



GO ABROAD: LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY (GOALS)

Gain 21st century skills while exploring global issues

This term long, study abroad program is designed to help students enrich their 21st Century Learning Skills so they can effectively engage in academic and professional contexts across cultures.

Through a combination of dynamic courses and practical projects, students will develop their critical thinking, creative problem solving and collaborative communication abilities while exploring relevant global issues such as those emphasised by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Learning how these SDGs are being researched and realized at the University of Waterloo, students will develop their own creative solutions in the process of becoming more socially conscious, globally minded citizens.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Collaborate with others, foster a growth mindset and showcase leadership skills

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Reinforce your learning through through engaging workshops, excursions and participation in social events



ONE OF CANADA'S TOP INNOVATION UNIVERSITIES

WHO IS GOALS DESIGNED FOR?

GOALS is designed for individuals who are:

- > interested in studying abroad in Canada at one of the nation's most innovative universities
- > looking to explore the SDGs while gaining skills for the 21st century

PROGRAM INFORMATION

While dates and fees are subject to annual planning, the GOALS program typically begins in September and May.

For more information, please visit our website.



CLASS LEVELS

The GOALS program is recommended for students with a CEFR level B1 (intermediate).

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

| | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|--|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------|---------------|
| 9:30 11:30AM | Project Course | Project Course | Communication | Project | Communication |
| LUNCH 11:30AM - 1:00PM | | | | | |
| 12:30 2:30PM | Communication | Culture | Innovation | Culture | Innovation |
| 2:30 4:00PM | | | Study Hall | | Workshop |
| Optional activities and trips are offered after classes during evenings and weekends | | | | | |

ACCOMMODATION (additional \$)

On-campus residence and homestay is subject to availability.

[Learn more about the GOALS program](#)

SUPPORTS



> PEER LEADERS

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



> STUDENT ADVISOR

Dedicated staff to support your academic experience in the GOALS program including helping you through the application process to the University of Waterloo or other Canadian institutions.



> STUDENT EXPERIENCE SPECIALIST

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



WHAT STUDENTS WILL LEARN

TWO-PART PROJECT COURSE



PART I: EXPLORING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

In this course students will:

- › develop personal accountability to engage effectively in teamwork
- › explore the dynamics of teamwork to facilitate team performance and the exchange of ideas
- › position themselves as global citizens to enhance awareness of privilege and inequity
- › demonstrate understanding of SDGs to reflect on the need for action
- › apply design cycle inquiry and analysis to global challenges



PART II: IDEAS TO ACTION

In this course students will:

- › use project management tools to prioritize tasks and support team efficiency
- › reflect on self and team achievements to strengthen team performance
- › analyse a global challenge to identify opportunities for mitigation strategies
- › evaluate potential consequences to select appropriate responses
- › work collaboratively to organise findings and present solutions

SKILLS COURSES



COMMUNICATION: CONVEYING A MESSAGE

In this course students will:

- › work collaboratively with peers to discuss topics and plan and execute group work
- › apply research skills to assess information from a variety of sources
- › compile relevant data to develop and support arguments and lines of thinking
- › explore audience and purpose to develop effective communication style
- › enhance communication skills to explain and justify actions and decisions
- › use digital tools to enhance the appeal and clarity of visually presented information
- › edit and revise drafts to enhance communicative clarity



CULTURE: EMBRACING DIVERSITY

In this course students will:

- › develop cross-cultural sensitivity and awareness by examining both culture-general and culture-specific knowledge as well as by identifying their own cultural assumptions
- › build strategies for managing cultural misunderstandings and adapting communication style to different cultural contexts
- › reflect upon the value of diversity in local and global sustainable development
- › develop communication strategies that can facilitate cross-cultural communication



INNOVATION: THINKING CRITICALLY

In this course students will:

- › develop critical thinking skills to identify problems and analyze issues
- › enhance independent thinking and decision-making abilities
- › apply critical thinking skills to evaluate the feasibility and potential impact of proposed solutions to real-world scenarios related to sustainable development
- › strengthen their sense of responsibility and personal agency for sustainable development
- › develop a mindset that embraces ambiguity and failure as an opportunity for growth and innovation

ABOUT WATERLOO

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.

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.



WATERLOO, ONTARIO

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO



RENISON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

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





EXPERIENCE LIFE IN CANADA

As a GOALS 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. This is in addition to the academic excursion you'll complete as part of the GOALS program.



PRACTICE YOUR SOCIAL AND CONVERSATIONAL SKILLS

Benefit from many events and activities aimed at improving your social and conversational skills! Examples of events include speed friending, carnival nights, meet and greet events, and conversation lunches – great opportunities to build your skills while having fun.



