What is Renison University College?

A PLACE TO LEARN ...

When you co-register at Renison, you’ll be a University of Waterloo student and a Renison student. By making Renison your home campus, you will benefit from extra academic support, personalized attention, and small class sizes. Our degree programs include Social Development Studies, Social Work, and Culture and Language Studies. At Renison, you’ll thrive in an environment that blends diverse learning with a traditional university experience.

A PLACE TO LIVE ...

More than 200 students from across all six Waterloo faculties choose to live at Renison, located in the heart of the Waterloo campus. Well-known for our small, close-knit, and friendly community of students, Renison is the ideal place to support your smooth transition to university life.

A PLACE TO LEAD ...

We offer over 100 leadership opportunities – including over 50 paid positions – which will allow you to gain new skills and experiences all while building your résumé.
CULTURAL APPRECIATION

Coming into university, Abby knew she wanted to help people. She chose Social Development Studies because it’s a flexible and diverse program that allowed her to build a degree that’s right for her. Inspired by her experience living and working with international students at Renison, Abby credits the small, supportive Renison community for helping guide her toward a future career in speech language pathology.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Education for social impact.

Our Social Development Studies (SDS) students want to make a difference in the community and help people flourish. As an SDS student, you’ll work toward a Bachelor of Arts degree, with a solid foundation across the social sciences and hands-on experience for your future career. With courses in psychology, sociology, social work – and more – our flexible program and personalized support will encourage you to follow your passion and develop skills toward a career path that can change the world.


You’ll be in classes of 50 students or fewer.

SPECIALIZATIONS

- Social Work
- Education
- Individual Well-being and Development
- Social Policy and Social Action
- Diversity and Equity

Learn while you earn.

Grads of SDS are sought after by employers because of their ability to adapt and see things from multiple perspectives. Why not start building your network and develop transferable skills while completing your degree? In addition to gaining valuable practical experience in a variety of settings, as a co-op student you’ll make important career contacts, help finance your education, and have the opportunity to apply classroom theory to real-world job situations.

Learn while you earn.

The University of Waterloo offers the largest co-op program of its kind in the world.

MORE THAN A DEGREE

Ravina was uncertain about what her career path would be, but knew she wanted to stand out to future employers in a competitive job market. She decided to pursue co-op through an Arts and Business degree to try out a variety of jobs, increase her network, and learn core business skills. A major in SDS was the perfect complement to her goals, as its interdisciplinary approach helped Ravina develop the communication skills and socially engaged perspective needed to secure sought-after positions at Gate Gourmet, Blackberry, and Economical Insurance. Combining a strong academic foundation with experiential learning has set Ravina up for success in the next stage of her career: a graduate degree in teaching at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at the University of Toronto!

Sample co-op jobs:

- Teaching assistant
- Policy and research assistant
- Child and youth worker
- Camp co-ordinator

Average earnings of Arts co-op students over the course of their studies $30,000-$60,000
YASMIN
HONOURS ARTS
AND BUSINESS

One of my dreams before coming to Renison was to work in business and make a difference in the community. The Arts and Business program has given me an opportunity to take social science courses like sociology – which is really interesting – as well as business courses like economics that will help me in my career. Plus – the classes are small, so it’s comfortable for everyone to participate!

ARTS
AND
BUSINESS

Business with heart.
We do business differently. Combine your passion for working with people and practical business skills. Honours Arts and Business with a major in Social Development Studies (SDS) allows you to go beyond a traditional business degree and graduate with expertise in both areas!

Combine courses in marketing, economics, and financial management with SDS to learn how to translate your ideas into real-world social change.

WHY CO-REGISTER AT RENISON?

Best of both worlds.
As a student co-registered at Renison, you’ll get the best of both worlds: full access to a world-class university and the supportive, community-driven environment that Renison is known for. Our small class sizes encourage unique learning experiences both inside and outside the classroom. Individualized support from academic advisors and the Renison Registrar’s Office will help you get the most out of your academic experience, while taking advantage of Renison’s many experiential and leadership opportunities.

