



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS of contributions



UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO



Land Acknowledgment

The University of Waterloo acknowledges that much of our work takes place on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples. Our main campus is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River.

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Message from WESEF

From the Dean of Environment

With their passion, knowledge, skills and connections, our Waterloo Environment students and alumni play important roles in realizing the Faculty's vision of a more sustainable future. In order to prepare our students to make real world impact, it is necessary to provide outstanding experiences within a culture of wellbeing. With the Waterloo Environment Students Endowment Fund's generous support, we have been able to achieve that with improved facilities and new technology, exciting educational opportunities and meaningful experiences. Thank you for the commitment you have made and everything you have accomplished in the last 25 years!



BRUCE FRAYNE

Dean, Faculty of Environment



From the WESEF Chairman

It is an honour to have the opportunity of being a part of WESEF, an incredible organization that has been making significant strides towards a more sustainable future for the past 25 years. On behalf of the WESEF team, we are very proud of the work that we have done and would like to thank the University of Waterloo and the Faculty of Environment for their continuous support for our cause. Moving forward, WESEF will continue to invest in our students and faculty members, their wellbeing, and the prosperity of our natural environment. We are excited to share this journey with you and encourage you to look forward to seeing more from us!



AYMAN MAHIN GOSTAR

Chairman, WESEF





About WESEF

What is WESEF?

The Waterloo Environment Students Endowment Fund (WESEF) was established by our students in the fall of 1997 to raise money to improve the quality of undergraduate and graduate academic and student life of the Faculty of Environment. Its initiation and operation is student based, which enables students to have a direct influence over their academic and student life environment.

Our Purpose

The objective of WESEF is to raise funds for improving environmental studies education at the University of Waterloo. Where the funds are spent is up to the environmental studies student body, people like you and me. We hear the proposals, we weigh the pros and cons, and decide what projects will get funding from WESEF. The WESEF board changes from term to term.

Who can submit a proposal?

- › Students who contribute to the foundation through 'ENV Endowment Fund' Voluntary Student Contribution are eligible to make WESEF proposals. All proposals must be approved by a faculty or staff member, and applicants will be required to give a short (approximately five minutes) presentation to WESEF to give our board members a chance to ask any questions they might have about your proposal.
- › The Board of Directors for WESEF accepts proposals for funding which support projects that will enhance the environmental studies educational experience at the University of Waterloo. Broadly speaking, this can include funding for capital projects or one-time operating projects such as public speakers or conference attendance.

The WESEF Board

- › The WESEF board usually consists of 11 representatives consisting of the WESEF Chair as well as undergraduate, graduate, faculty, and staff representatives
- › The Chair is elected for a one-year term during the winter Environment Student Society (ESS) elections
- › The student representatives are chosen by their corresponding student association
- › The staff and faculty representatives are chosen by the Dean of Environment from among a pool of willing candidates
- › Officer positions (Vice-chair, Secretary, Treasurer) are decided at the first board meeting each term

BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

● ELECTED
 ● DEAN OF ENVIRONMENT'S OFFICE
 ● GRADUATES
 ● UNDERGRADUATES



An overview of the past 25 years

450+

**PROJECTS AND
PROPOSALS**

\$1.66M+

TOTAL FUNDING

~20K

**STUDENTS, FACULTY
MEMBERS AND STAFF
IMPACTED**

across **28** undergraduate
and graduate programs

IN THE FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT

STUDENT AWARDS

9

**student awards
granted**

\$9K

total funding

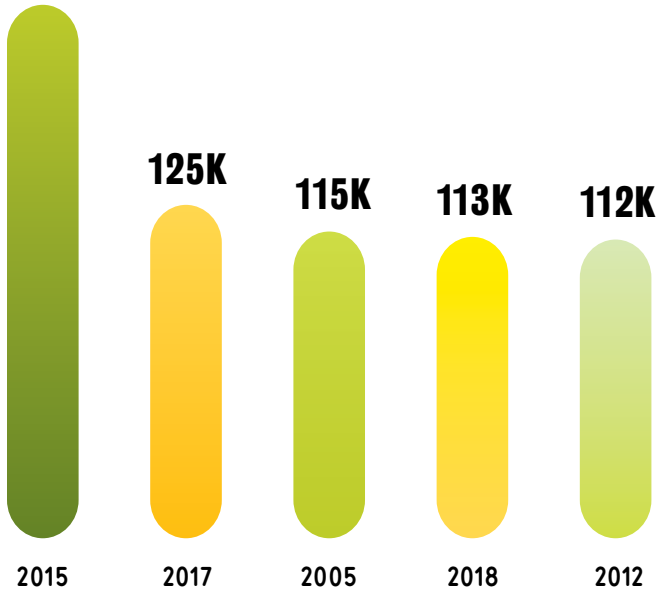
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**programs
impacted**

