‘Partnership for the Goals’ seeks to improve the implementation and reactivation of global partnerships for sustainable development.

It aims to bring together national governments, the international community, civil society, the private sector, community members, and various other actors to improve collaboration for increased sustainable development.

Western’s Strategic Plan — Towards Western at 150 highlights sustainability as an imperative.
Research

Ivey’s Lawrence National Centre for Policy and Management

The Lawrence Centre at Ivey Business School 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.

They recently presented the 2022 Policy Summit, convening leading policy experts, business executives, and thought leaders. The summit aims to distill a few tangible strategies and policy recommendations that Canada can do and should do, and drive action from governments, businesses and other key stakeholders towards realizing our nation’s socio-economic potential.

The Lawrence National Centre presents a research report on developing innovation ecosystems through Public-Private Partnerships (P3s), focusing on the ENCQOR 5G project. This initiative, a collaboration between government and technology firms, enabled SMEs and researchers to test and scale their pre-commercialized 5G applications. The report highlights the program’s genesis, processes, and outcomes, and draws lessons for creating effective ecosystems for future technologies, emphasizing strengths, focused approaches, stakeholder consensus, accountability, transparency, and complementary capabilities.

In April 2023, Minister of Economic Development for Ontario, Victor Fedeli, addressed MBA students at Ivey, showcasing the province’s achievement in securing $17 billion in automotive investments, including the forthcoming Volkswagen gigafactory. He highlighted initiatives to foster a business-friendly climate, notably in the electric vehicle sector, through measures such as the Ontario Made Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit, aiming to boost the economy and employment opportunities.

Frugal Biomedical Innovations program

Western’s Frugal Biomedical Innovations program team addresses healthcare inequalities by creating affordable and community-specific biomedical devices. They’ve received funding to support this initiative as part of Western’s strategic plan. Collaborating with diverse partners, including the Africa Institute and BioNext Incubator, they design and field test medical prototypes, accelerating development and ensuring access to quality healthcare in underserved Canadian and African regions.

Professor of biomedical engineering, James Lacefield, and his team collaborate with biomedical engineers and clinicians in Uganda and Kenya, Western Africa Institute, as well as in remote areas and Indigenous lands in Canada—places that often face underdeveloped infrastructure, unequal social resources, and geographical and environmental challenges. These partnerships allow the team to understand the areas’ resources, needs, skills, and gaps.

Western Engineering Professor Joshua Pearce’s partners at Kenyatta University, Nairobi, have developed a light therapy box at a comparatively lower cost than commercially available models. However, it must be calibrated for clinical use, and this process has to be affordable. The teams will collaborate to create an open-source sensor device for calibrating the therapy box.

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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 policy and practices in Canada and North America. NEST is conducting world-class multidisciplinary research, fostering national and international collaborations, and training the next generation of leaders in academia, the private and non-profit sectors, and government.

Research conducted in NEST focuses on topics such as population change, economic inequality, and poverty; mobility (social, economic, and geographic), immigration, and ethnic diversity; educational attainment; and governance, urban affairs, and community development.

NEST is the umbrella organization for all eight Western Research Centres in the Faculty of Social Science, such as the Centre for Urban Policy and Local Governance and the Centre for Research on Migration and Ethnic Relations, where NEST sets their agenda and provides its governance. NEST also aims to train the next generation of policy researchers through mentorships, fellowships, and their graduate program—Master’s in Research for Policy and Evaluation.

Announced by NEST and currently under construction, the Canadian Communities Policy Observatory will be a new web-based platform that will make it easier for policy makers, non-profit organizations, academics, journalists, and businesses to access data on Canadian urban centres, neighbourhoods, and regions.

Centre for Sustainable Curating at Western

Western’s Centre for Sustainable Curating (CSC) supports research, exhibitions, visual/digital production, and pedagogy focused on environmental and social justice. Located in the Department of Visual Arts, the centre encourages research into waste, pollution, and climate crisis, and the development of exhibitions and artworks with low carbon footprints.

Projects undertaken by the CSC include collaborations with individuals and institutions to lessen or limit the carbon impact of exhibitions; co-learning environments in which undergraduate and graduate students create art and exhibitions with environmental awareness; and the use of the Resources at Hand: A Guide for Creating Sustainable Exhibitions.

