

Welcome! Please introduce yourself.

Name, Program/Faculty, and something you are enjoying this Spring term!

(e.g. hobby, TV show you love, extracurricular activity, food dish, etc.)



Writing for Grad and Professional School Applications

With the Career Leader Team



UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO

Centre for Career
Development



UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO

Centre for Career
Development

Your Facilitator

- Poojitha Durgamahanti (she/her)
- MASc. in Mechanical and Mechatronics from University of Waterloo, Majors in Nanotechnology
- Career Leader, Workshop Facilitator @ Centre for Career Development

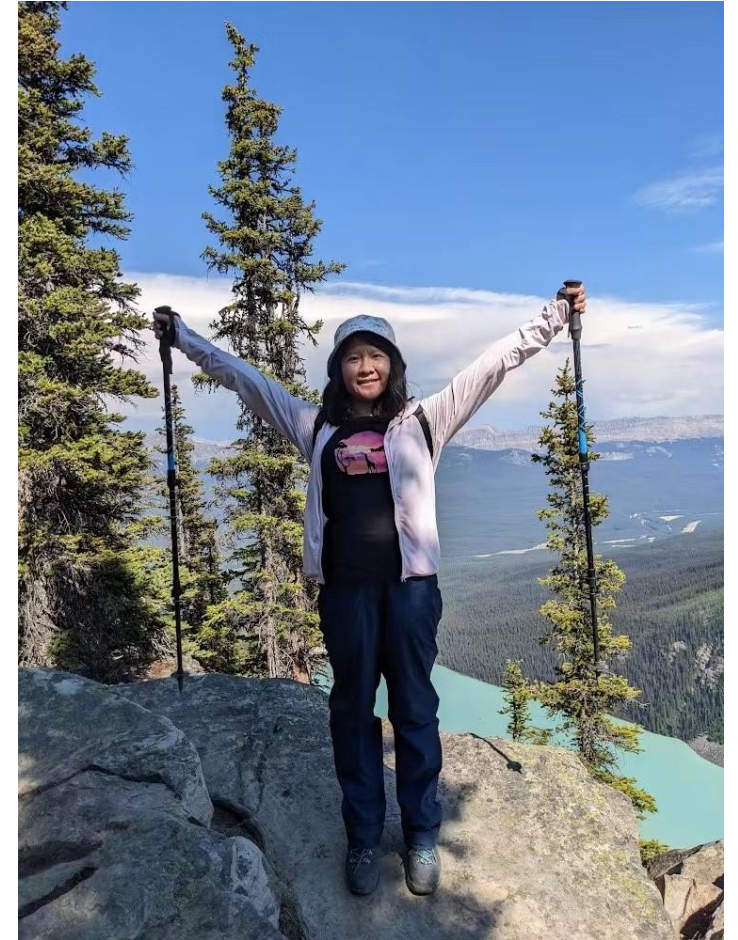


UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO

Centre for Career
Development

Your Facilitator

- Candice(Yixin) Chen (she/her)
- PhD Candidate, Department of Geography & Environmental Management
- Career Leader, Workshop Facilitator @ Centre for Career Development
- [linkedin.com/in/candice-yixin-chen-phd](https://www.linkedin.com/in/candice-yixin-chen-phd)



UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO

Centre for Career
Development



THIS
workshop **IS A**
SAFE
SPACE

We respectfully acknowledge that we live and work on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples. Our main campus is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River.

- Find out about UWaterloo Indigenous initiatives, events, and news through the Office of Indigenous relations:
<https://uwaterloo.ca/indigenous>
- Learn more about the land on which you live and work on: <https://native-land.ca/> or <https://www.whose.land/en/>



What's on the agenda for today?

Key terms and
purpose

How writing is
evaluated

Things to write
about

Navigating
disclosure

Formatting
conventions





**WHAT DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS
ABOUT?**



UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO

Centre for Career
Development

1. What are you planning to apply to?

A. Master's or PhD degree

B. Medical school or professional school

C. Short-term exchange or summer school

D. Still figuring it out



2. Where are you planning to apply?

A. Within Ontario

B. Outside Ontario in Canada

C. Outside Canada

3. How do you feel about application writing?

A. Pretty confident!! 😊

B. Ummm... sort of...

C. No idea how

D. Not confident at all 😞



Key terms you might see when preparing your application



Personal statement



Statement or letter of intent



Personal essay



Statement or letter of purpose



Research proposal or research statement



Supplementary information form



Secondary essays



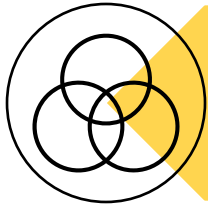
What is the purpose of this genre of writing?