Our staff and professors will not only know your name, they’ll support the changes you want to make in the world! To learn how to enhance your degree with experiential and leadership opportunities, see pages 12-15.

Your own ACADEMIC ADVISOR will help you each term

THREE PROGRAMS TO CHOOSE FROM
- Social Development Studies (regular)
- Honours Arts (interest in SDS) with co-op
- Honours Arts and Business (interest in SDS) regular or co-op

see more on page 19.
A pathway to helping others.

The School of Social Work (SSW) brings together classroom learning and practicum experience. Renison’s SSW offers two degree programs: a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) and a Master of Social Work (MSW).

Both the BSW and MSW are post-degree programs that you can apply to after earning an undergraduate degree. At Renison you’ll have the opportunity to start visualizing your full university education from the moment you walk through our doors.

FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE

Martha has always been passionate about social justice issues and working to remove the stigma around mental illness. She began her journey to becoming a social worker by enrolling in Renison’s BSW program, after completing online courses in SDS. In addition to classes on campus, Martha took a Walls 2 Bridges course, learning alongside people with lived mental health and addiction experiences. This course profoundly impacted how Martha viewed mental health, and she went on to complete her MSW degree at the School of Social Work.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

THE Pathway to Helping Others

Martha has always been passionate about social justice issues and working to remove the stigma around mental illness. She began her journey to becoming a social worker by enrolling in Renison’s BSW program, after completing online courses in SDS. In addition to classes on campus, Martha took a Walls 2 Bridges course, learning alongside people with lived mental health and addiction experiences. This course profoundly impacted how Martha viewed mental health, and she went on to complete her MSW degree at the School of Social Work.

86% of BSW alumni felt that their education fully prepared them to work in the field

72% of BSW alumni were employed in social work within six months of completing their degree

53% of BSW alumni have continued on to complete a Master of Social Work

SOCIAL WORK PATHWAY

STEP 1: BA
Study Social Development Studies (SDS) and graduate with a three-year general or four-year honours Bachelor of Arts degree.

STEP 2: BSW
Apply to our 10-month BSW degree and get practical experience while you study.

STEP 3: MSW
Apply to our one-year online MSW program and add a third degree to broaden your horizons and career possibilities.

See page 19 for more information.

“My placement offered many learning opportunities to engage with various community partners, explore other areas of social work, and examine different approaches to practice.”

AKIESHA, BSW GRADUATE

85+ community agencies partner with the SSW for practicum placements

1st online health-focused MSW program in Canada

8 to 12 months

3 DAYS PER WEEK

of practicum placement for the full-time BSW program

10 MONTHS

earn your post-degree BSW in 10 MONTHS

CAREER POSSIBILITIES

Child welfare worker
Policy writer
Outreach worker
Nicole brings her in-class experience conducting qualitative interviews as well as quantitative research methods such as card sorts and Treejack tests to her current career in knowledge management. She now works for Shopify, conducting end user research, to evaluate and design the information architecture of internal information repositories and content, ensuring front line staff have everything they need to be successful when working with merchants.

Beyond the Bottom Line

The art of critical thinking.

More than ever, employers are looking to graduates of arts and social sciences to enhance their workforce and keep their competitive edge. The skills you’ll learn at Renison, including the ability to research, problem solve, think critically, and analyze research data, are in high demand across many sectors – including high tech! The co-op option, now available to all students, provides even more opportunities to expand your network and get started on the path to a rewarding career.

Employability in the Social Sciences

88.9% of SDS grads are employed within six months

Ontario University Graduate Survey

53% increase in jobs in social services, community services, and law between 2007-17

Statistics Canada

Nearly 75% of employers would recommend a liberal arts education to prepare for success in today’s global economy

Association of American Colleges and Universities

“Over the arc of a career, humanities and social science graduates earn as much or more than those in professional fields ... and are equally employed.”

