2022-23
Western University
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
London Poverty Research Centre
Addressing the root causes of poverty in London, Ontario, the London Poverty Research Centre works towards ending poverty in our community. The centre approaches poverty reduction by focusing on three steps: research, knowledge mobilization, and community action. Working alongside the centre, faculty and students learn more about local and broader poverty reduction initiatives.

Purple Hands
Purple Hands is a homeless advocacy organization run by students at Western University. They organize annual events to reach out to the homeless, distribute items, or collect food to donate to food banks. These events include Purple Hands Winter Outreach, World Homeless Action Day, and Halloween For Hunger.

Purple Hands has offered 2400+ items including hygiene products, food, and clothing.

Western United Way Campaign
Western’s United Way Campaign aims to strengthen communities through donations and volunteerism. Western University contributed $614,016 from its 2023 campaign in support of United Way Elgin Middlesex, which funds more than 110,000 local people who use the +50 United Way funded services and programs in our community.

Community Legal Services
Operated by the Faculty of Law at Western University, Community Legal Services provides free legal services to low-income people in the community. The clinic is among the most progressive legal clinics in Canada and a leader in the cause of access to justice.
Tuition shouldn’t be a barrier to your success.”
-Marisa Modeski, Registrar

Western University is offering postsecondary education to five former foster kids through the Youth in Extended Society Care program. The support includes covering full tuition costs, ancillary fees, as well as books and supplies. This financial support is meant to recognize the unique circumstances and needs of youth in the Extended Care Society who enroll in postsecondary studies at our institution.

Western is introducing a $400,000 financial support program for undergraduate international students in 2023-24.

Western’s bursary program supports undergraduate and graduate students with an allocation of $2 million in the coming year.

Teaching

Ivey’s 39 Country Initiative

The 39 Country Initiative is housed in the International Business Institute at the Ivey Business School, which has helped the world’s most under-resourced countries advance their management education by decades. The initiative aims to provide current, relevant teaching materials and pedagogical skills development to higher educators in these countries, with the goal of improving the quality of education.

Operations

Bursaries and Work Study

Western University has multiple bursaries, two of which are as follows: The Bursary Program aids students from low-income families in overcoming financial barriers and food insecurity, enabling them to achieve academic success at the university. The program considers various costs such as tuition, auxiliary fees, housing, rent, food, books, and equipment.

The Work Study program offers part-time on-campus jobs to students, providing them with training and experience that will assist them in further studies and their eventual entrance into the workforce. The program also offers support to faculty and staff.

Youth in Extended Society Care Program

Western University is offering postsecondary education to five former foster kids through the Youth in Extended Society Care program. The support includes covering full tuition costs, ancillary fees, as well as books and supplies. This financial support is meant to recognize the unique circumstances and needs of youth in the Extended Care Society who enroll in postsecondary studies at our institution.

Anti-Poverty Education Course

Master of Professional Education at Western University provides Anti-Poverty Education Course. This course provides insights into poverty’s profound influence on education access and achievement while addressing broader social class and economic inequality topics. It offers a framework to comprehend class privilege and inequality, impacting teaching and learning. Students will engage with organizations aiding economically disadvantaged groups and explore partnerships with community initiatives combating poverty.
End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

Research

Sustainable Aquaculture
Dr. Bryan Neff and his lab in the Biology Department are researching best practices for ethical and sustainable aquaculture by using advanced genetic techniques. Neff’s research on breeding fish with greater growth efficiency reduces feeding costs by up to 25%. Alongside genetic research, the Neff lab is researching sustainable diets for aquaculture with the goal of replacing fish meals while maintaining high levels of omega fatty acids in the farmed salmons’ diets, benefiting consumers and ultimately the health of our oceans.

Regenerative Agriculture
Towards a Climate-Smart Food System is led by Dr. Jury Gualandris of Ivey. This program is exploring how Canada can more widely adopt regenerative agriculture. Through collaboration with various stakeholders, including the City of Guelph’s Smart Cities Office and Scotiabank, the project aims to identify key principles and practices that will enable the broader adoption of regenerative agriculture. The first workshop is scheduled for February 2023, with a pilot testing of initial outcomes later in the same year.

Outreach

Community Garden
The community garden was built by Western’s Sustainability Office, Society of Graduate Students, and EnviroUSC to engage in sustainable gardening practices. The garden includes 38 raised-bed concrete planters for growing food crops, 21 perimeter planters with native plants for biodiversity, and a central in-ground pollinator garden tended by faculty and students for the Campus as a Living Lab program.

Student Food Drive
A group of Western University students living on Broughdale Avenue organized a month-long food drive to address hunger in London. This was their second year organizing this event, as the first year was a success. They collected over 1,400 non-perishable food items for the Salvation Army. They said their goal is “to really make it much larger by the time we graduate to continue on long after we’re gone at Western.”

Farmers’ Market
Hospitality Services at Western has been hosting a weekly Farmers’ Market since 2014 as a symbol of true food celebration where Western’s community is encouraged to connect with local farmers. Students, faculty, and staff at Western can purchase the region’s finest farm-fresh produce and locally made goodies like honey, jams, and baked goods.
Hospitality Services works with MealCare, Food Support Services, and Ark Aid Mission to improve food recovery processes.

Food Support Services
Food Support Services is a USC student service dedicated to reducing food insecurity among students, staff, and community members. The service provides education and awareness of issues such as food insecurity, hunger, and poverty in both local and global settings. Support includes an anonymous food hamper, where students can fill out a request form and receive a grocery bag, as well as a walk-in food bank available during operating hours.
Researchers Discover a Novel Method to Diagnose Long COVID
Published in *Molecular Medicine*, researchers at Lawson Health Research Institute—Western University have found that patients with post–COVID-19 conditions (long COVID) have unique biomarkers in their blood. The team is working on developing a first-of-its-kind blood test that could be used to diagnose long COVID. The discovery could also lead to new therapeutics for this condition.

New 3D Ultrasound May Improve the Accuracy of Liver Cancer Treatment
Researchers at Western University and Lawson Health Research Institute conducted a simulated study and discovered a novel system that utilizes ultrasound to create 3D images. This system has the potential to enhance the accuracy of liver cancer treatment through thermal ablation. The method shows promise in determining whether the entire liver tumor can be effectively ablated by the procedure.

Indigenous Planetary Health
Nicole Redvers from Western’s Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry leads transdisciplinary research into climate change and health, with a specific focus on Indigenous medical knowledge. Her holistic approach addresses the impact of human disruptions on our ecosystem and the resulting effects on all life on Earth.

Canadian Centre for Activity and Aging
The CCAA is a unique national research and education centre within the Faculty of Health Sciences at Western promoting physical activity and well-being for older adults. Its education and leadership training programs instruct thousands of individuals across Canada through exercise classes, conferences, certifications, and more to enhance the functional fitness of older adults at every level of mobility.

Peer Support Centre
The Peer Support Centre is a USC student-led initiative that aims to provide non-judgmental, non-professional, confidential support from trained peers. Through fostering openness and understanding, the centre can provide a listening ear, resources of all kinds, or any wellness-related needs. All volunteers are trained by mental health professionals in the model of peer-based support.

Wellness Rewards Program
Western employees can earn points and win prizes by participating in Living Well @ Western’s internal Wellness Rewards Program, which is aligned with Western’s “Keep it On Campus” philosophy. The goal of the program is to lead healthier lifestyles and improve employee well-being.
Global Health Systems
The Global Health Systems program is a one-year professional master’s degree focusing on international health, particularly in marginalized populations. Students have the opportunity to discuss solutions to issues in low- or middle-income countries while gaining the knowledge and skills to become leaders in this growing and dynamic field.

