

GENERAL ENGLISH AT RENISON (GEAR)

Learn English through culture.

General English at Renison (GEAR) is an interactive 4-week language program that gives you an opportunity to improve your English skills while you experience Waterloo Region and the University of Waterloo. Through approximately 100 program hours, you will develop the language skills and strategies to confidently communicate in many situations.

With classes such as presentation skills and cultural studies, you will have the opportunity to practice your English while experiencing the culture of the region and learning about advancements in many areas of local society.

As a GEAR student, you will learn more about Canada and Canadian culture through visits to on and off campus sites. Your GEAR instructors connect your experiences from these visits to your course content, giving you the chance to use English in real-world contexts.



FABIO
GEAR GRADUATE, CHILE

“Renison is a very cool place to study. You will not only learn about Canadian culture, but about many cultures from other students from around the world...You get the best of both worlds because it is a small place inside a very big university. At Renison you find a great community and it’s very familiar – everyone knows each other.”



5+ QS STAR UNIVERSITY
The University of Waterloo is one of only 15 universities in the world to earn a 5+ QS Star Rating

WHO IS GEAR DESIGNED FOR?

GEAR is designed for individuals who are:

- > looking to experience Canadian culture and be part of a Canadian university environment
- > passionate about learning in a challenging 4-week English language program
- > 18 years of age or older



PROGRAM INFORMATION

While dates and fees are subject to annual planning, the GEAR program typically begins in September, January, and February.

For more information, please visit our website.



CLASS LEVELS

Suitable for high-beginner to advanced

Note: Multiple class levels are dependent on sufficient student numbers

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9:00 AM 12:00 PM	Cultural Studies	Integrated Skills Cultural Studies	Listening and Speaking	Integrated Skills	Listening and Speaking
LUNCH 12:00PM - 1:00PM					
1:00 PM 3:00 PM	Presentation Skills	Presentation Skills	Integrated Skills	Presentation Skills	Cultural Studies
<i>Optional activities and trips are offered after classes during evenings and weekends</i>					

ACCOMMODATION

On-campus residence and homestay is subject to availability

[Learn more about the GEAR program](#)

SUPPORTS



> RESIDENCE ASSISTANTS

Waterloo students who participate in classes with you and help you practice your English.



> PEER LEADERS

Waterloo students who attend social events and bus trips with you to enhance your immersion experience.



> STUDENT EXPERIENCE TEAM

Enthusiastic staff to help you make the most of your experience in Canada, the city of Waterloo, and the University of Waterloo.



WHAT YOU WILL LEARN



PRESENTATION SKILLS

In this course you will:

- › build your confidence when giving presentations
- › practice strategies for using your voice effectively in public speaking situations
- › develop effective presentation slides to support your delivery
- › enhance the impact of your presentations through the use of nonverbal techniques
- › deliver planned and unplanned individual and group presentations



INTEGRATED SKILLS

In this course you will:

- › engage in the analysis and critique of various text types
- › identify and discuss stylistic, grammar and language choices made in relation to audience and purpose for writing
- › develop learning strategies in the areas of vocabulary expansion and self-editing
- › build your confidence to understand and produce written texts for different contexts
- › write on a variety of topics to improve accuracy and fluency



LISTENING AND SPEAKING SKILLS

In this course you will:

- › improve active listening and speaking strategies for effective interpersonal communication
- › explore and practice different contexts for speaking that require you to describe, summarize, explain, argue and persuade
- › increase your understanding and use of new vocabulary
- › practice and improve your pronunciation
- › actively participate in group discussions to share ideas and perspectives



CULTURAL STUDIES

In this course you will:

- › build your awareness of different aspects of culture
- › develop an understanding of the social and cultural features of language
- › explore and practice communication strategies to facilitate cross-cultural communication and manage cultural misunderstandings
- › discuss similarities and differences in cultural phenomena while avoiding generalizations
- › represent and share your unique cultural insights and experiences of Canadian culture using images, text and oral storytelling





CANADA'S SILICON VALLEY



TORONTO, ONTARIO



ST. JACOBS FARMERS' MARKET



NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO



WATERLOO, ONTARIO

ABOUT WATERLOO

Prepare to be charmed.