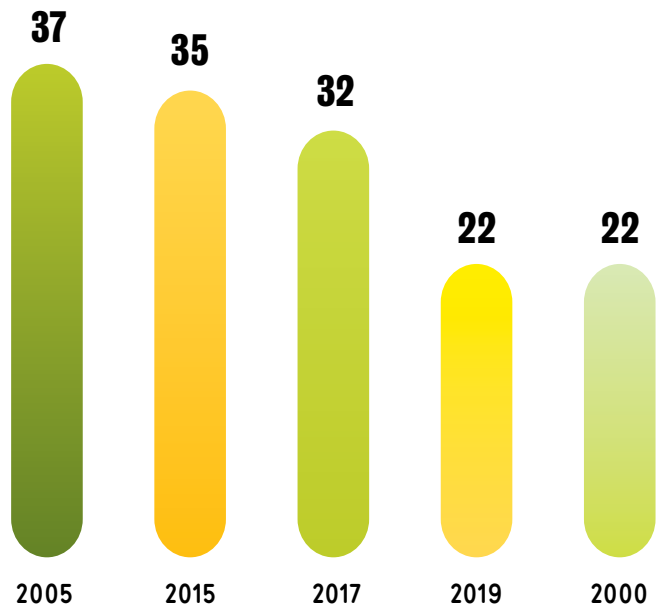
TOP 5 YEARS

LARGEST AMOUNTS OF FUNDING GRANTED

200K



LARGEST NUMBER OF PROPOSALS FUNDED



YEARLY AVERAGES

Amount of funding granted

\$65K

Number of proposals funded

18

Amount of funding per proposal

\$3,670

PROPOSAL APPROVAL RATES

Full or more funding granted	50%
Partial funding granted	29%
No funding granted	20%
Withdrawn by applicant	1%

For a more detailed breakdown of projects funded by WESEF, visit

uwaterloo.ca/wesef

SUCCESS STORIES

Over the course of 25 years, WESEF has funded numerous projects and initiatives including, but not limited to:

- › **Events**
- › **Spaces and Infrastructure**
- › **Conferences and Workshops**
- › **Student Initiatives**



25

years of WESEF
funding

SUCCESS STORIES



EVENTS

EGSA Charity Ball

EGSA and AGP hosted the 2022 Charity Ball: A Grimm Fairytale Evening in October at the Museum in Kitchener! This was a fundraising gala to raise money for Reep Green Solutions. Over 70 people attended and \$2,244.59 was raised.

70+

**EGSA Charity Ball
attendees**



“Without WESEF’s funding and support, the Charity Ball would not have been as spooky or successful! We are so thankful that we could get together and raise funds to help an environmental charity that has been helping people in Waterloo Region live sustainably.”

NATHANAEL BERGBUSCH

President, Environment Graduate
Student Association (EGSA)