Community Service Learning Program
The Community Service Learning program offers undergraduate dental students opportunities for community service and engagement through placements in local clinics and community sites in Southwestern Ontario. It aims to provide person-centred and trauma-informed care to equity-seeking community members, addressing their unmet oral health treatment needs.

Master of Public Health Program
The Master of Public Health Program is a 12-month, case-based program. During the program, students learn from faculty from a wide variety of disciplines, participate in seminars and workshops, experience a 12-week practicum in Canada or around the world, and develop the skills needed to become a public health leader.

Operations
Wellness Support
Health & Wellness offers free professional and confidential services to students seeking support in achieving their personal, social, and academic goals. Services provided include consultation, referral, groups, workshops, and brief, change-oriented psychotherapy.

The new home of Western Health and Wellness, Thames Hall, consolidates all services under one roof as part of a $20-million renovation project driven by Western’s Student Mental Health and Wellness Strategic Plan. This move aims to enhance student well-being by providing a holistic, responsive care model with a single intake point for medical care, counselling services, and wellness and equity education.

Wellness Hub
The Wellness Hub, in collaboration with the Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences, is working to improve mental health support for students. The Hub is a unique mental health and well-being learning center where people with lived mental health experiences come together to co-create, co-deliver, and discuss courses on topics that support mental health.
Research

Sustainability Research and Thesis
Western researchers have been involved in over 1,211 research projects that align with the UN SDGs in recent years. There have been 381 Masters- and PhD-level theses produced at Western which relate to the UN SDGs.

Western Research Scholars Academy
Western University launched the Western Research Scholars Academy, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at fostering interdisciplinary collaboration among scholars. The program offers a unique platform for researchers to address complex global challenges through innovative and integrated approaches. By promoting cross-disciplinary engagement, the academy seeks to empower scholars to make significant advancements in their respective fields and drive positive change in society.

Trans-Affirmative Education
Wayne Martino is leading efforts to promote trans-affirmative education at Western University, focusing on creating an inclusive and supportive environment for transgender students. Martino’s research centers on trans-affirmative education, aiming to understand and address the unique challenges faced by transgender students in the educational system. His work delves into ways to create inclusive curricula and supportive environments that foster the well-being and academic success of transgender individuals.

Outreach

Indigenous Food and Medicine Garden
The Wampum Learning Lodge is home to a very special garden focused on the respectful integration of Indigenous Peoples and their Knowledge. The garden promotes Indigenous presence and knowledge exchange while increasing the availability of organic and sustainable food for Indigenous community members. Although this garden is not necessarily open to the public, it is accessible to Indigenous community members who may need access to sacred medicines.

Western Serves Network
The Western Serves Network aims to connect community organizations in the London area with the support they need. Western students are connected to the broader London community and non-profit organizations that work to tackle ongoing social issues. The Network provides the Western campus with a means to strengthen relationships with its community and to produce graduates who are productive and engaged citizens.

Western Continuing Studies
Western Continuing Studies provides opportunities for everyone to keep learning at Western University. From recent graduates, job seekers, and corporate clients, there is an array of choices for lifelong learning from a variety of programs, courses, and professional certificates.

Professional Development
Western is committed to building culture and community by bringing staff and leaders across the university together for engaging professional development opportunities. Staff and Leader Learning Days and annual conference days promote learning and growth for all.

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
Teaching

Faculty of Education

The Faculty of Education at Western University is a distinguished institution dedicated to excellence in teaching, research, and community engagement. It offers a comprehensive range of undergraduate and graduate programs aimed at preparing future educators, administrators, and researchers. With a commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive learning environment, the faculty collaborates with educational organizations, contributing to the advancement of education both locally and globally.

Centre for Teaching and Learning

The CLT is the teaching hub of the university to support the university’s teaching and learning mission by providing orientation, training, mentorship, research, and innovation opportunities for instructors at Western. The centre is recognized nationally and internationally for its research-based practice; comprehensive teaching assistant and international graduate student programs; extended teaching certificate programs; and as the home of The Canadian Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.

Operations

Western Libraries

With more than 12 million items—both in print and online—Western Libraries houses one of the largest collections in North America. The general public is welcome to visit Western Libraries and make use of most collections.

Western Green Awards

The Western Green Awards were established to recognize and promote sustainability efforts at Western by honoring individuals or teams making positive contributions to the environment. Anyone within the Western community can nominate deserving candidates, including students, staff, and faculty members, who have demonstrated environmentally friendly efforts or campaigns.

Student Awards and Scholarships

Western has 1,879 student awards, as well as internal scholarships, external scholarships and awards, academic merit scholarships, needs-based awards, and employee group scholarships.
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Research

Gender-Based Violence
Dr. Nadine Wathen’s interdisciplinary research examines how gender-based violence affects health and well-being. She addresses gender-based violence at multiple levels and works closely with shelters, health clinics, emergency services, and schools to support trauma and violence-informed and equity-oriented practices and policies.

Buildings throughout London, including University College, were lit up purple for the month of November as part of the London Abused Women’s Centre campaign to bring awareness to the issue of men’s violence against women. Western established a new Gender-Based & Sexual Violence Action Committee to study student safety and sexual violence on campus and make recommendations for changing the culture at Western.

Sexuality and Gender Research Group
The Sexuality and Gender Research Group brings together researchers from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities with scholars in other disciplines to discuss questions of sexuality and gender. Every year, the group hosts several academic talks as well as Queer Research Day every April, a full-day event involving both papers and poster presentations.

Outreach

Gender Equality Network
As part of a program promoting inclusivity, the Gender Equality Network at Western aims to educate about issues of gender equality and diversity through conferences, invited speaker series, and collaborative initiatives with other on-campus groups and community partners.

Empower Club
Students at Empower Club work to remove barriers facing underprivileged women in the London community, such as women who have experienced abuse, single mothers, and women experiencing homelessness.

Girls in Engineering
Go ENG Girl and Go CODE Girl are some of the community outreach programs offered by Western Engineering that provide interactive and exciting opportunities for girls in grades 7-11 to be introduced to engineering, coding, and related STEM fields. Girls learn about the world of engineering from female professionals, academics, and students.
Linamar Scholarship
The Linamar Scholarships at Western will support up to 10 female students in the dual degree program in Engineering and Business (BESc/HBA). The scholarship includes half of the tuition for all years of the dual degree program, summer co-op, and guaranteed employment.

Student Programs
The Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies is a dynamic and interdisciplinary department that focuses on issues of social justice and equality. The department offers a variety of degree modules and promotes feminist scholarship through provision for resident scholars, a Distinguished Speakers Series, faculty colloquia, annual conferences, and publications.

Trans Care Team
Recognizing the unique needs of gender-diverse students, the Trans Care Team comprises a group of clinicians who work together to provide specialized psychological counselling and medical care to students in an LGBTQIA2S+ affirmative environment. Clinicians received training from Rainbow Health Ontario and can offer one-on-one and group counselling.

Free the dot.
Free the dot is USC’s menstrual program at Western University, providing free, high-quality menstrual products for all students, including female, non-binary, and transgender individuals, through accessible vending machines and pick-up locations. The program also offers other sexual and reproductive health products, aiming for inclusivity and sustainability through continuous growth and community collaboration.

Childcare Facilities
Western offers access to an onsite childcare centre, the University Childcare Centre. The childcare program is licensed and monitored by the Ministry of Education under the Day Nurseries Act. In addition, the Society of Graduate Students at Western offers a childcare subsidy to offset the cost of childcare services for graduate students.