The University of Waterloo and Renison University College are located in the Region of Waterloo, which is considered Canada's Silicon Valley and home to the second-highest density of startups in the world and a variety of renowned companies such as BlackBerry, Google, and ApplyBoard. Students can immerse themselves in the area's entrepreneurial culture while enjoying Southwestern Ontario's most unique tourist sites and activities. From shopping and the CN Tower (Canada's tallest building), just 100 km away in Canada's largest city Toronto, to the incredible views of Niagara Falls, to the sounds, scents, and colours of St. Jacobs Farmers' Market (the largest year-round market in Canada), students are guaranteed a diverse experience where the urban, rural, and entrepreneurial collide.



WATERLOO, ONTARIO



UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO



RENISON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

The University of Waterloo is Canada's #1 university for entrepreneurial learning with over 42,000 students cumulatively between undergraduate and graduate programs. As a globally renowned and recognized institution, the University of Waterloo has been the start for countless company and student success stories through its bold start-up culture, a creator-owned intellectual property policy, and the largest cooperative education program in the world. Students benefit from an ecosystem that stays active and engaged 365 days a year with world changing research, innovative technology, and inspired teaching.

RENISON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Renison University College, an affiliated college at the University of Waterloo, provides a close-knit community experience within the larger University of Waterloo campus and student population. Renison provides unique educational programming in Social Development Studies, Social Work, and a variety of language and culture courses such as Arabic, Chinese, English, Japanese, and Korean. Since 1970, Renison's English Language Institute (Renison ELI) has delivered innovative English courses and programs that help students, teachers, and other professionals succeed in academic and professional environments. Additionally, Renison offers an enriching residence experience that includes an extensive meal plan featuring cuisine from around the world. All Renison ELI students will benefit from high-quality intensive English programming embedded within a unique, diverse, and interculturally aware Canadian university environment.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

We are dedicated to ensuring you have an exceptional experience during your time in the GEAR program. Our enthusiastic team of peer leaders, a student advisor, and student experience staff are here to help you enhance your language skills!





EXPERIENCE LIFE IN CANADA

As a GEAR student you'll be invited to join in on a variety of optional excursions to popular tourist sites in Southwestern Ontario such as Toronto, Niagara Falls, and a variety of educational centres/museums.



PRACTICE YOUR SOCIAL AND ENGLISH SKILLS

Benefit from many events and activities aimed at improving your social and English conversation skills! As a GEAR student, you will be invited to events planned and attended by peer leaders (upper-year University of Waterloo students) such as speed friending, carnival nights, meet and greet events, and conversation lunches – a fantastic opportunity to practice your English, gain invaluable social skills, and have fun!



BE A SUCCESSFUL STUDENT

Our Student Experience team is here to help you reach your goals as a GEAR student. You will be offered a variety of opportunities to help you, including one-on-one meet-ups to improve your conversation skills, as well as access to program peer leaders who are here to support your English language development.



STAY CONNECTED

Our Student Experience team is committed to exceptional communication before you begin your program, during your studies, and after you graduate from GEAR, including ongoing invitations to our events (virtual and/or in-person). This way you will always remain connected to the vibrant Renison and Waterloo communities even after you graduate!