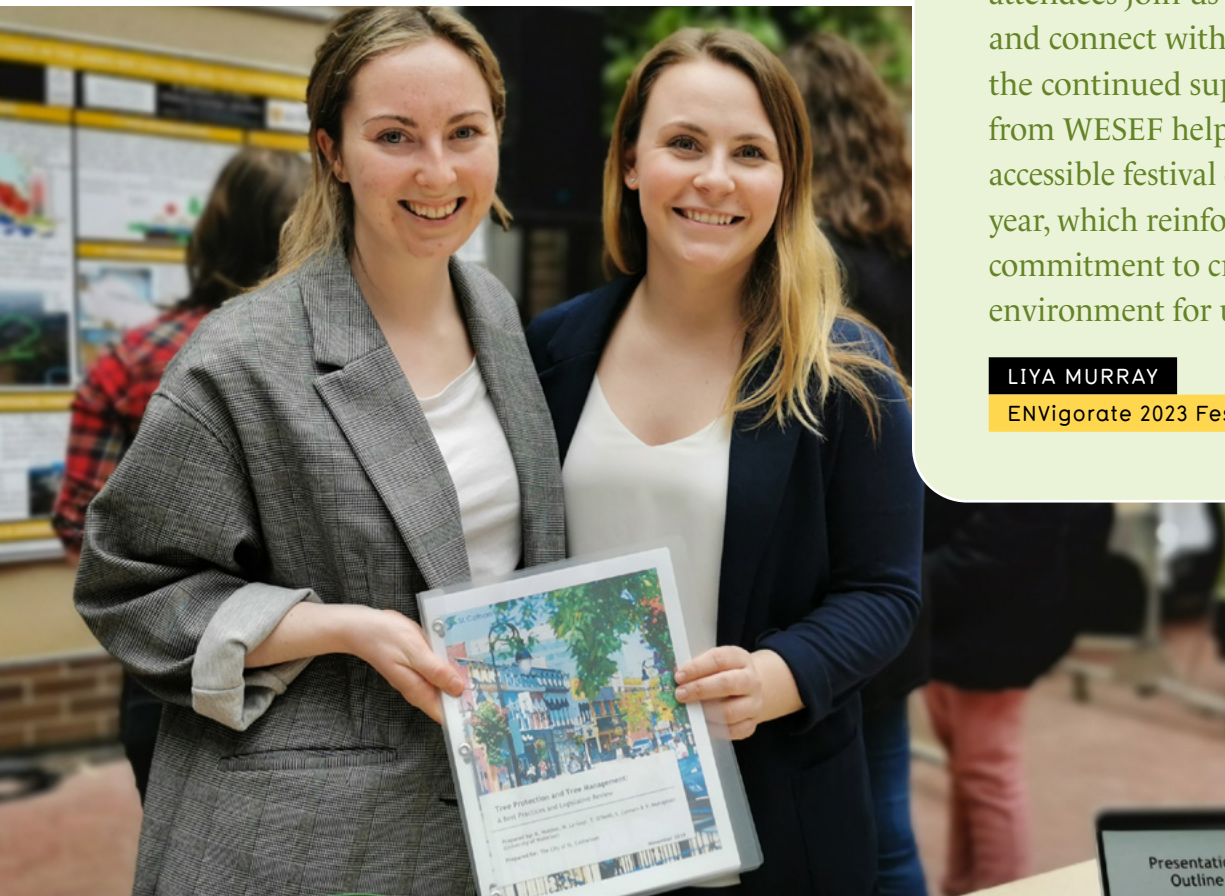
ENVigorate Festival

ENVigorate is a highly anticipated annual event that celebrates the Faculty of Environment through art, music, workshops, presentations, food, and collaboration. During the three-day event, students are encouraged to share their research sustainability-related work during the Research Symposium, which is an excellent opportunity to foster a culture of innovation and excellence amongst the student body. Ultimately, ENVigorate strives to achieve global impacts through local-scale changes.



“The ENVigorate Festival is a Faculty of Environment tradition that showcases our community’s strengths through our diverse knowledge, experiences, and skillsets, brought together by our shared interest in sustainability. Since 2015, hundreds of attendees join us to learn from and connect with each other, and the continued support we receive from WESEF helps us provide an accessible festival experience each year, which reinforces the faculty’s commitment to creating a positive environment for us to grow in.”

LIYA MURRAY
ENVigorate 2023 Festival Co-Chair



EVENTS



Environment Orientation Week

Embarking on a new journey is never easy, the Environment Orientation Week eases incoming students into university life through mentorship, interactive games, networking opportunities, informational sessions, and most importantly, a great deal of fun. It allows incoming students to kickstart their journey by making unforgettable memories and lifelong friends!

“Environment Orientation has always been a cornerstone in the university journey of a new Environment student. Orientation is a place for new students to get to know each other, build faculty pride and begin to develop the crucial support networks necessary for university life. With the support of WESEF, we were able to share Environment Orientation traditions such as our green bandannas with our incoming students in person for the first time since 2019.”

ELOISE, MADDY, ALEX

Environment Orientation Team 2022

ESS Mental Health Week

A week of campfires, games, pottery painting, and good company. Students from the various programs in the Faculty of Environment gather to attend ESS Mental Health Week, where they get to step away from the whirlwind of day-to-day life. The health and wellbeing of students is of utmost importance, initiatives like the ESS Mental Health week help achieve that!



“Mental Health and Wellness Week allows students to put down their books, forget about their busy schedules and focus on themselves. Seeing the impact these fun and accessible events have on students has been inspirational and greatly benefited the morale and quality of student life on campus.”