- One part of an application to a graduate or professional school program
- Used by admissions committees to adjudicate applications
- A chance for you to communicate directly with the admissions committee
- A chance for you to say things in human words

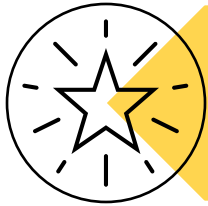
How will my narrative documents be evaluated?



Motivation



Fit



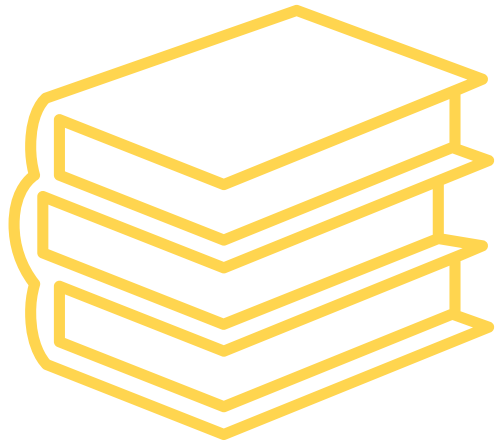
Skills



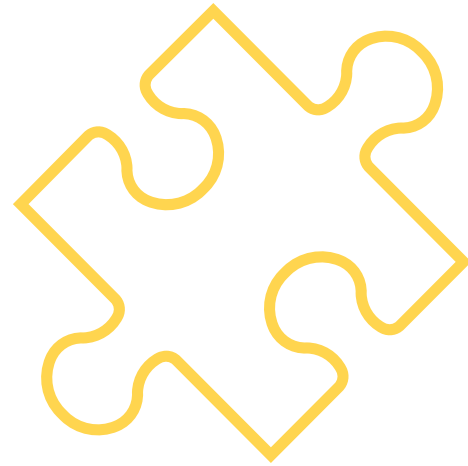
Other



What do I have to write about and what can I write about?



Academics



Lived
Experience



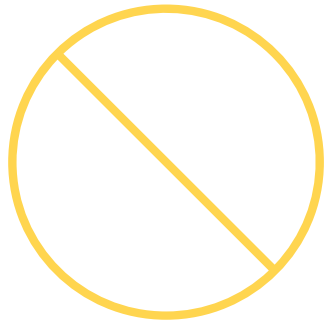
Other



UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO

Centre for Career
Development

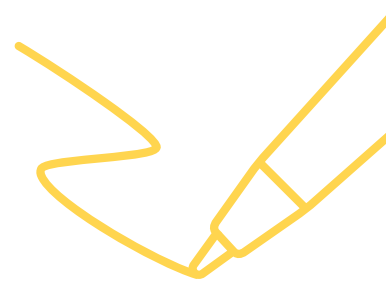
How do I disclose life stuff?



You don't owe anyone
a story



Trust your sense of
comfort with what and
how you share



Share details you want
to; it's okay to leave
some out



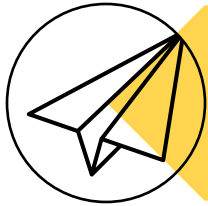
It's okay if this brings
up emotions for you



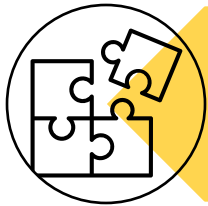
What are the formatting conventions of this document?



Length



Addressing and submitting the document



Required parts



Ask for clarification



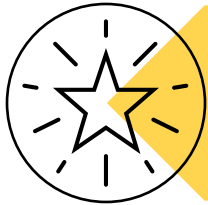
What are the unspoken conventions of this document?



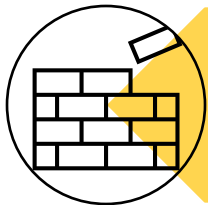
Essay-style



First-person narrative



Sharing experiences



This is hard!



Resources

- **Further education advising request**

https://uwaterloo.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_28Zsd5MkbYEL4iN

- **Recorded workshops**

<https://uwaterloo.ca/career-development/workshops-and-events/recorded-sessions>

- **Online resources**

<https://uwaterloo.ca/graduate-studies-postdoctoral-affairs/future-students>

<https://www.grad.ubc.ca/prospective-students/application-admission>





QUESTIONS?



UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO

Centre for Career
Development