Parental Leave
Birth mothers and all other new parents are entitled to more than one year of Parental Leave, with paid benefits depending on eligibility. Western also provides Supplemental Employment Insurance Benefits. This paid benefit is designed to provide eligible faculty and staff members with additional funds.
WesternWater Centre
Launched in 2020, WesternWater Centre is an Engineering-based group researching real-life solutions for the management and treatment of water supplies. The centre addresses water issues, including recovering energy, phosphorus, organics and derivatives from wastewater, plastics removal, and recycling of industrial wastewater.

Research for Subsurface Transport and Remediation
RESTORE conducts innovative research aimed at addressing the sustainable management of our water resources through the development of engineering technologies in addition to enhancing understanding of natural hydrogeologic systems. Key research areas include soil and groundwater contamination and remediation, surface-groundwater interactions, and green roof technology.

Water Treatment by Freezing
In a partnership between Western Engineering and Core Geoscience Services Inc., research in water treatment through freezing has been expanded. This collaboration aims to develop innovative solutions for treating water using freezing technology, potentially offering more efficient and sustainable methods for purifying water resources. By harnessing the power of freezing, this initiative seeks to address pressing global water challenges and improve access to clean water.

Outreach
Riverfest
In 2022, Sustainability at Western organized the first Riverfest to celebrate Western’s natural heritage, the Deshkan Ziibi (Thames River), through a series of events from September 6-27, including ribbon tying, campus cleanup, yoga along the river, and wellness walk. This event aims to reconnect students, staff, and faculty to the river as part of Western’s Open Space Strategy, introducing them to the trails and natural features on campus.

World Water Day
Western celebrates International World Water Day with a different topic each year, where past years’ events focused on Water and Food Security, as well as Water Cooperation. Informative booths and panel discussions are held on campus by some of Western’s leading water researchers.

WaterAid
WaterAid Western aims to fundraise and bring awareness to making clean drinking water, reliable toilets, and good hygiene accessible to everyone. Having previously won Student Chapter of the Year in Ontario, Western Water Chapter also gives students the opportunity to explore the water industry.
Teaching

Study Programs

The Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering offers courses in drinking water treatment at both undergraduate and graduate levels. Students can explore specialized courses, including water resources management, wastewater treatment, hydrology, and groundwater modelling.

- Environmental Impact Assessment for Water Resources Projects explores the environmental impact assessment process in water resources engineering and emphasizes designing projects that safeguard water resources and the environment while considering interdisciplinary aspects.
- Groundwater Flow and Contaminant Transport course explores groundwater flow, contamination sources, and cleanup methods, utilizing analytical and numerical models to enhance the comprehension and application of related concepts.

Operations

Rain Infiltration Garden

The Rain Infiltration Garden, located by the Physics and Astronomy Building, is Western’s first naturalized rain garden, featuring low-maintenance native plants that help rainwater infiltrate into the ground, rather than flow as stormwater runoff into the sewer system. The garden also promotes biodiversity with native plants and enhances the pedestrian experience with seating, allowing people to enjoy the garden and the visiting wildlife.

Plastic Bottled Water

Starting January 2024, Western will cease selling plastic bottled water on campus, replacing it with over 200 free water bottle filling stations. Although plastic bottles are not prohibited, they will not be available at university functions, vending machines, or on-campus eateries. This move aligns with UN SDGs, aiming to provide accessible water while promoting sustainability through reduced plastic consumption and energy-efficient choices.

London Wastewater Facility

Located at London’s Greenway Pollution Control Plant, the London Wastewater Facility is a partnership between Western University and the City of London. The unique facility provides unprecedented access to real-time municipal wastewater and a variety of process streams for full-scale testing and demonstration of new wastewater treatment technologies.
**Research**

**Farm Solar Panels**

Western University and Ivey Business School are collaborating on interdisciplinary research to address complex challenges such as climate change through renewable energy. They aim to advance technology like agrivoltaics, which involves using solar panels on farms to increase crop yields, conserve water, and generate electricity, potentially providing additional revenue streams for farmers. While regulatory obstacles currently hinder widespread adoption in Canada, the research focuses on optimizing solar panel designs and placements to maximize benefits for farmers and the environment, aiming to contribute to sustainable electricity generation in the future.

**Innovation Helps Solar Power Work at Night**

Researchers from Western University made significant strides in making solar farms more effective during the night. By developing a novel system that stores solar energy as heat in large tanks of molten salt, the researchers achieved a breakthrough in addressing the challenge of nighttime energy generation. This innovative approach has the potential to revolutionize the renewable energy landscape, providing a sustainable solution for 24/7 clean energy production.

Western is committed to a 45% reduction of emissions on campus by 2030, and then, achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

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**Outreach**

**Green Campus Tours**

Green Campus Tours are a great way to get an in-depth look at what makes Western’s LEED-certified green buildings sustainable. Tours are open to campus community members as well as the general public. During the tours, discussions of sustainability and environmental initiatives are encouraged. All major renovations and new buildings on campus must also result in green buildings.

**Student Energy at Western University**

Student Energy at Western University (SEWU) is a chapter of a global not-for-profit organization, focused on education, advocacy and participation in the transition towards a sustainable energy future by engaging and empowering students. At Western, SEWU has hosted a model energy policy negotiation and climate simulation, a movie night on fusion energy featuring a Q&A with leading international researchers, and Western’s first pitch competition for solutions to help the university achieve carbon neutrality.

“*We aim to empower and support youth to responsibly engage, manage and transform our global energy systems by providing the knowledge, opportunities and resources for tangible impact.*”

—SEWU
Teaching

Master of Environment and Sustainability
The undergraduate programs in Environmental Science at Western University expose students to environmental issues ranging from biodiversity loss, energy, and renewable resources to natural disasters and sustainable business practices. Students can also pursue their Master’s in Environment and Sustainability Program. Students from other disciplines also explore energy and its various forms of existence in various courses, such as the “Conventional, Renewable and Nuclear Energy” course from the Faculty of Engineering, which allows students to discuss general energy and environmental issues facing our society.

Sunstang Solar Car Project
Sunstang is a solar car project that involves students of all disciplines and faculties and challenges students to incorporate the typical mechanical aspects of a car with customized electrical systems and solar panels to create a futuristic, eco-friendly, and competitive vehicle that can be raced at worldwide solar challenges. Every component of the Sunstang car is designed, prototyped, and assembled by Western members.

Operations

Sustainable Buildings
The Deep Energy Retrofit Program (DERP) is a campus-wide initiative aimed at renovating older buildings at Western University to enhance their energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions. Through various measures such as decommissioning obsolete systems, adopting right-sized equipment, transitioning from natural gas to electric heat pumps, and utilizing waste heat for heating purposes, DERP aims to significantly lower energy consumption and improve emissions performance. Western is set to open its first carbon-neutral building in the fall of 2023—the Ronald D. Schmeichel Building for Entrepreneurship and Innovation design incorporates sustainable practices and technologies to achieve carbon neutrality, aiming to offset its carbon emissions entirely.

Energy Conservation on Campus
Facilities Management at Western University broadens the approach to mitigating consumption during peak energy demand days throughout the summer by dialling back the air when the provincial drain on energy reaches its peak. This led to electricity savings of roughly $2 million for each of the last few years.