MATTHEW VAN BAKEL

Mental Health and Wellness Director,
Environment Student Society (ESS)



SPACES AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Ecology Lab

From providing lab equipment and preserved specimens to teaching the basics of how to use them, the Ecology Lab is a one-stop resource centre to support students with their research endeavours. Providing a more hands-on experience, the learning also includes outdoor classrooms to broaden students' environmental experience!



“Experiential learning is an important component of student success in the Faculty of Environment and having the right equipment is critical for these hands-on experiences. With the help of WESEF funding, Ecology lab is able to provide equipment to students to help meet their academic goals.”

BEV RAIMBAULT

Ecology Lab Coordinator



MAD Lab

Equipping students with the right toolkits and facilities for their research endeavours is central in achieving educational excellence. The Mapping, Analysis and Design (MAD) lab achieves this by providing students access to features such as Azure Virtualized Desktop (AVD), Esri ArcGIS, MAD's knowledge base, and many more! The MAD lab plays a crucial role in opening doors for students to better understand and analyze environmental, economic, and social problems.



“Thanks to the support of WESEF, we have been able to provide students with many experiential opportunities and resources. I appreciate that WESEF has allowed us to enhance student's academic experiences.”

DAN BEAVER

Workshop Coordinator, MAD Lab

SPACES AND INFRASTRUCTURE



EV1 Courtyard

With two living walls, multi-use furniture, and a glass roof that lets in natural light, the Environment 1 courtyard is one of the best study spots for students. This one-of-a-kind design allows for a comfortable space to enjoy sunlight without having to face the winter temperatures.



“The EV1 courtyard is a slice of spring, it’s warm, it has grass, lovely lighting, and it feels like you’re having a picnic indoors. I’m glad we have a space like this in our faculty.”

OLUWADAMILARE AWOLEYE

President of United College
Student Union (Environment Living
Learning Community)



ESS Lounge

Located strategically beside the ES Coffee Shop, the Environment Student Society (ESS) Lounge is the perfect place for students to network, collaborate, and enjoy their cup of coffee on one of the many comfortable seating options! It also has a wall-sized whiteboard where students may post and read announcements and encouraging phrases from their fellow peers.



“The lounge is the hidden gem of the University of Waterloo, it’s a study spot, a café, and a lounge all in one. It is the perfect location to do some work, chat with friends and also connect with new people.”

KATIE TRAYNOR

Environmental Director, Environment
Student Society (ESS)

Environmental Studies Coffee Shop

Run entirely by student volunteers, the Environmental Studies Coffee Shop is dedicated to offering premium quality food and beverages at an affordable price, while also maintaining high environmental standards. This is done by using locally roasted coffee that is Rainforest Alliance certified and serving them in reusable dishes. It has become a go-to place for students to grab a snack or a cup of warm beverage!



“We’re so glad WESEF helped us reopen after the lockdowns! The coffee shop is vital to student life and gave ESS the opportunity to meet local businesses and improve student life.”

KAREN CHEN

VP Finance, Environment Student Society (ESS)





“The coffee shop is a great place to meet new people. It’s very convenient having an affordable option right next to our classes.”

MICHAEL PIZZIMENTI
ES Coffee Shop Manager

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

SDG Impact Alliance Workshop

In collaboration with University of Waterloo's Centre for Career Action, the Introduction to Greenhouse Gas Accounting is an upskilling workshop that teaches participants about the fundamentals of the Corporate Standard Greenhouse Gas Protocol. Organizations around the world widely use the said protocol to measure how much greenhouse gas emissions they emit into the atmosphere.



"As many of us are thinking of ideas to decrease global emissions, I believe measuring impact is the most important step to ensure solutions that we create are relevant and powerful. This workshop is aimed to help students improve their technical skills in greenhouse gas accounting which they can use in their everyday work or for school, and immense shout out to WESEF for providing me financial support to make this a reality for students who want to boost their careers in sustainability."

ASSER ANG

SDG Impact Alliance

Environment Graduate Student Conference

EGSA and AGP hosted the 2022 Environment Graduate Student Conference as part of orientation in September. They had a plenary panel with some inspiring post-doctoral fellows, poster presentations, many oral sessions, and we capped it all off with a pub crawl. This was a great opportunity to network and share research ideas!



