL

This is a safe and supportive space to heal from and discuss addictions and recovery.

What to expect:

- ✓ Sharing Circles
  - ✓ Music
  - ✓ Smudging
- 📅 Every Monday from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
  - 📍 Atlohsa's Head Office - Elders' Lounge  
343 Richmond Street (London, Ontario)
  - Questions? Contact Stacey at:  
[spuyenbroek@atlohsa.com](mailto:spuyenbroek@atlohsa.com)  
226-919-4679

### ATLOHSA CRAFT FRIDAY

What to expect:

- ✓ Crafting
- ✓ Music
- ✓ Socializing with community
- ✓ Food / refreshments

📅 Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

📍 Atlohsa's Head Office - Elders' Lounge  
343 Richmond Street (London, Ontario)  
Questions? Send us a message or email [communications@atlohsa.com](mailto:communications@atlohsa.com)!

## CULTURE NIGHTS AT THE WAMPUM LEARNING LODGE

[https://wampumlearninglodge.uwo.ca/programs\\_and\\_events/culturenight.html](https://wampumlearninglodge.uwo.ca/programs_and_events/culturenight.html)

Bi-weekly on Wednesday evenings, the Wampum Learning Lodge opens our doors to bring both our Western and local communities together for three different cultural programs for crafting, fitness, and drumming!

These events are open to students as well as any local community members who wish to attend, not only those currently affiliated with Western University. See full program descriptions and dates below. Please note that the Craft Circle and Drum Practice are designated spaces for Indigenous people, while the Fitness Class is open to everyone to engage with.

# Culture Nights

## at the Wampum Learning Lodge



### Winter Semester Dates

January 21  
February 4

February 18  
March 4

March 18  
April 1

April 15  
April 29

**Dinner included for attendees!**

### Indigenous Community Crafting Circle

4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

**Audience:** Indigenous Students and Indigenous community members

The Indigenous Community Crafting Circle invites all interested Indigenous artists, creators, and learners to visit & create together in a community setting. Bring your current project or start something new with the art supplies we provide at the WLL.



### Pow Wow Fitness Class

6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

**Audience:** Everyone (Indigenous & non-Indigenous)

Hosted by Lisa Hill from Moccasin Flow, we move our bodies and spirits, marching to the beat of the Big Drum, incorporating steps and Zumba moves to get the energy flowing!

This fitness class is open to ALL, so bring your friends!

### Young Men's Pow Wow Singing Practice

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

**Audience:** Young Indigenous men (Students and Community Members)

Hosted by Ray Deleary, this program is for young Indigenous men interested in learning how to sing and drum competition pow wow style with a focus on developing technical skills. Participants will be guided on proper form, drum beat, rhythm, vocal range, tone, technical components of a song and learning song types and purposes.

No experience is necessary!

**Please contact us with any questions:** [wampumlearninglodge@uwo.ca](mailto:wampumlearninglodge@uwo.ca)





# Need help with...

Interpreting  
feedback?

Understanding  
genres?

Generating and  
organizing ideas?

Developing  
papers?

Then book an appointment with

# Writing Commons!

It's a space where graduate students in education can receive free writing support from PhD students.

## How to book an appointment:

Email Haiyi Yan at [hyan248@uwo.ca](mailto:hyan248@uwo.ca) or Kelly Wang at [ewang54@uwo.ca](mailto:ewang54@uwo.ca) to book a 25 or 50-minute appointment.

Office hours are as follows until Fri. Apr. 17th, 2026:

- Mondays: 2pm-4pm with Kelly
- Tuesdays: 10am-12pm & 2-4pm with Haiyi
- Wednesdays: 2pm-4pm with Kelly

Please schedule your appointment at least 48 hours in advance.

Writing Commons is a program run by the Interdisciplinary Centre for Research in Curriculum (ICRC).



Western

Interdisciplinary Centre for Research  
in Curriculum as a Social Practice