On average, DERP projects result in a 60%-80% reduction in emissions per building.
Our contemporary times call for people who can adapt to uncertain and rapid changes through strong analytical thinking, sensitivity to diverse people and cultures, and techniques and methods to develop evidence-based decisions to prepare you in both your professional and personal lives.”

--Nicholas Harney, Dean, Faculty of Social Science

Research

Centre for Human Capital and Productivity
Researchers at Western’s Centre for Human Capital and Productivity (CHCP) study a wide range of issues related to human capital and productivity. The CHCP Working Paper, “Four Decades of Canadian Earnings Inequality and Dynamics across Workers and Firms,” examines the evolution of individual earnings, inequality, and dynamics in Canada. The paper collected statistics on earnings inequality, volatility, and mobility from 1983 to 2016 for Canadian tax filers. CHCP researchers have also played an important role in the design of three major surveys in Canada, the US, and China.

Outreach

Social Science Career Apprenticeship
Western’s Faculty of Social Science presents the SSCA program, a collaboration with the London Economic Development Corporation. This initiative links graduating Social Science students with job openings in the London region, featuring roles like social media marketing, administration, and community outreach with prominent organizations. Participants can access exclusive full-time roles, acquire paid work experience, enjoy mentorship from alumni, and kickstart their careers immediately after graduation.

Non-native Accents and Different Employment Impacts
Researchers from Western University explored the employment impacts of non-native accents on men and women. The journal article was recently published in the Psychology of Women Quarterly. The findings showed that women with non-native accents encountered more significant barriers when seeking employment, suggesting potential gender-based disparities in the impact of linguistic diversity.

Western Accelerator
The Western Accelerator is an immersive four-month program in entrepreneurship for new high-potential ventures. This program aims to cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset in students, providing resources to foster enterprising careers. Additionally, by supporting our alumni founders at every stage of their entrepreneurial journey, our community contributes to the growth of the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

CommunityShift™
Founded by KPMG Enterprise and Ivey Business School, CommunityShift™ offers deep experiential learning and networking for C-level leaders of Canadian charities and not-for-profit organizations. CommunityShift™ is a rigorous 6 half-day program for 35 of Canada’s not-for-profit leaders. Top faculty and outstanding guest speakers will challenge participants to share experiences, learn from each other, and apply the learning back to their own organization.
Teaching

Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children
CREVAWC at Western University is providing domestic violence training for federally regulated employers and their employees. In partnership with the Canadian Labour Congress and the Federally Regulated Employers, a website, www.DVatwork.ca, has been created to provide tools, training and resources to address the impacts of domestic violence in the workplace.

Interdisciplinary Approach to Management
The DAN Department of Management & Organizational Studies at Western provides a unique interdisciplinary approach to the study of management, emphasizing the social science and evidence-based foundations of management education. The undergraduate program is one of the first to provide an evidence-based approach to the study of management, where students explore courses such as Equality in the Workplace and Professionalism & Ethics.

Operations

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Decolonization
The Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Decolonization (EDID) Central Working Group advises AVP-EDI and shares equitable practices across Western’s departments, faculties, and student groups to advance anti-racism and accountability. Their objectives include sharing EDID information, reviewing ongoing anti-oppression efforts, evaluating best practices, facilitating campus engagement, and making recommendations for broader Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Indigeneity initiatives to enhance diversity, accessibility, and inclusion within the University community. The group also oversees subgroups and collaborates with experts and individuals with lived experiences as needed.

Employee Assistance Program
The Telus Health Employee Assistance Program (EAP) at Western University is a confidential and voluntary support service for employees and their immediate family members. It offers professional counselling, resources, and guidance to help address personal and work-related challenges. The EAP aims to promote well-being, productivity, and a positive work environment for university staff and their families.

Faculty and Staff Experience Survey
The Western Faculty and Staff Experience survey aims to make Western a great place to work by gathering feedback from faculty and staff to identify areas of improvement, encourage dialogue and action planning, and measure progress towards the university’s goals.
Research

3D-Printed Robotic Walker
Western University has developed an open-source robotic walker aimed at assisting people with mobility impairments. This innovative walker utilizes 3D printing and affordable components to make it accessible to a wider population. The open-source nature of the project allows for customization and improvements by individuals and researchers, potentially leading to more advanced assistive devices in the future.

Drones and Data Collection
The Western Information and Networking Group (WING) research lab is using drones for data collection in diverse fields, including exploring hazardous environments, conducting infrastructure inspections and long-distance delivery, and improving smart home security. WING emphasizes the importance of addressing safety, security, and privacy aspects for a sustainable drone future.

Outreach

WORLDiscoveries
Born out of a partnership between Western University, Robarts Research Institute, and Lawson Health Research Institute, WORLDiscoveries draws upon a mix of industry connections, sector-specific market knowledge, and business development expertise, to help researchers and local inventors commercialize their discoveries through licensing and new company spin-offs. WORLDiscoveries operates as a department of Western University and works with collaborators—locally and internationally—who are committed to the timely transfer of innovative research products and services to the community for the benefit of all.

Driving Sustainability Innovation
Western’s Ideas for Sustainability & the Environment competition was established to foster innovative and high-impact ideas that reduce or eliminate today’s most pressing environmental concerns. The competition allows Western students to generate ideas around the topic of sustainability, focusing on the three pillars of people, planet, and profit. These ideas will potentially enhance Western’s sustainability practices.
Teaching

Civil and Environmental Engineering

Civil and Environmental Engineering students can specialize in International Development with Structural or Environmental Engineering where they are introduced to the complex societal, environmental, political, and economic issues associated with building safer communities in Canada and in the developing world. The program also includes the Summer Community Development Placement and Design Project where students have an opportunity to work for four months in developing countries or in-need communities in Canada.

Innovation Courses

Western Continuing Studies provides innovation courses to give leaders the skills they need to pave the way for their organizations’ success. There are also bundled online courses to make learning more convenient. A certificate can also be obtained at the end of the course.

“Foster a culture of innovation and risk-taking. Don’t be afraid to embrace creative, outside-of-the-box solutions.”

—Towards Western at 150

Operations

Efficiency Upgrades

Western has implemented several efficiency upgrades on campus that have reduced energy consumption. These include:

- Western’s Sustainable Design Guidelines, which will help ensure that any major or minor site construction and renovation projects target efficient energy and water systems.
- Western has developed and delivered a variety of training and educational programs for students, staff, and faculty, oriented towards energy conservation.
- Improving weatherproofing in older buildings, with a key focus on entrances and exits to reduce the amount of cooling and heating needed to maintain the thermal comfort of building occupants.

Renewable Energy

Western uses solar power generation through its investments in LEED-certified buildings and solar-powered LED lamps on campus. The Amit Chakma Engineering Building is a great example, as the building boasts an impressive solar array that offsets much of the building’s energy needs.

$97 M

has been committed to sustainable investing strategies

Western has committed 10% of the fund in sustainable investing strategies by 2025.
Reduce inequality within and among countries

Research

Collaboration to Tackle Global Health Equity Challenges
The Health Equity Interdisciplinary Development Initiative (HEIDI) is a three-year project at Western’s Centre for Research on Health Equity and Social Inclusion, collaborating with Rwanda’s University of Global Health Equity and the Rwanda Psychological Society. HEIDI conducts interdisciplinary research to address complex health equity problems, focusing on health disparities, trauma and mental health, violence-informed care, global health equity, social determinants of health, and community-based research.

Advancing Social Science Research on Social Inequality
Western’s Centre for Research on Social Inequality (CRSI), placed within the Faculty of Social Science, promotes and supports innovative social science research on social inequality. The primary objectives of CRSI are to promote and support multidisciplinary research through collaboration on research projects and grants; disseminate findings to academics, policy makers, and the general public; and provide mentoring and training to undergraduate and graduate students interested in social inequality.