Inside Higher Ed

Job Skills in Demand

> Communication and collaboration
> Research and analysis
> Independence and adaptability

British Academy
GRADS AT WORK

Our grads make a difference.

More alumni stories online:

uwaterloo.ca/renison/gradsatwork

LAURA BLACK
CO-ORDINATOR, STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, CONESTOGA COLLEGE

My education prepared me to listen and collaborate with diverse stakeholders; to understand attitudes, behaviours, and social factors; to advocate for those who are marginalized and to critically research and analyze systems; to practice my passion for public education; to constantly adapt and creatively problem solve. The community and education I experienced at Renison are embedded in every aspect of my career journey.

When Laura began at Renison, she wasn’t sure where her career path would take her. Social Development Studies (SDS) allowed her to explore many avenues and learn the value of responding to social issues from multiple vantage points. Laura is recognized for her leadership in community development and inclusive education, which led her to a position as a Student Rights and Responsibilities Co-ordinator at Conestoga College.

I fell in love with my career at Renison, and now I’m living my passion. Social Development Studies and the Bachelor of Social Work programs opened my eyes to the variety of career paths I could choose with my degrees. Everyone I went to school with is working in a different area of the social work field – so I have a huge network of resources to pull from whenever I need help!

LAURA BLACK
CO-ORDINATOR, STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, CONESTOGA COLLEGE

RACHAEL FOWLER AND NATHAN SOCIAL WORKER

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RACHAEL FOWLER AND NATHAN SOCIAL WORKER

JOHN NEUFELD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HOUSE OF FRIENDSHIP

My experience at Renison was foundational to working in the field of social work. I didn’t realize what social work was until I arrived, but I was fascinated. It opened up a whole new world of possibilities for me.

JOHN NEUFELD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HOUSE OF FRIENDSHIP

While Rachael was in her last year of high school, she heard about SDS from one of her friends, who was already in the program. Rachael knew that she wanted to be a social worker and immediately saw the benefit and flexibility of SDS. Being from a small town, Rachael appreciated the safe and welcoming community offered by Renison, and it quickly became her home away from home. Though she initially planned to work with children, Rachael found her passion and now has a fulfilling career working with older adults. She works in a long-term care facility and at a group home as a Social Worker. Her work ranges from individual counselling to palliative care support, dementia care, cognitive assessments – and more!

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JOHN NEUFELD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HOUSE OF FRIENDSHIP

John knew he wanted to pursue SDS, and chose Renison because of the wide range of courses. After working in child welfare with foster children, John decided that he wanted to effect change in a different way. He now works as the Executive Director of House of Friendship, an organization that works to tackle systemic social issues like homelessness and addiction.

JOHN NEUFELD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HOUSE OF FRIENDSHIP
ENHANCE YOUR DEGREE

Discover your passion.

If you are interested in discovering the world and becoming a global citizen, Renison’s unique learning environment is worth exploring. At Renison, Culture and Language Studies (CLS) offers language and culture courses to help prepare you to be a part of an international community. Renison’s International Office (RIO) offers students a variety of unique cultural experiences at home and abroad. Three minors and seven language programs are offered on Renison’s campus through CLS, in addition to the 40+ minors and 23 majors offered by Waterloo’s Faculty of Arts.

ENHANCE YOUR DEGREE

MINORS AND LANGUAGES HOUSED AT RENISON

- **MINORS**
  - Applied Language Studies
  - East Asian Studies
  - Studies in Islamic and Arab Cultures

- **LANGUAGES**
  - American Sign Language
  - Arabic
  - Chinese (Mandarin)
  - English for Multilingual Speakers
  - Japanese
  - Korean
  - Mohawk (Kaniere:kha)

PLUS SO MUCH MORE FROM ACROSS THE WATERLOO CAMPUS!

Connect with an advisor to learn more.

enquiries@renison.uwaterloo.ca

CUSTOMIZE YOUR DEGREE

Let us help you build a degree that is right for you. With an endless number of combinations to choose from, you can explore your interests, feed your passions, and achieve your goals. Whether you are interested in genetic counselling, art therapy, working in criminal justice, or you’re considering teaching and want to add teachable subjects to your degree, Social Development Studies can be combined with majors and minors from across the Waterloo campus.

