

University of Waterloo Statement on Graduate Student Office Space

Every academic department at the University of Waterloo should strive to provide high-quality working space to all its graduate students. Below is a list of principles to be considered while working to achieve this goal.

- * Every graduate student involved in research is entitled to access to an office with a desk. The Council of Ontario Universities (COU) standard is for every student to have four square metres of an office; while recognizing that not all departments may be able to provide four square metres to every research-based student, this is a goal that UW will work toward. In situations where insufficient space is available, it is preferable that every student engaged in research be given space, at the expense of meeting the four square metre goal.
- * The four square metres of office space referred to in the previous bullet is understood to be in addition to any “wet” laboratory space that a student may need for research, to avoid situations in which students do non-laboratory work at a laboratory bench.
- * Students in professional programs or other programs having no research component or who are involved in teaching are entitled to have access to study, break and work space. Often such space is communal in nature. It is desirable for departments to provide secure storage, such as lockers, to students in these programs.
- * The ability of the department to provide adequate space should be taken into consideration when determining the number of graduate students to admit, similar to the way in which the ability to adequately fund a student is taken into consideration.
- * Departments, schools and faculties should have long-term space plans in place to recognize that the need for graduate student space will grow in the future, and to ensure that graduate growth plans are not hampered by a lack of space.

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Approved by Graduate Student Relations Committee

Endorsed by UW Executive Council and GSA Council