Outreach

International Week
Held every year, International Week is an event focused on an inclusive, globally aware campus, with the goal of celebrating Western’s international community, diversity, and international collaborations. Events throughout the week engage students, faculty, and staff in discussion and debate about international issues, and encourage learning about international education, intercultural skills, and cultural traditions and activities. Past events held include a Cultural Cooking Competition, “Why Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Matters at Western” keynote session, and a Virtual Go Abroad Fair student panel.

BrainsCAN
BrainsCAN is a cognitive and behavioural neuroscience research initiative at Western, with a commitment to improving the representation of marginalized groups in neuroscience. BrainsCAN’s Diversity in Neuroscience Summer Internship provides students interested in cognitive neuroscience who self-identify as Black, Indigenous, LGBTQ2S+, people with a disability, and women, an opportunity to have an immersive experience in a research environment. Students participate in research projects assigned by the supervising faculty member, as well as virtual workshops focusing on the development of research and professional skills.
Teaching

Equity, Diversity, and Social Justice
Western Education’s Doctor of Education program gives students the opportunity to specialize in the field of Equity, Diversity, and Social Justice. The courses in this program build a deeper understanding of major equity concerns in education, with a focus on building capacities for critical reflection, particularly in terms of infusing equity into everyday practices in education and policy contexts.

Health Equity and Sustainability
The Health Equity and Sustainability master’s program is an entirely web-based, one-year graduate program that centers around the principles of fairness and righteousness. It focuses on various elements such as the environment, socioeconomic conditions, and political influences that impact health throughout one’s lifetime. The program aims to nurture present and upcoming health care leaders and global-minded individuals.

Migration and Ethnic Relations
The Collaborative Specialization in Migration and Ethnic Relations at Western brings together graduate students and faculty to study questions of migration, ethnic relations, cultural diversity, conflict, acculturation, and the integration of migrants, from the perspective of various social science disciplines.

Operations

Indigenous Strategic Initiatives
Indigenous Services has established Western’s Indigenous Strategic Initiatives Committee, which includes Western’s inaugural multi-year Indigenous Strategic Plan. This plan aims to enhance Indigenous teaching and learning opportunities for students; initiate the indigenization of Western’s Institutional Practices and Spaces; increase Indigenous representation among faculty, staff, and administration; and achieve excellence in Indigenous research.

Western Black Leadership University Experience
Western University is launching the Western B.L.U.E. program to empower Black students through paid part-time leadership experiences, fostering skills, community engagement, and mentorship. The program aims to showcase Black student talent, promote community giving, and build a network of supportive leaders for future participants. Participants will work on challenges alongside mentors from local organizations, receiving valuable supervision and feedback.

Human Rights Office
The Human Rights Office (HRO) at Western offers information on the University’s discrimination and harassment policies, employment equity, diversity, and other human rights issues. It provides education, training, and support to the Western community regarding human rights and equity matters. Individuals who have encountered or learned about potential cases of discrimination or harassment can seek a confidential consultation with HRO.
Research

Human Environments Analysis Lab
Established by the Department of Geography professor, Dr. Jason Gilliland, the Human Environments Analysis Laboratory works on many projects with a focus on sustainable cities and communities. Gilliland’s ‘Active and Safe Routes to School’ project is a community-based initiative that promotes the use of active transportation to and from school. Moreover, ‘Cycling & Healthy Cities’ focuses on cycling infrastructure and the impacts of cycling and e-bikes on public health and sustainability.

The Power of Supportive Housing for Vulnerable Individuals
New research conducted by nursing professor Abe Oudshoorn and a team of researchers from the Centre for Research on Health Equity and Social Inclusion at Western explored the success of permanent supportive housing for Canada’s most vulnerable individuals, using Woodfield Gate, an Indwell building in London, Ontario, as a case study. The study emphasized that the network of supports available within the housing is critical to its success, providing not just the physical structure but also essential services like health care, medication management, and social care, leading to sustained tenancies, improved health, and increased community engagement among residents.

Outreach

Centre for Urban Policy and Local Governance
Western’s Centre for Urban Policy and Local Governance responds to many new challenges that face local governments and urban policymakers. The centre brings together academic researchers and students from across Western and beyond with the goal of facilitating new interdisciplinary collaborations on pressing questions to create discussion between academics and policy practitioners.

Housing Agencies’ Substance Use Policies
Centre for Research on Health Equity and Social Inclusion conducted a research project in London, Ontario, which investigated the perspectives of individuals living in emergency shelters and housing agencies who use drugs and face housing instability. The project aimed to address the rising opioid overdoses and related deaths among the homeless population in the city. Through 16 semi-structured interviews with participants, researchers identified key themes about the impact of current substance use and overdose-related policies, aiming to inform the development of more effective and inclusive drug policies in London’s housing and emergency shelter agencies by incorporating input from participants, volunteers, and staff.
Teaching

Centre for Sustainable Curating at Western
Western’s new Centre for Sustainable Curating was launched in May of 2021. It aims to shed light on ecological issues and share them through stories grounded in environmental awareness. Located in the Department of Visual Arts, the teaching and research hub focuses on environmental and social justice and developing exhibitions and artworks with low carbon footprints. Western Visual Arts and researchers from other faculties also collaborate with The Synthetic Collective, an interdisciplinary project between visual artists, cultural workers, and scientists who join together to sample, map, understand, and visualize the complex ways in which plastics and microplastics pollute the environment, especially the Great Lakes region.

Planning Sustainable Cities
The Planning Sustainable Cities course explores land use planning in urban, regional, and rural settings, emphasizing sustainable city development. It covers planning theory, public interest, regulatory frameworks, and the need for environmentally conscious urbanism. Students learn to understand and address urban challenges through discussions, presentations, and assessments.

Operations

Pathways to Prosperity
Western University psychology professor, Dr. Victoria Esses, leads the Pathways to Prosperity Partnership, which aims to make Canadian communities more welcoming to immigrants. With the federal government planning to welcome 500,000 new immigrants per year by 2025, the partnership has developed two tool kits to assist communities in assessing their readiness for newcomers and identifying gaps in services and necessities. The tool kits address challenges such as discrimination and aim to help communities effectively welcome immigrants, providing the necessary support for them to feel at home and contribute to the prosperity of communities across Canada.

Transportation on Campus
A few of the sustainable transportation initiatives across campus include the following:
- Western is slated to have 80 electric vehicle charging stations in the coming year.
- The subsidized bus pass program provides unlimited bus transportation to all full-time students.
- As identified in the Open Space Strategy, our active transportation-friendly campus has continuous improvements being made to the path network.
- Western Active Transportation Society is a Western community group of faculty, students, and staff who are passionate and dedicated to active transport at Western.
- Western has bike lockers and bike shelters located in multiple locations and encourages alternative, sustainable commuting methods.
Research

Institute for Chemicals and Fuels from Alternative Resources
Western’s ICFAR research facility develops and brings together top talent from academia, government, and industry to collectively accelerate innovation, driving Canada towards a profitable and sustainable future. Researchers explore ways to reduce our carbon dependence and use alternative energies more efficiently, develop innovative, environmentally friendly chemical processes and nanomaterials, and use solar energy to remove pollutants from air and water.

