



UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

CONTEXT:

The University of Waterloo Graduate Student Association (GSA) is issuing short-term research contracts to support the operations of the GSA Council.

The GSA Council is the body responsible for determining the official positions of the GSA as they relate to academic and political representation of uWaterloo Graduate Students. Council's operations are regulated by GSA By-Law 7.

REQUIREMENTS:

The research topics listed in this document all have the same required deliverables. In order to receive payment, the required deliverables must be completed to the satisfaction of the GSA President and/or Vice President.

The requirements are as follows:

- Coordination meetings with GSA (~2 hours)
- Written report (5 – 10 pages not including bibliography/appendices, single spaced, 10 Arial, Chicago citation)
- PowerPoint presentation to GSA Council (10 – 15 minutes)

FORMAT:

All written reports and PowerPoint presentations must use the following format, [modeled after public sector briefing note templates](#):

1. Purpose
2. Issue
3. Background
4. Key Considerations
5. Conclusions and Recommendations to GSA Council

RESEARCH TOPICS:

- Graduate student contributions to uWaterloo (\$600)
- A review of the university of waterloo's environmental sustainability strategy (\$500)

TIMELINE:

Research contracts are to be issued in April and completed by September 2020 (timing is flexible).

PUBLISHING NOTE:

The reports and presentation will be the property of the GSA, and will be posted on the GSA website. The author(s) will be identified on the final document.

APPLICATIONS:

Resumes/CVs, along with a brief statement of interest (2-3 paragraphs), should be sent to gsa-vp@uwaterloo.ca by **April 13th, 2020 at 11:59PM**. Please specify which research topic you are applying for – and use the subject line "GSA Research Contract Application".

GRADUATE STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO UWATERLOO (\$600):

Graduate students at uWaterloo provide the University with financial support via tuition, academic esteem through publications and conference hosting/attendance, and serve as TAs, RAs, and sessional instructors. However, the contributions of the graduate student community to uWaterloo is often overshadowed by the sheer volume of undergraduate students, and the resulting financial benefits they (specifically international undergraduate students) bring to the University. Accordingly, a review of the financial, academic, and employment benefits the graduate student community provides to uWaterloo will help to provide context to the important role graduate students have in terms of supporting the University's ongoing operations.

Research and recommendations are required on this topic in order to assist the GSA Council with understanding and communicating the important role of graduate students at uWaterloo.

A REVIEW OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO'S ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY (\$500)

The GSA believes that the University of Waterloo should consider the long-term environmental sustainability of its operations to be a top campus priority. The University has the potential to become a community leader if it proceeds with initiatives such as green building design, green power sources, increased campus naturalization, demand-side transportation planning, sustainable food, and community education programs. Reductions in long-term energy or materials costs will free more of the university's operating budget to be spent on academic priorities, and reduce the financial pressure to increase tuition fees. The University of Waterloo has issued a Sustainability Strategy to guide operations from 2017 – 2025; however, the efficacy of this strategy must be better understood. Accordingly, a review of the Sustainability Strategy and associated annual reports are required in order to determine if uWaterloo: has set appropriate environmental commitments; is meeting stated targets; and, should incorporate additional action items into its Sustainability Strategy.

Research and recommendations are required on this topic in order to assist the GSA Council with supporting campus sustainability initiatives.