BE A SUCCESSFUL STUDENT

Our Student Experience team is here to help you reach your goals as a GOALS student. You'll be offered a variety of opportunities to help you succeed, such as one-on-one meet-ups to improve your conversational skills, regular mandatory check-in meetings, and access to program peer leaders who are here to support your English language development.



BUILD YOUR LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Renison ELI has a variety of volunteer opportunities that are a great way for you to improve your English and gain leadership skills while you study in GOALS! Examples of volunteer opportunities include participating in campus and community events, local food drives, fairs, and more.



STAY CONNECTED

Our Student Experience team is committed to exceptional communication before you begin your program, during your studies, and after you graduate from GOALS, 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](#)



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

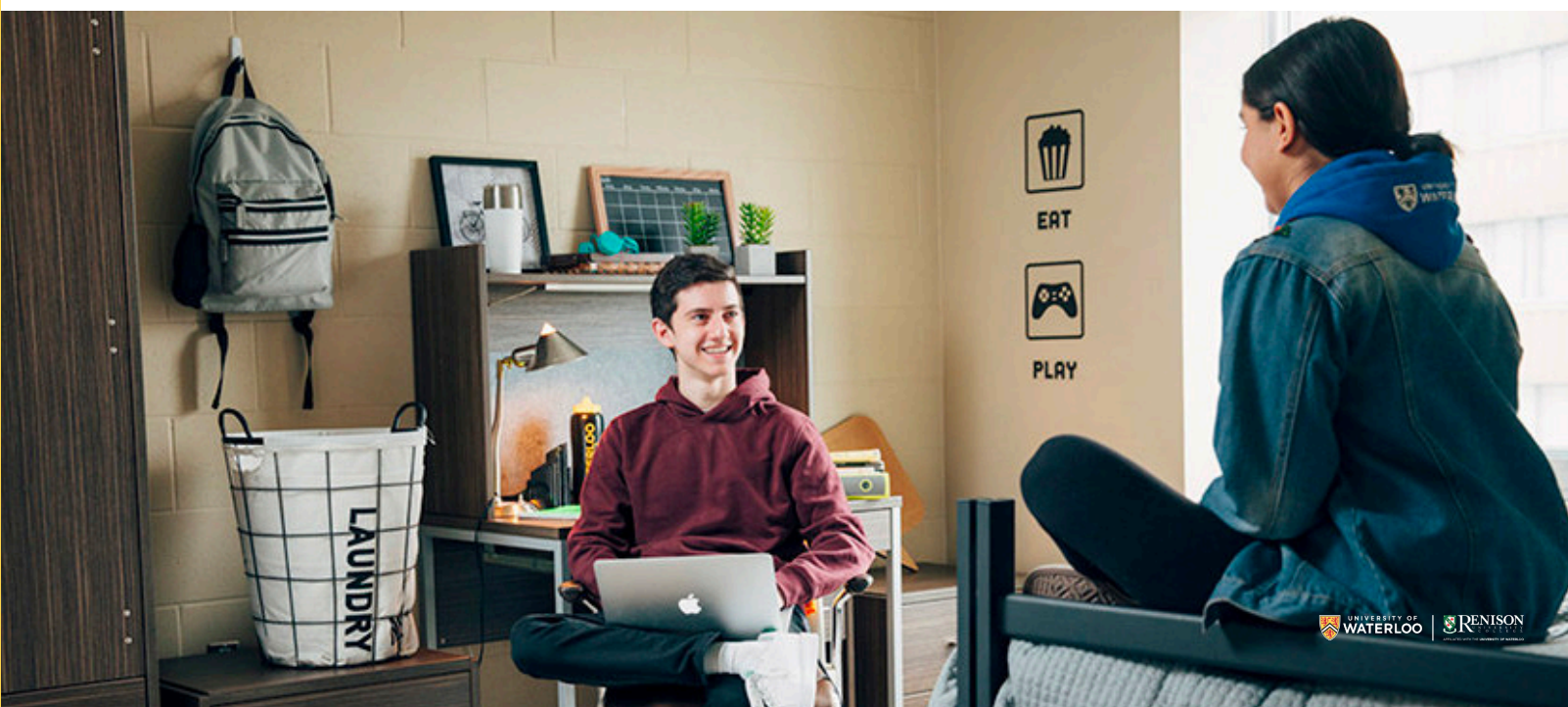
ON-CAMPUS RESIDENCE*

- › 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

Have questions? Connect with a member of our team to learn more about the program.

PROGRAM INFORMATION



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GROUP REGISTRATION



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