The CSC is associated with other projects in the Department of Visual Arts, such as The Synthetic Collective, which is an interdisciplinary collaboration between visual artists, cultural workers, and scientists working together to sample, map, understand, and visualize the complex ways in which plastics and microplastics pollute the Great Lakes region; and A Museum for Future Fossils, a vernacular “museum without walls” focused on responding curatorially to the Anthropocene.
Relationship

WORLDDiscoveries
Born out of a partnership between Western University, Robarts Research Institute, and Lawson Health Research Institute, WORLDDiscoveries draws upon a mix of industry connections, sector-specific market knowledge, and business development expertise. The partnership helps researchers and local inventors commercialize their discoveries through licensing and new company spin-offs.

WORLDDiscoveries operates as a department of Western University and works with collaborators both locally and internationally who are committed to innovative research products and services to the community for the benefit of all. Its market has a wide variety of consumer-ready products, such as AITCS-II, a diagnostic instrument to assist healthcare teams, and TEAMc, the Toolkit to Enhance and Assist Maximizing Team Collaboration.

Founded by WORLDDiscoveries, and having grown to collaborate with universities across Canada, the Proteus Innovation Competition brings students together to propose viable paths to the market for novel technologies.

World’s Challenge Challenge
World’s Challenge Challenge is an annual international competition hosted by Western in which teams from universities around the globe offer up their best solutions to urgent environmental, educational, and social issues. The mission of the competition is to bring together students to form a strong international network and create potential solutions to significant global issues.

The best ideas from Western competitors advance to the global competition held at Western. Finalists network with some of the best and brightest students from around the world, participate in virtual academic events, and generate further discussion around global issues. To help further develop the proposed solution and support the winning team, the first prize awarded consists of a total of $30,000.

The World’s Challenge Challenge is an exciting way to engage in discussion and debate about global issues and to bring ideas from various perspectives to the table. Western aims to unite individuals with a broad worldview, who aspire to study, influence, and lead in the international community, in order to cultivate global citizens who think creatively and critically about significant issues affecting us all. It begins with a single idea, a single discussion.
The mission of The Africa Institute at Western University is to address African priorities through impactful engagement in knowledge creation and exchange with African partners and in collaboration with other Canadian and global partners. The institute collaborates with over 158 partners in 13 countries and focuses on topics such as ecosystem health, gender studies, linguistics, refugee studies, and transitional justice.

Among their initiatives is the Global Health Systems program offered to students at Western, which has a special focus on extensive and life-threatening issues facing the African continent, as well as broader global health issues. Another initiative is Western Heads East, which is a program working to enhance community health in underserviced areas of Sub-Saharan Africa largely through probiotic yogurt.

The Canada-Africa Young Scholars Coalition, initiated by the Africa Institute at Western University, connects individuals of African heritage or allies for networking and collaboration. It offers mentorship and academic support to young African scholars and promotes interdisciplinary scholarly approaches. The coalition’s membership extends beyond Western University, and it collaborates with the Africa Institute for ongoing support and a national alumni network.

The Queen Elizabeth Scholars (QES) program empowers young Canadians through global exchange and civic engagement. Western University’s current QES opportunity involves funding for scholars from West African countries and Canada to address climate change, sustainable livelihoods, and social development.

Western Law offers students the opportunity to develop practical skills and gain valuable hands-on legal experience through various clinics and programs that support the community.

**Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC) Western Chapter**, established in 1998/1999 by the Faculty of Law, pairs law students with community agencies for free legal services. With chapters at 22 Canadian law schools, PBSC and student volunteers strive to enhance access to justice by aiding public interest groups, non-profits, and legal clinics. The Western Chapter provides practical legal experience to students while offering valuable assistance to organizations, fostering pro bono values and expanding access to justice.

**Community Legal Services** provides free legal services by law students who work under the close supervision of expert staff lawyers. Services are available for low-income individuals in London, as well as to Fanshawe College and Western University students. The clinic is among the most progressive legal clinics in Canada and a leader in the cause of access to justice.