Here are a few of our most popular double majors: Psychology; Sociology; Legal Studies; Environment, Resources and Sustainability; Peace and Conflict Studies; Sexuality, Marriage, and Family Studies; and Therapeutic Recreation.

FROM CONVERSATIONS TO A CAREER PATH

Charmaine’s interest in Japanese began with her participation in the Conversation Partner Program, which pairs domestic and international students to provide an intercultural experience. Charmaine studied Japanese while completing her SDS degree and, with the support of RIO, was able to realize her dream of studying abroad in Japan. After returning to Canada, Charmaine was inspired to pursue an SDS specialization focused on cultural diversity, setting her up for a career in higher education working with international students.

#CONVERSATIONPARTNERS

#STUDYABROAD

4 exclusive Renison international travel scholarships available to you

35+ countries to explore with support from the Renison International Office (RIO)

600+ students are paired annually as part of Renison’s Conversation Partner Program
LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Tell us what excites you, and we’ll help you find just the right opportunity. Enhance your résumé by taking advantage of the many leadership roles available to you at Renison. Work for a community organization or assist your professor in research. Participate in the innovative Walls 2 Bridges program, a collaborative course taught inside a correctional institution. Engage in student life by becoming a peer leader or a residence don. Work with the student community as part of Renison student council or with our international students as an English Language Institute (ELI) peer leader. University is for exploring; we’ll help you find the right opportunity for you!

- OPEN HOUSE VOLUNTEER: Join the team as a volunteer and tour guide for Renison open houses.
- ELI PEER LEADER: Make a difference and learn about other cultures first-hand.
- RESIDENCE LIFE DON: Help build inclusive and supportive environments in residence.
- CONVERSATION PARTNER: Make new friends and gain memorable intercultural experiences while helping an international student practice their English.
- MARKETING AND RECRUITMENT ASSISTANT: Gain valuable business experience and keep your finger on the pulse of Renison.
- RENISON STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBER: Take an active role in campus life by joining the Renison student government.
- RESEARCH APPRENTICE: Gain valuable research skills and work alongside one of Renison’s talented professors.
- YOUTH SOCIAL ACTION RETREAT LEADER: Engage with high school students at the annual Youth Social Action Retreat.

100+ paid and volunteer leadership opportunities available to Renison students to gain experience for co-op
RESIDENCE LIFE

A+ support.

Enjoy the success that comes from being part of a small, supportive residence community in the heart of Canada’s world-class innovation university. Renison is well known for its small, close-knit, and welcoming community of residents, making it the ideal place for your transition to university life.

WELLNESS TEAM

Our wellness team includes two full-time counsellors and one chaplain to help support you throughout your university career. In addition to providing you with one-on-one counselling, the wellness team leads programs and provides consultation and training for students, professors, and staff. Their work helps to create the positive, healthy community that Renison is known for.

BEYOND HOUSING

Khloe knew she wanted to help people and discovered SDS at Renison while exploring programs in Social Work and Psychology. She was drawn to Renison residence because of the SDS Living-Learning Community (LLC), which offers extra support. Khloe could always turn to her roommate or anyone else in the LLC for help to work through any challenges. She appreciated that her don and peer leaders were also in the SDS program, but had more experience and could give her additional guidance. Being part of the LLC has helped Khloe feel connected to the Renison community, where she has forged lifelong friendships while working toward her academic goals.

#UWHOUSING #BEYONDCOMMUNITY

FOOD AND MEAL PLANS

Enjoy fresh meals in the Renison cafeteria with your all-you-can-eat meal plan, or stop at our mobile food cart for a snack while you’re on the go. As a resident, you can whip something up on your own in the fully stocked student kitchen or learn your way around the kitchen by attending one of our many cooking classes or demonstrations. And no need to worry, your meal plan is included in the cost of residence!