"The EGSA was thrilled that WESEF could help us fund an in-person Environment Graduate Student Conference during orientation this year and help revitalize the community! This was a terrific chance to get together, learn, and support our fellow graduate students."

NATHANAEL BERGBUSCH

President, Environment Graduate Student Association (EGSA)

International Development Student Conference

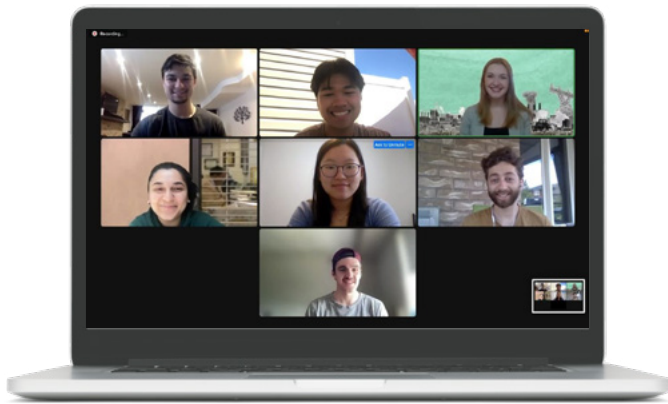
The annual International Development Student Conferences centre on some of the most pressing topics of our time. The students are given the opportunity to listen to insightful talks by experienced professors in the field and engage in enlightening discussions with their peers. Not only that, they also gain everyday skills on how to be more sustainable consumers through various workshops!



"The annual International Development networking event continues to provide opportunities for students to forge connections and engage in conversations with like-minded students, professionals, and professors in the development field. The guided, but mostly informal style communication during the event has allowed students to create personal and professional networks that impart lasting relationships and future career pathways."

EMILY MEISSNER (SHE/HER)

President, Student Association for International Development (SAID)



WRUPC - PSA Conference

UW Hydroponics Club

Founded by two Environment and Business students, UW Hydroponics Club innovates solutions to the colossal environmental impacts of the agricultural industry by eliminating the need for soil. Since then, the club has grown significantly and is continuously educating fellow students on alternative means of agriculture. WESEF is proud to support student innovators as they shape the path toward a more sustainable future.



“The UW Hydroponics Club brought together students and faculty from many different departments who have a shared interest in learning about and connecting with the future of food and agriculture. The funding provided by WESEF was the key to making this possible with the purchase of a vertical hydroponics system that is still being used by students today.”

KYLE BORN

Co-Founder, UW Hydroponics Club

The Radicle

Co-founded by Andrew Rutland in 2019, The Radicle is the Faculty of Environment's digital publication. Its content is created and managed by students for the Environment community by including a wide variety of content, including photography, op-eds, current news, and poetry. The Radicle is a space for ideas and connections to grow and flourish. Check out The Radicle on their website:

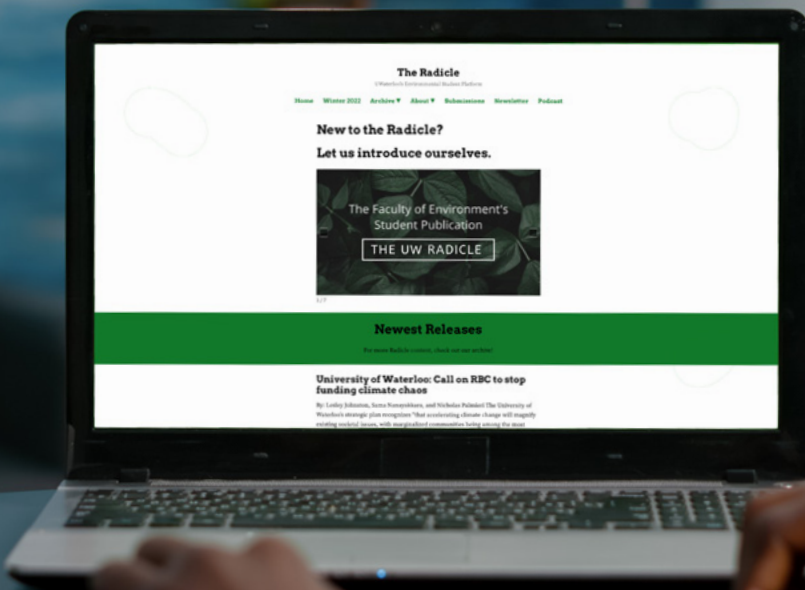
theradicle.home.blog



“The Radicle has been a hub for Environment community news and events since its inception in 2019. With WESEF funding, our passionate founding team was able to turn our vision of a student-led Environment publication into reality.”