**The Sport Solution Clinic**, a venture of AthletesCAN and Western Law School, empowers Canadian National Team and Olympic/Paralympic athletes by providing counselling and advocacy, ensuring their concerns are effectively addressed within the sports system.

**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.
Western's United Way Campaign aims to strengthen communities through donations and volunteerism. The campaign reaches beyond campus and engages alumni, community, institutional, and international partners. The campaign’s focus includes strengthening families who are struggling with poverty, violence, and mental health issues, as well as advising newcomers with their transition into Canada and helping to keep youth off the streets. United Way Elgin Middlesex has also provided financial support for student-led projects addressing local social challenges. Western University contributed more than $600,000 from its 2023 campaign in support of United Way Elgin Middlesex, which funds more than 90 programs at 50 community agencies to help people in poverty. In addition to these important funds raised, campus members also collected hundreds of backpacks and boots for those in need.

Through the Interdisciplinary Development Initiatives program at Western, HEIDI focuses on mobilizing local health equity solutions for global problems. The Centre for Research on Health Equity and Social Inclusion staff and researchers partnered with the University of Rwanda and the University of Global Health Equity in Kigali, Rwanda. Academic and community partners collaborated to develop new ways to think about complex health equity problems. HEIDI comprises three projects: one focusing on pre- and post-migration trauma and health, another on trauma and violence-informed care, and a third on power, practice, and ethics in global health. HEIDI demonstrates the value of establishing clear links between local and global health equity, forming meaningful partnerships, and generating lasting research, teaching, and knowledge mobilization opportunities.

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, as well as enhancing overall global activity and awareness. Events through 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.

Western researchers and student leaders contribute insights and support to United Way’s community outreach, including the Ivey Community Consulting Project and efforts for equity, diversity, and inclusion, guided by the Black Leadership University Experience (B.L.U.E.) program. Jessica Brown, a fourth-year medical science student in the BLUE program, aids United Way in connecting with diverse community agencies for funding and enhancing communication practices.
Community Engaged Learning

Community Engaged Learning (CEL) allows students the opportunity to take their skills beyond the walls of the classroom and into the community. As a form of experiential learning, CEL experiences partner students with groups, individuals, and organizations in the London region and abroad to tackle important problems and issues. For the curricular component of CEL, Western offers more than 33 CEL courses across various Faculties and disciplines. Co-curricular CEL opportunities include Impact Experience and Western Serves Network. Western Serves Network connects students to the broader London community and non-profit organizations that work to tackle ongoing social issues. It provides the Western campus with a means to strengthen relationships with its communities and to produce graduates who are productive and reflective citizens.

Management Education

There is a new Ivey initiative integrating SDGs into management education. A joint initiative of Ivey Publishing and the Centre for Building Sustainable Value is reviewing and tagging Ivey teaching cases for their relevance and connections to each of the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This project, a first of its kind in the business case publishing industry, will be making a critical contribution to integrating sustainability measures into management education and the student experience globally. A business case is a description of an actual situation, commonly involving a decision, an opportunity, or a challenge faced by a person in an organization. Cases are powerful tools for teaching key concepts in the context of management decision-making. In one year alone, half of all cases published at Ivey had at least one SDG tag.

Graduate Diploma in Mining Law, Finance, and Sustainability

This Diploma is one component of the Mining Law, Finance, and Sustainability initiative at Western Law. The diploma is designed to provide academic leadership, meet industry needs, and set new standards in interdisciplinary collaboration. To meet industry needs, the diploma partners with various industry stakeholders, including industry leaders, Indigenous communities, government agencies, NGOs, and multilateral development banks.

Ivey Business School and SDGs

The PhD Sustainability Academy, co-hosted by Ivey Business School, convenes 15 promising PhD students and senior researchers championing path-breaking research on sustainability across multiple disciplines using diverse theoretical and methodological approaches. Each student receives intensive feedback on their research project. The participants and faculty members represent a range of management disciplines and methodologies. This Academy represents one of the foremost learning and networking events for students researching social and environmental issues.

Professor of Strategy and Sustainability, Oana Branzei’s innovative curriculum is reflected in the course Grand Challenges. Globally, business leaders are oriented towards the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Over 2,500 courses at Western available that relate to the UN SDGs
Education

Master of Public Health

The MPH Program is a case-based learning program. During the program, students will 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 they need to become public health leaders.