LIVING-LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Being part of a living-learning community (LLC) at Renison means that your friends, roommates, and classmates are all rolled into one. As part of an LLC you’ll live with your peers, receive additional support, and have access to tailored activities. This residence option is offered to students in SDS, Warrior varsity athletes, and those enrolled in the Bridge to Academic Success in English (BASE) program. Apply to join an LLC when you apply to live in residence.

WHO’S DON?

Residence life dons are upper-year students who live and work in residences to facilitate an inclusive and supportive environment. Dons organize events, monitor buildings, and offer support around the clock. They know how to support you – they’re fun, upper-year students who have been through it all before!

TRANSPORTATION

Show your student card to ride Grand River Transit and enjoy easy access to Waterloo, Kitchener, and Cambridge. You can also count on free shuttle services between Waterloo campuses, off-campus student shuttles, and bike- and car-share programs to help you get around town.

uwaterloo.ca/renison/residence

100% residence guarantee for all first-year students

80+ wellness events organized for Renison students per term

24/7 controlled access to all residence buildings and rooms to keep you safe

1:22 Don-to-resident ratio, the smallest on campus, which means lots of upper-year support
Co-op
As a Social Development Studies, Honours Arts, or Honours Arts and Business student, you can choose the co-op stream and graduate in five years.
› Alternate study terms with four-month or eight-month paid work terms.
› Explore a variety of careers and make valuable networking contacts.
› Help to finance your education – earn while you learn.

Regular, with an edge
Pair the consistency of September to April study and summers off with EDGE,* Waterloo’s experiential education certificate program. Developed in partnership with career advisors, EDGE allows you to enhance your academic co-curricular, and work experiences with professional development. You’ll learn how to market the skills you’ve gained inside and outside the classroom to set you apart from the competition.
*Available for regular system of study only.

Scholarship and financial aid
We invest in you!

Entrance Scholarships
If you are applying to post-secondary education for the first time, you will automatically be considered for an entrance scholarship. Your admission average determines which scholarship you receive.

Regular
Choose from two
systems of study

Enjoy continuity in campus activities and move on to a career or further education a full year sooner than in co-op by choosing the regular stream.

Graduate in 4 years for work, travel, volunteering, or extra courses

Over 93% of students coming to Renison from high school receive an entrance scholarship

Pathway to Social Work

Program: Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) 10-month program
Requirements: Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) 10-month program
- Letters of reference, résumé, and a personal statement demonstrating practical work or volunteer experience and professional suitability.
- Undergraduate university degree with a minimum of 6 units (12 courses) in the social sciences, including 10 prerequisite courses. Minimum 70% average required.

Program: Master of Social Work (MSW) One-year program
Requirements: Minimum 75% average in final 2 years of study.
- Successful completion of a research methodology course and a statistics course – or one full course that includes both.

Want to know more about the types of courses you can take?
› Changing Concepts of Childhood
› Children’s Rights in Canada
› Globalization and Social Development
› Race and Gender Equality
› Ecology, Society, and Justice: Social Development and the Environment
› Indigenous Peoples and Canadian Public Policy
› Radical Ideology and Social Policy
› Positive Psychology
› Adult Life Crises and Events
› Learning Disabilities
› Child maltreatment: Identification and Prevention
› Personality
› Family Violence
› Social Work in Healthcare
› Aging and Social Development
› Understanding Diversity in Canada
› Social Work with Families
› Canadian Social Welfare Policy

Want to combine SDS with Arts and Business?

Sample Courses
› Entrepreneurship Principles and Practices
› International Business
› Leadership, Teams, and Communication
› Government and Business
› Principles of Marketing

2021 requirements

Program (OUAC Code) Required Courses Admissions Average
Social Development Studies (WRS) (regular) 6 Grade 12U or M courses including any grade 12U English course (min 70%)
Honours Arts (WRA) (regular or co-op) Low 90s or greater
Honours Arts and Business (WAB) (regular or co-op) *Mathematics and Data Management is a recommended course for admission to social science programs.