Hemp-Based Biomaterial
Researchers from Western University, in collaboration with CTK Bio Canada, have developed a new biodegradable, hemp-based material as a sustainable substitute for plastic packaging. Hemp, a waste product from the cannabis industry, is strong and malleable, making it a suitable candidate for reinforcing materials. Although currently more expensive than plastic, ongoing optimization efforts are expected to reduce costs, offering a promising solution to address the environmental concerns associated with plastic waste and microplastic pollution.

Outreach

Ivey Social Impact Club
The Social Impact Club at Ivey is the result of a merger between Sustainability and Not-for-Profit Clubs, focusing on promoting business as a force for positive social and environmental change through various initiatives and events. Their 5th annual sustainability conference, Roots, emphasized global and local perspectives, the interconnected nature of sustainability, opportunities for everyone to make a difference, and the rapid growth of the sustainability field.

EnviroUSC
EnviroUSC focuses on advocating for environmental and sustainability concerns at Western University. Through diverse initiatives like gardening, sustainable food, waste reduction, and outreach activities, EnviroUSC encourages student involvement in fostering a greener campus. Their goal is to raise awareness, drive behaviour change, and create a network for addressing environmental issues within the university and the broader community, driven by the belief in students’ potential to create a positive environmental impact.
Teaching

The Sustainability Guide
The Sustainability Guide for the Western Community was put together by graduate students from the 2021 Master of Environment and Sustainability class. This guide provides tangible, accessible, and sustainable lifestyle recommendations to Western students, staff, and faculty. The Detailed Guide discusses seven topics pertaining to sustainability, including waste, food, shopping, energy and water, transport, community, and green spaces. Within these various topics, each section presents useful solutions for moving towards sustainable lifestyle changes.

Chemical and Biochemical Engineering
Students in the Chemical and Biochemical Engineering undergraduate and graduate program at Western are trained engineers with skills to develop holistic solutions for clean water and air, carbon reduction, cleaner renewable fuels, and life-saving medicine. The capstone fourth-year design course involves students finding solutions to industrial problems in close cooperation with industry.

Operations

Bee City Campus
In 2018, Western became the first Bee City Campus in Canada. The designation recognizes communities that establish healthy pollinator habitats and communicate their importance to the community. Great Hall Catering maintains honeybee hives on campus, from which honey is used in various recipes, made available for tea and coffee, and bottled for sale.

Water Efficiency
Western’s Power Plant uses a multipurpose grey-water system which has mitigated 10 million litres of municipal water since 2017. Water used to rinse equipment is captured and reused for blowdown tanks, chilled water make-up, and other auxiliary services. Landscape Services continues to reduce the number of high-water requirement plantings. The team has decommissioned many irrigation systems in mature landscaped areas where native species have become established.

Food Supply
Western University has pledged to have all responsibly sourced products, and currently, 99% of the seafood supply comes from certified sustainable or responsible sources. Residence Dining serves approximately half of the entrees meatless. Of these options, half are completely vegan.
Research

Wind Engineering and Natural Disaster Mitigation
The Wind Engineering, Energy and the Environment Research Institute at Western is home to the world’s first 3D wind-testing chamber, allowing scientists to address important scientific, economic, and societal challenges related to wind while evaluating energy potential and damage risks. The Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction at Western is a world-class centre for multidisciplinary disaster prevention research and communications that brings together scholars, insurance companies, and other partners. Its members develop prevention programs, increase public awareness of findings, and provide advice about preventing disaster losses.

Northern Tornadoes Project
The Northern Tornadoes Project (NTP) aims to improve tornado detection and prediction in Canada, which experiences a significant number of tornadoes each year. The research based on NTP data revealed that the target tornado warning lead time set by Environment and Climate Change Canada was met only 9.5% of the time, highlighting the need for better detection and warning systems. NTP’s research also helps to assess post-tornado property damage and develop strategies for mitigating the impact of future tornadoes.

Outreach

Thinking Globally, Acting Locally
Thinking Globally, Acting Locally is a pilot program where student teams research and tackle local sustainability challenges while collaborating with community organizations. The initiative fosters practical solutions for the UN SDGs, providing valuable experiential learning and promoting the university’s commitment to sustainability and community engagement.

Multi-Hazard Risk and Resilience Group
The Multi-Hazard Risk and Resilience Group gathers researchers from different departments and faculties at Western and aims to address national and global challenges related to disaster risk reduction against natural catastrophes. The group holds conferences and workshops to engage key stakeholders from government/municipality and industry in discussions about disaster risks, such as the Western-ICLR Multi-Hazard Risk and Resilience Workshop held in November 2022.

Ivey Sustainability Week
Ivey students organized the inaugural Ivey Sustainability Week in February 2023, connecting sustainable practices with business success through discussions, workshops, and art exhibitions. The event emphasized the link between climate justice and business outcomes, encouraging meaningful dialogues about societal contributions to the climate crisis. It featured artwork highlighting environmental concerns, discussions on regenerative agriculture, and a call to action for students to become advocates for sustainability and positive change.
Teaching

Connecting for Climate Change Action Course
The Connecting for Climate Change Action course offers an innovative, storytelling-based approach that brings together Western and Indigenous Sciences to educate and motivate learners in combating climate change. The course is open to Western University students, to the public through Coursera, and to post-secondary instructors looking to incorporate its modules into their courses via eCampusOntario Library.

Major in Climate Change and Society
The Climate Change and Society major focuses on the human dimensions of climate change and aims to equip students with the tools to address the challenges posed by the climate crisis. It covers a wide range of disciplines, including anthropology, biology, economics, history, philosophy, political science, and sociology, to study the consequences, challenges, and responses related to climate change.

Operations

Partnership for Climate Engagement
In 2022, Western University partnered with the University Network for Investment Engagement (UNIE), a shareholder engagement program for Canadian universities, to collectively address climate change risks. This collaboration enhances our engagement with companies and aligns with our decarbonization strategy. Western is actively involved in shaping UNIE’s engagement plan, having participated in 78 engagements with 53 companies in the first three quarters of 2022, primarily targeting greenhouse gas reduction.

Declaration on Planetary Health
Several academic health institutions, including the Western Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, have signed the Academic Health Institutions’ Declaration on Planetary Health, which calls for medical schools to train health care professionals who consider the health of the planet in their practice and research. The declaration emphasizes the need to focus on communities most affected by climate change, integrate Indigenous traditional knowledge, and allocate resources for planetary health research. It also advocates for a patient-planetary co-benefit framework, where physicians consider both the patient’s health and the health of the planet when making prescribing decisions.
Conserving Native Biodiversity—Salmon

Dr. Bryan Neff’s research focuses on the conservation of biodiversity, particularly in preserving and rehabilitating Canada’s economically and culturally significant salmonid fishes. He is involved in a major initiative to reintroduce Atlantic salmon into Lake Ontario, using a scientific framework to select the best strains based on habitat adaptations, resilience to competition, and genetic diversity. Additionally, his research highlights the limited ability of Pacific salmon to adapt to elevated temperatures caused by climate change, emphasizing the need for mitigation or intervention to ensure the future viability of Canadian salmon populations.

New Findings on Basking Sharks

Research led by Western biology professor Paul Mensink and his colleagues at Queen’s University Belfast explored the migration patterns of basking sharks off the northern tip of Ireland. Contrary to assumptions, only two out of the four tracked sharks migrated south during winter, while the other two remained in the region. The finding revealed that the migrating sharks dived into deep, cold waters during the day to feed on gelatinous zooplankton and returned near the surface in the warmth, challenging previous notions about their behavior and highlighting the importance of understanding ocean habitats in conservation efforts.