The MPH program has achieved a seven-year reaccreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). Western’s MPH is the only program in Ontario and the fourth in Canada to receive CEPH accreditation.

Climate Change and Society

Western’s major, Climate Change and Society, integrates science, social science, and the humanities. It aims to harness that passion and help students address the challenges the climate crisis poses. Launching in the fall of 2021 under the Department of Geography and Environment, the module connects many existing courses into one integrated focus of study. The course modules will also be available to other postsecondary institutions and interested government organizations and community groups.

Center for Environment and Sustainability

The Centre for Environment and Sustainability (CES) demonstrates Western’s commitment and support for sustainability and environmental studies. CES’s mission is to foster interdisciplinary teaching and learning that would advance the understanding of complex environmental and social interactions.

A variety of undergraduate and graduate programs are offered through the centre. The Master of Environment and Sustainability program offers experiential learning opportunities, incorporating a professional consulting project and a co-op placement into academic learning.

The Collaborative Specialization in Environment and Sustainability is an enrichment program designed for current graduate students who are interested in the interdisciplinary nature of environmental problems and are eager to become specialists in specific aspects of environment and sustainability.

The undergraduate Environmental Science program provides students with an interdisciplinary approach to studying and solving environmental problems.

HBA Sustainability Certificate

The HBA Sustainability Certificate empowers students to build and lead more sustainable organizations. It includes a coordinated set of courses and experiences around sustainability designed to provide a firm grounding in principles and best practices of sustainability. The program positions students to begin their journeys as responsible C-Suite decision-makers, entrepreneurs, non-profit leaders, and policymakers.

Students engage in exclusive events, including live case events such as “Building Economic Resiliency through Social Responsibility.” Students also complete the academic requirement of taking sustainability-centred courses such as Design-Driven Innovation and Leading Change.
International Learning

Western International Learning collaborates with international partners to develop, promote, and support activities that cultivate global-ready graduates, and a community of internationally engaged faculty and staff. Individuals can participate in more than 170 different programs in over 40 countries around the world. Students can also participate in international research opportunities.

Western International’s Global Connect offers short-term international study tours for experiential learning, enhancing leadership and intercultural skills, which provide active learning, cross-cultural exchanges, and e-portfolio completion. The Costa Rica tour for Summer 2023, for instance, had a unique global learning opportunity, including sustainable projects and much more.

Faculty-led experience programs involve supervised group learning activities abroad, either for credit courses or community engagement. Western offers diverse programs like theatre in London, health science in Scandinavia, and tropical biodiversity in Ecuador, connecting students with cultures, faculty, and partners. These programs bridge classroom learning with the real world.

Scholars at Risk is an international network that supports scholars facing human rights abuses by offering them temporary academic positions. In cases where a safe return to their work is not possible, the network helps scholars find opportunities to continue their work abroad.

Ubuntu Management Education Initiative

The Ubuntu Management Education Initiative aims to support African Business Schools in enhancing their case-based teaching methods by collaborating with Ivey. Through this partnership, Ivey students gain insights into African business cultures, fostering personal growth. It fosters connections between Ivey’s community and African Business Schools in Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Ghana.

Ubuntu Impact is a student-led consulting group aiding African businesses with impactful solutions. Partnering with Ivey Business School students and industry experts, African students gain real-world consulting experience to address pressing challenges in indigenous-led businesses, fostering cross-cultural learning and a lasting Canada-Africa connection.

Western Black Leadership University Experience

Western University’s commitment to inclusivity and diversity is reflected in the launch of the B.L.U.E. program, aimed at empowering Black students through paid part-time leadership experiences. With funding from the university, 20 students collaborate with local organizations over 5 months, supported by mentors to tackle chosen challenges and build confidence for future careers. Each experience is valued at $6,300, fostering student growth, independence, and ongoing feedback.

The program aims to showcase Black student leaders’ abilities, foster a culture of campus-wide giving, cultivate skills through practical experiences and partnerships, generate income opportunities, and establish a supportive network for mentorship and guidance among Black student leaders.