Applying to co-op?
Choose the co-op option when you apply to Honours Arts (WRA) or Arts and Business (WAB).
Choose Social Development Studies as your major interest.

Apply to Social Development Studies (WRS) or Honour Arts (WRA). Renison is your campus.

Apply to Honours Arts and Business (WAB). Email renison@uwaterloo.ca to ask for Renison as your campus.
We’ll take care of the rest.

Pathway to Social Work

Program: Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) 10-month program
Requirements: Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) 10-month program
- Letters of reference, résumé, and a personal statement demonstrating practical work or volunteer experience and professional suitability.
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Requirements: Minimum 75% average in final 2 years of study.
- Successful completion of a research methodology course and a statistics course – or one full course that includes both.
SDS SPECIALIZATIONS

As part of the Social Development Studies (SDS) program you can choose to specialize in one or more of the following areas.

SOCIAL WORK
DESIGNED FOR: Students interested in social work. This specialization offers many of the prerequisite courses needed to apply to the BSW program at Renison.
SAMPLE COURSES: Social Group Work; Social Work with Individuals; Social Work with Families; and Community Organization.

EDUCATION
DESIGNED FOR: Students interested in professions that focus on teaching and learning, children and youth, program development, evaluation, or policy analysis.
SAMPLE COURSES: Education and Social Development from a Global Perspective; Learning Disabilities; and Changing Concepts of Childhood.

INDIVIDUAL WELL-BEING AND DEVELOPMENT
DESIGNED FOR: Students interested in careers in areas such as life coaching and training, leadership development, or human resources.
SAMPLE COURSES: Personality; Optimal Living; and Positive Psychology.

SOCIAL POLICY AND SOCIAL ACTION
DESIGNED FOR: Students interested in careers in public service or organizations focused on social justice in areas such as community organization; law; global governance; human rights; health, housing, or the environment.
SAMPLE COURSES: Homelessness and Public Policy; Indigenous Peoples and Canadian Public Policy; and Radical Ideology and Social Policy.

DIVERSITY AND EQUITY
DESIGNED FOR: Students interested in developing knowledge and skills that help them understand and work with people from diverse backgrounds, both within Canada and internationally.
SAMPLE COURSES: Cross-Cultural Psychology; Globalization and Social Development; and Disability and Society.

EXTRA FUNDING

Scholarships and Bursaries
Renison students have access to additional scholarships, awards, and bursaries available for every single term of study. You are also eligible for financial support through Waterloo. Ask us how you can apply for an entrance bursary!

Other Funding Available
- Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP), which provides loans and bursaries for Ontario residents.
- External scholarships and bursaries.
- Co-op and part-time jobs on campus.

$500 GUARANTEED SCHOLARSHIP
for any Renison student going on an international exchange experience

uwaterloo.ca/renison/student-travel-fund

RESIDENCE

Renison is a part of the first year residence guarantee, and we reserve 80% of our rooms for first-year students! To make sure you live at Renison, rank it as your number one choice on the Waterloo Residence Community Ranking Form, and make sure you have accepted your offer and paid your residence deposit by the deadlines. Residence information can be found at:
uwaterloo.ca/renison/residence

Your meal plan is included in your residence fees. The prices listed below are based on the current year and may be used as a guide but are subject to change.

8-MONTH CONTRACT

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<th>ROOM TYPE</th>
<th>PRICE (SHR)</th>
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<td>Traditional double</td>
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<td>$11,690</td>
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<tr>
<td>Link single room</td>
<td>$12,755</td>
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</table>

COMING SOON

VISIT US

Book your tour today!
renison@uwaterloo.ca
Tips on how to apply:
uwaterloo.ca/renison/apply
TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Renison University College acknowledges that our work is on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. Our institution is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place across our campus through research, learning, teaching, community building and outreach, and is centralized within the work of our Truth and Reconciliation Working Group and the University of Waterloo’s Indigenous Initiatives Office.