Western Science Speaks Podcasts

Western Science Speaks Podcast is a short-format interview show exploring work at the Faculty of Science. The show covers a wide range of topics in science relevant to a broad spectrum of listeners, such as environmental sustainability. Among their latest episodes is “Sharks Get Lonely Too,” featuring Paul Mensink, the marine ecologist from Western’s Department of Biology, who tracks sharks that have strayed far away from their natural habitat in order to cope with unsustainable conditions brought on by humans.

WesternWater Centre Event

The ‘Perspectives on drinking/household water in Indigenous communities’ event aimed to provide diverse insights on the challenges related to drinking and household water in Indigenous communities and promote collaboration between Western University and Indigenous stakeholders. The workshop aimed to foster understanding, dialogue, and the integration of Western and Indigenous knowledge to address water-related issues in these communities.
Undergraduate courses at Western related to SDG 14

Teaching

Learning in the Field

The Western Science Departments of Biology and Earth Sciences offer students extensive hands-on learning experiences across five continents. Students can explore marine biology in New Brunswick, studying diverse marine life and oceanographic field techniques while examining human impacts on the ecosystem. Students can also conduct immersive research on the diverse habitats of Belize’s Lighthouse Reef, located on a remote island, by kayaking, snorkelling, and contributing to a final research project based on their field data.

Aquatic Courses

The Department of Biology offers several courses related to aquatic ecology. Aquatic Ecology explores water habitats, with a specific focus on both freshwater and marine ecosystems, covering zooplankton, microorganisms, and the ecological effects of ocean acidification, invasive species, and eutrophication. Marine Environments deals with the ecological and physiological challenges encountered by marine animal communities in diverse environments in this course. The topics covered include feeding, movement, defense, and life cycle strategies, with a particular emphasis on using invertebrate examples for illustration.

Operations

Campus Eateries

Western University is dedicated to supporting sustainable and ethical sourcing of seafood on campus. This is realized by efforts made by the Campus Eateries and Marine Stewardship Council-certified partners. Our campus eatery proudly serves handcrafted sushi, which is locally produced and fully recyclable. Additionally, we have established partnerships with organizations dedicated to sustainable seafood practices, reinforcing our commitment to responsible dining.

Campus Naturalization Effort

Students, faculty, and community members partnered in a project on Western’s campus to use “live staking” to plant native shrubs and willow branches along the Medway Creek shoreline. This effort aimed to mitigate flooding, enhance water quality, and foster climate resilience. The initiative, supported by Western, local conservation groups, and Indigenous communities, also sought to educate and raise awareness about water protection and climate change through the creation of educational materials and connections with conservation authorities.
Research

Forest Fire Prediction
Dr. Douglas Woolford’s research group in the Department of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences uses modern data science to understand wildland fires. They analyze complex data to identify patterns in wildfire characteristics and integrate this knowledge into wildfire management. The Woolford Wildland Fire Science Lab creates risk maps that predict fire occurrence based on current weather conditions. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry uses its models to generate daily fire occurrence prediction maps during fire seasons.

Boreal Climate Impact Research
Dr. Danielle Way from the Biology Department leads a lab group researching the myriad effects of a warming climate on the boreal forest. Her team works at Western’s Biotron Experimental Climate Change Research Centre where they can mimic future predicted climate conditions, including warmer temperatures and high atmospheric CO2 concentrations, and examine how boreal trees will fare over the coming century.

Canadian Micro-Pulse Lidar Network
The Canadian Micro-Pulse Lidar Network (MPLCAN) project, led by Dr. Robert Sica, aims to establish a Canadian network for tracking smoke and particulate matter, which will aid in forest fire monitoring, air quality management, and emergency response. Additionally, MPLCAN aims to assess how profiling measurements impact surface total column measurements and use this profiling data to enhance the modelling of cloud and fog development.

Outreach

Experts’ Input
Western climate change, ecological, and health experts provide consultancy and suggestions on the impact of the recent wildfire crisis in Canada concerning the health effects of wildfire smoke, climate change and wildfires, ecological damage of wildfires, and as well as disaster response and mitigation.

Western Wildlife Conservation Society
WWCS is a student organization dedicated to educating and increasing the involvement of the student body in wildlife conservation. WWCS aims to raise awareness of how to lower ecological footprints and create a healthy and sustainable planet. It also partners with local organizations such as the London Environmental Network and Salthaven Wildlife and Education Center to help our environment and the wildlife that live in it. WWCS holds various events, one of which involves selling succulents to raise funds for the Salthaven Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Centre.
Undergraduate courses at Western related to SDG 15

### Teaching

**Field Courses**

Field courses at Western provide academic credit for immersive learning in remote locations, with options to choose from courses taught by Western faculty or from the broader program. One of the courses hosted by Western explores the vast and diverse natural environments of Adirondack State Park, with a focus on flora and fauna, field techniques, and the region’s history through field identification, journaling, and independent research.

**Specialize in Biodiversity and Conservation Honors**

The Honors Specialization in Biodiversity and Conservation equips students with a comprehensive understanding of the Earth’s ecosystem forces, focusing on the impact of climate change on biodiversity. It offers capstone courses and field research opportunities, preparing graduates for diverse careers in various fields amid a rapidly changing world. Students will have the opportunity to conduct a research project at a foreign location and receive credit for it. Examples of recent offerings include:

- Rainforests and Reef Biology in Costa Rica
- Tropical Marine Biology in Belize
- Forest Ecology in the Adirondacks
- Field Ornithology in Virginia
- Tropical Biodiversity in Ecuador

### Operations

**Green Spaces**

Landscape Services at Western employs a variety of practices to support ecologically beneficial plantings across campus. Native plants are given priority in planting plans, and the right plant is selected for each specific location. Our campus is located within the Carolinian Life Zone, the most biodiverse ecological region in Canada. Some of the ways we contribute to protecting this unique ecological region in which we are located are through the Sherwood Fox Arboretum and by being a Bee Campus.

**Waste Reduction**

Western University is implementing infrastructure updates and standardized signage to enhance waste reduction and diversion efforts across campus, promoting consistency and efficiency in waste management. To prevent items from ending up in the wrong waste stream, leading to contamination and increased waste in landfills, the sustainability office provides guidelines for the various waste streams on campus. The Waste & Recycling Portal is available to all Western staff, students, and faculty who are looking for pick-up on any waste and recycling. All waste requests should be sent through the portal.
Research

Centre for Transitional Justice and Post-Conflict Reconstruction
The Centre for Transitional Justice and Post-Conflict Reconstruction is a collaborative, interdisciplinary center that brings together experts from across the Western community whose teaching and research focus on issues including transitional justice, reconciliation, criminal accountability, legal reconstruction, the environment, human rights, and more.

Canadian Partnership for International Justice
The Canadian Partnership for International Justice (CPIJ) has been awarded the 2022 Partnership Award by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Led by Western Law professor Valerie Oosterveld, CPIJ aims to strengthen access to justice for victims of international crimes, including genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. The partnership, consisting of researchers, legal clinics, and non-governmental organizations from various Canadian universities, has organized numerous events and produced scholarly texts to promote justice for victims and train the next generation of law students in international criminal law advocacy.

Surviving Memory in Postwar El Salvador
Surviving Memory, led by project director and Western professor Amanda Grzyb, is committed to documenting the Salvadoran civil war and preventing future violence through commemoration. The team is also developing a mental health strategy that addresses historical memory, collective trauma, and community resilience.