MICHELLE ANGKASA

Former Editor-in-Chief



ANDREW RUTLAND

Co-Founder
and former
Editor-in-Chief

WESEF proposals and funding

Funding Criteria

WESEF aims to fund projects where:

- › Benefits are exclusive to ENV students
- › Beneficial to large number of ENV students
- › Applicable to multiple programs
- › Enhances educational or student life
- › Cost comparable to benefits
- › Funding is urgently needed
- › Funding not available through other sources

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for funding, either an individual or group must fulfill all of the following criteria:

- › All prospective recipients must be full-time undergraduate students or graduate students within the Faculty of Environment at the University of Waterloo.
- › Applicants may not have previously applied for a WESEF contribution refund.
- › Proposals must contain estimated costing and have approval from the appropriate authorities (e.g., Mapping, Analysis and Design (MAD), Plant Operations).
- › Please ensure that a complete formal estimate of costs is included with your submission. This may include, but is not limited to, invoices, online quotes, or costs given by Plant Operations.
- › The proposal is not for a field trip (be it personal or otherwise) or on-going, operating costs of a project.

Applying for Funding

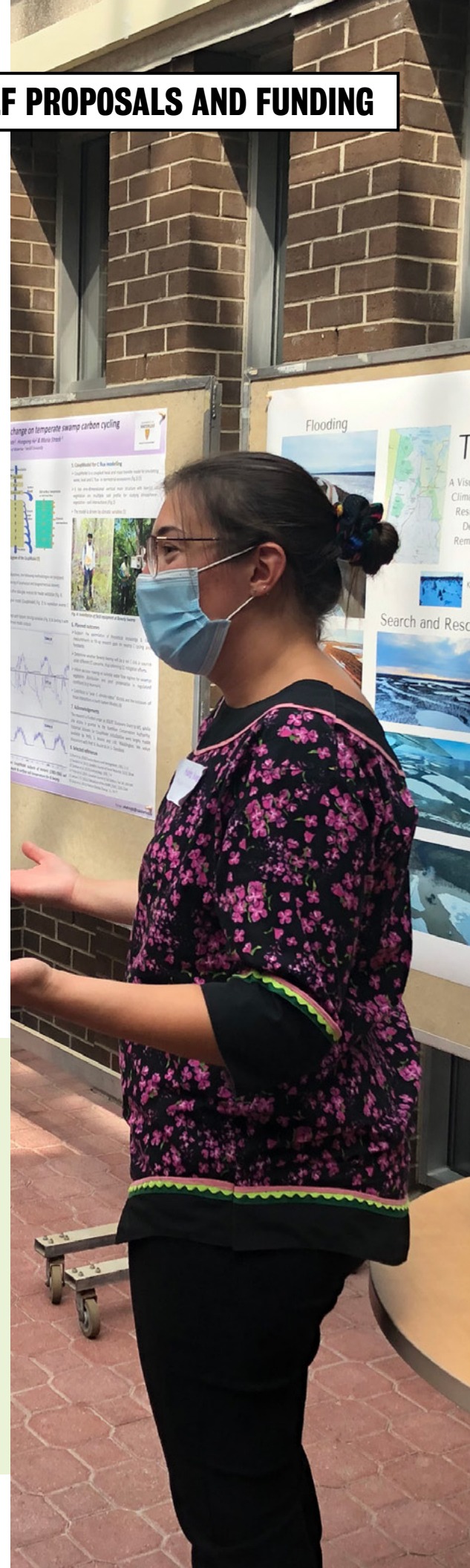
You may submit a proposal using our online application form to apply for funding or via email at wesef@uwaterloo.ca

- › You may submit as many proposals in a term as you wish.
- › Proposals can be for any amount.
- › Once the board has received and reviewed all the proposals for the term, proponents will be invited to give a presentation to the Board about their proposal and to answer questions concerning it.
- › The WESEF Board of Directors provides acceptance letters to successful applicants which confirm the extent of funding, should your proposal be accepted.



How to Contact WESEF?

If you have any questions about writing or submitting a WESEF proposal, visit our website at uwaterloo.ca/wesef or contact us at wesef@uwaterloo.ca





UNIVERSITY OF
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FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT

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