Learn more about the student experience at Renison's English Language Institute



GEAR JANUARY & FEBRUARY EVENTS

GENERAL ENGLISH AT RENISON

MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
16	WELCOME TO CANADA! ORIENTATION DAY! » PROGRAM ORIENTATION » HOMESTAY ORIENTATION » CAMPUS TOUR	17	 FAIRVIEW PARK MALL BUS TRIP » 3:30PM - 6:30PM » FREE TO ATTEND » MEET IN THE ATRIUM AT 3:30PM	18	 SPEED FRIENDING » 4:00PM - 5:00PM » CAFETERIA	19	 RENI MOOSE'S BIRTHDAY PARTY » 3:30PM - 6:30PM » ATRIUM	20	LUNAR NEW CELEBRATION » 11:00AM - 1:00PM » ATRIUM 	21	 TORONTO BUS TRIP » 8:15AM - 8:00PM » \$30 TO ATTEND » MEET IN THE ATRIUM AT 8:15AM
23	 CONVERSATION LUNCH » 12:00PM - 1:00PM » CAFETERIA	24	 GAMES DAY » 3:30PM - 5:00PM » DUNKER FAMILY LOUNGE	25	 BELL LET'S TALK DAY FOR MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS » 12:00PM - 1:30PM » CAFETERIA	26	 CHICOPEE TUBE PARK BUS TRIP » 3:30PM - 6:30PM » \$40 TO ATTEND » MEET IN ATRIUM AT 3:30PM	27	 KARAOKE » 7:00PM - 9:00PM » RENISON ATRIUM	28	NIAGARA FALLS BUS TRIP » 8:15AM - 9:00PM » \$30 TO ATTEND » MEET IN THE ATRIUM AT 8:15AM
30	 CONVERSATION LUNCH » 12:00PM - 1:00PM » CAFETERIA	31		1	 TRUE CANADIAN TRIVIA AND SNACKS » 3:30PM - 5:00PM » DUNKER FAMILY LOUNGE	2		3	 KITCHENER RANGERS HOCKEY GAME BUS TRIP » 5:45PM - 10:00PM » \$32 TO ATTEND » MEET IN THE ATRIUM AT 5:45PM	4	 ST. JACOBS FARMERS' MARKET BUS TRIP » 12:00PM - 3:30PM » \$10 TO ATTEND » MEET IN THE ATRIUM AT 12:00PM
6	 CONVERSATION LUNCH » 12:00PM - 1:00PM » CAFETERIA	7	CURLING AT KW GRANITE CLUB » 4:00PM - 6:30PM » \$35 TO ATTEND » MEET IN THE ATRIUM AT 4:00PM 	8	SNOWMAN CHALLENGE » 3:30PM - 5:00PM » MEET IN THE ATRIUM AT 3:30PM » DRESS WARMLY! 	9		10	 GRADUATION CEREMONY » 3:30PM - 4:30PM » RENISON ATRIUM	11	 RETURN HOME SAFE TRAVELS!

ACCOMMODATION

Small residence – great student experience.

Our residences are centrally located on the University of Waterloo campus and fill up quickly. The campus is home to Canadian students 12 months of the year. Renison is known for its small, family-like community of students and faculty, making it an ideal place for international students to learn English.

**FLEXIBLE
HOMESTAY
OPTIONS**



Homestay options available for you.
Meals are included in fees.
Learn more by visiting:

