# HEALTHY SPAGES, SUPPORTED LEARNING

RENOVATION AND REFURBISHMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO LIBRARIES



I think that the renovation of the third floor of the Dana Porter Library is a welcome change as study spaces are a sought-after resource, especially during exam time. This creation of new and more welcoming study spaces will ultimately benefit many students at the University of Waterloo.

SAMANTHA SMITH, LIBRARY AMBASSADOR University of Waterloo students drive themselves every day to achieve academically, and they require and deserve facilities which support their learning as well as their mental, physical, and emotional health.

With many students regularly spending several hours per day or even full days at the Library, updating amenities for study, instruction, relaxation, and social connection are crucial to student success.

### **INCREASED STUDY AND INSTRUCTIONAL SPACE FOR STUDENT LEARNING**

The Dana Porter Library and The Davis Centre Library are often filled to capacity with students who are looking for individual and group study space, as well as space for active learning. Current limitations on additional building construction require a creative re-purposing of the existing layouts.

On the third floor of Dana Porter, we're adding instructional space with moveable equipment and a sliding door to increase capacity during events and allow for a variety of uses, including group study space. We are also converting five existing office spaces to group study rooms. At Davis Centre, we're updating five single study rooms.





Additional space for single and group work will be immensely helpful to students, especially during exam time when most students study on campus. It is usually really hard to find a study spot during midterm and exam season, hence this upgrade will provide us students with more space to add to our academic success.

MARIAM RIZVI, LIBRARY AMBASSADOR

### **INCREASED LOUNGE SPACE FOR STUDENT WELLNESS**

To succeed academically, it is imperative that students, many of whom are dealing with the anxiety of living away from home for the first time, are supported mentally and emotionally. The Library currently runs wellness programs in the lobby of Dana Porter for students who are experiencing emotional and mental health challenges. A new lounge on the third floor will offer an accessible and comfortable space for students to participate in stress reduction programs, or to just relax and find support among their peers. Dana Porter will also offer a multi-faith prayer room to support the spiritual wellness and diversity of students and faculty.

In Davis Centre, we are developing a lounge, where students can relax, chat, and have access to the latest journals and books (including popular novels for leisure reading).

### **SUPPORTING NEW TECHNOLOGIES**

When the Libraries were built, personal technology devices were science fiction. Today they are a vital part of everyday life for our students. The furniture in student study areas needs to be updated to support the use of these new technologies. New and larger carrels are required to accommodate laptops and personal devices, and study areas require ergonomic updates.

## **YOU CAN HELP**

Waterloo students are bright, driven, and ambitious, but to achieve their potential, they need a solid foundation of physical, mental, and spiritual wellness. As a popular space of learning and collaboration, the Library can and must also offer students wellness support. You can help with a gift to the Library's renovation and refurbishment project, which will allow us to develop more spaces for collaboration, focused study, and wellness programing, and update amenities to serve physical health. With your support, we can serve Waterloo students holistically, ensuring they have all the resources they need to truly make an impact.

The Library offers multiple
wellness programs and
activities. Programs like
Blind Date with a Book
(which encourages
students to take a break
from studying and read for
pleasure), board games,
and colouring help students
relieve stress.

# DID YOU KNOW?

The Library Ambassadors program employs eight students each term to of provide experiential learning opportunities and student wellness activities, foster collaboration with student service departments, and deepen engagement with our users.

uwaterloo.ca/library

TO SUPPORT THE RENOVATION AND REFURBISHMENT OF THE DANA PORTER AND THE DAVIS CENTRE LIBRARIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

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