Outreach

Humanitarian Society
The Western Humanitarian Society partners with the Canadian Red Cross to fundraise and increase awareness of humanitarian crises. They also provide their members with a wide variety of volunteer opportunities within the London community. Past events have included fundraising for care packages containing essential supplies and non-perishable food items, which are donated to local food banks and shelters in London, Ontario.

Western Model United Nations
The Western Model United Nations (WESMUN) was founded to provide a platform for students to practice diplomacy and discuss important international political issues in a setting that simulates the actual United Nations. Members can practice and apply skills such as debating, conducting research, problem-solving, and fostering cooperation. In 2022, WESMUN hosted a variety of committees including a joint crisis/historical crisis committee, two specialized committees, and a general assembly, addressing topics such as Cold War crises, post-conflict peace-building, and maritime politics.

Centre for Transitional Justice and Post-Conflict Reconstruction
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Teaching

Local Government Program
The Local Government Program is a leader in municipal-level public administration education and offers two unique opportunities for studying the rapidly changing fields of local government and local government administration. The Master of Public Administration and the Graduate Diploma in Public Administration are designed for mid-career local government administrators who wish to further their public management perspectives and skills.

Transitional Justice Research
Western is a leader in transitional justice research and hosts the only program in North America at both the undergraduate and graduate levels that focuses on transitional justice. The Undergraduate Minor in Transitional Justice and Post-Conflict Reconstruction familiarizes students with the emerging debates surrounding transitional justice and post-conflict reconstruction. The Collaborative Graduate Specialization is offered at both the master’s and doctoral levels.

Operations

Western Humanitarian Award
Funded by the Office of the Vice-President, the Humanitarian Award recognizes faculty, staff, and students at Western, who are engaged in a range of efforts directed towards improving the quality of life for individuals and communities around the world. Up to $5,000 may be awarded and must be used in support of humanitarian efforts as chosen by the recipient.

Crime Prevention on Campus
In addition to cruiser and foot patrol, Western Special Constables are frequently found patrolling Western and affiliate campuses on bikes. Travelling on bikes allows our Special Constables greater opportunities to engage in conversation and answer inquiries from persons on campus.
There are 25 Code Blue Emergency Phones located strategically on grounds throughout the campus, which provide direct two-way communications to the Western Special Constable Service Communications Operators in the Communications Centre.

Legal Information for Sexual Assault
Legal Information for Sexual Assault was initiated by Western Law students, with backing from Community Legal Services and Western’s Faculty of Law. It offers discreet legal guidance to Western University students dealing with sexual assault, with trained law students providing information, referrals, and support.
Lawrence National Centre for Policy and Management

Ivey’s Lawrence Centre is an important voice on business-government issues and develops future leaders who better understand the immense value of the collaborative relationship between the public and private sectors and the development of sound policy. The centre’s Faculty and Fellows oversee the research, teaching, and outreach activities of the Centre in keeping with its focus on digital innovation, physical infrastructure, and trade.

Webb Carbon Molecule Discovery

An international team of scientists, including astrophysicists Els Peeters and Jan Cami from Western University, used data from the James Webb Space Telescope to identify a molecule called methyl cation in the protoplanetary disc around a young star. This molecule is crucial for initiating the growth of complex carbon-based molecules in space, a process relevant to the emergence of life. The discovery was made possible by the advanced capabilities of the Webb telescope, and the findings were published in the journal Nature.

Outreach

World’s Challenge Challenge

The World’s Challenge Challenge is an annual international competition hosted by Western, during which teams from universities around the world present their best solutions to pressing environmental, educational, and social issues. The mission of the competition is to unite students from a diverse array of institutions, cultures, and continents, fostering a robust international network and facilitating the development of even more impactful solutions to critical global problems. The top ideas from Western’s competitors advance to the global competition held at Western.

Western Sustainability Leaders

The Western Sustainability Leaders Program (WSLP) is a way for students to engage with sustainability with a network of like-minded students from across campus. The WSLP engages guest speakers from across campus and the broader community, providing opportunities for students to network with professionals and peers involved with a wide range of sustainability initiatives on campus and in the community.

Network for Economics and Social Trends

NEST is a flagship research and policy alliance in the Faculty of Social Science at Western University that informs social and economic policies and practices in Canada and North America. NEST hosted Speaker Series in 2022-2023, including “Climate Changes Health,” “Why Cities Need a Public Life,” “Realigning Individual Behaviour with Societal Values,” and much more.
Teaching

Community Engaged Learning

Community Engaged Learning (CEL) gives students the opportunity to take their skills beyond the walls of the classroom and into the community. CEL experiences partner students with groups, individuals, and organizations in the London region and abroad to address important problems and issues.

International Learning

International Learning at Western University collaborates with international partners to develop, promote, and support a broad range of activities that cultivate global-ready graduates, and a community of internationally engaged faculty and staff. Exchange programs at Western give the opportunity to study at more than 100 different institutions in over 35 countries around the world.

Pro Bono Students Canada

Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC), Western Chapter, is a national program launched by the Faculty of Law. The mission of the program is to pair law students with community agencies in need of free legal services. Agencies typically involved with PBSC include public interest and non-profit organizations, tribunals, legal clinics, and lawyers working pro bono on a particular case.

Operations

Western Heads East

The Western Heads East Internship program offers students a competitive and dynamic international experience focused on health sustainability in Africa. Through the program, interns engage in multidisciplinary projects, developing sustainable business and social enterprise skills while contributing to the creation of kitchen and laboratory facilities. Interns also play a role in raising awareness about health sustainability in East Africa within the Western University community, all while earning course credit.

Western Funding

The Visiting University Scholars Program by Western International provides funding for international scholars nominated by faculties to make short- to medium-term visits, offering up to $3,000 matched with host faculty funds. Scholars designated as “Western Fellows” are expected to engage in teaching, speaking at seminars, and collaborating on research with Western faculty. Western is committed to supporting students and scholars who face threats to their lives, liberty, and well-being in their home countries due to events beyond their control. Western offers financial support to students and scholars affected by global crises, enabling them to come to Western to pursue degrees or continue academic studies and research.
About Western University

In 2015, the United Nations and its member states signed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development—a call to action to meet some of the most pressing challenges facing our world. The specific challenges and objectives are defined in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which offer states and non-state actors a plan for promoting and achieving sustainability in areas such as the environment, access to food, gender equality, and healthy and safe communities. Canada was one of 193 UN member states that adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and it is committed to implementing the SDGs both in Canada and internationally.

Western is committed to sustainability in all its forms and prepared to play a leading role in areas of research, teaching the SDGs, stewardship, and collaboration with the broader community. By tracking campus initiatives that align with the goals, Western can examine current initiatives through a lens that encompasses the three pillars of sustainability—economic, social, and environmental, as well as showcase the initiatives and organizations on campus that support creating a more sustainable future for everyone.

Towards Western at 150

Western University has a remarkable history and is eagerly preparing for its 150th anniversary in 2028 (Towards Western at 150). Its mission is to nurture visionary leaders who can address today’s challenges for the betterment of society. Our overarching themes for this roadmap are (1) Greater Impact; (2) People, Community, and Culture; and (3) Western’s Place in the World. Under these overarching themes lies a strong sustainability-driven action plan, which outlines Western’s deep commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship.

Through collaborative research initiatives, engagement with local communities, and prioritizing interdisciplinary approaches, Western aims to lead in areas such as reducing carbon footprint, enhancing biodiversity, and creating a more sustainable campus. The university actively integrates sustainability into its research, teaching, operations, and community engagement efforts across all faculties, aligning with the United Nations SDGs. With expertise across faculties, Western seeks to make a positive impact and contribute to a better and more sustainable world.