uwaterloo.ca/eli/accommodation

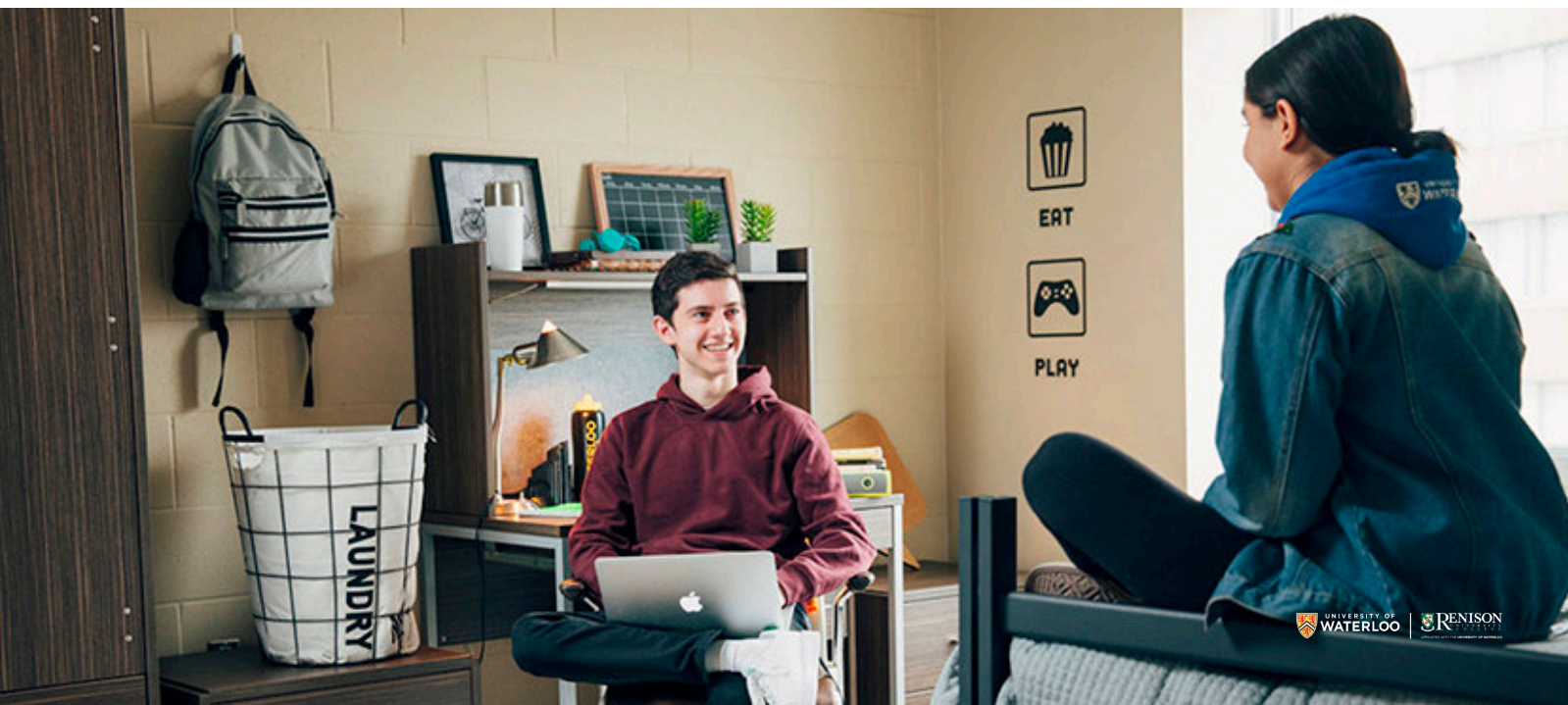
ON-CAMPUS RESIDENCE*

- › Two-minute walk to the major student hubs on campus (e.g. Student Life Centre and Physical Activities Complex)
- › Upper-year student leaders on each floor to help international students learn about life in Canada
- › Organized activities available
- › Wellness programming available exclusively to students living or studying at Renison

***Due to high demand, residence spots are subject to availability**

FOOD IN RESIDENCE

- › Fill your plate up to six times per day at our cafeteria (your meal plan is included if you live in residence)
- › Acknowledging the diverse student population at Renison, our food services team prides itself in offering a wide variety of cuisine from around the world, accommodating a host of dietary restrictions and allergies, and ensuring students have food options that feel like home
- › “My Pantry” is a separate kitchen for residents who want to create their own culinary masterpieces. Ingredients are fully stocked by our cafeteria



FACILITIES

› Stay active in our two major sports facilities: Physical Activities Complex (PAC) and Columbia Icefield (CIF). With the purchase of a one month membership, you'll have access to on campus sport facilities including gyms and a pool (subject to availability).

› The University of Waterloo has a health care clinic on campus just two minutes from Renison. Health Services provides convenient, confidential and comprehensive medical care that is included as part of your fees.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES AVAILABLE ON CAMPUS



ACCOMMODATION FEES

There are many options available to Renison ELI students looking for accommodation in Waterloo. For more information, please visit our website.



CONTACT US



Michele

Application support



Grant

Program information



Ryan

Student experience

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:



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HAVE QUESTIONS?

Connect with a member of our team to learn more about the program

