# Masters of Planning Orientation Guide



Graduate Studies in the School of Planning at the University of Waterloo

2010

# **WELCOME!**

Welcome to the School of Planning at the University of Waterloo! The information in this orientation guide has been assembled by students who were in your very position less than a year ago. This guide seeks to answer the questions we had as incoming students, in the hope that it will help you as a new graduate student at the University of Waterloo. This orientation quide presents information about living in Waterloo and provides information related to being a graduate student in planning at UW. Additional details about the school of planning can be found in the graduate calendar at http://www.grad.uwaterloo.ca/ACMS/. Also, please feel free to get in touch with any of the contacts provided in this guide if you have any questions about starting your graduate studies at the University of

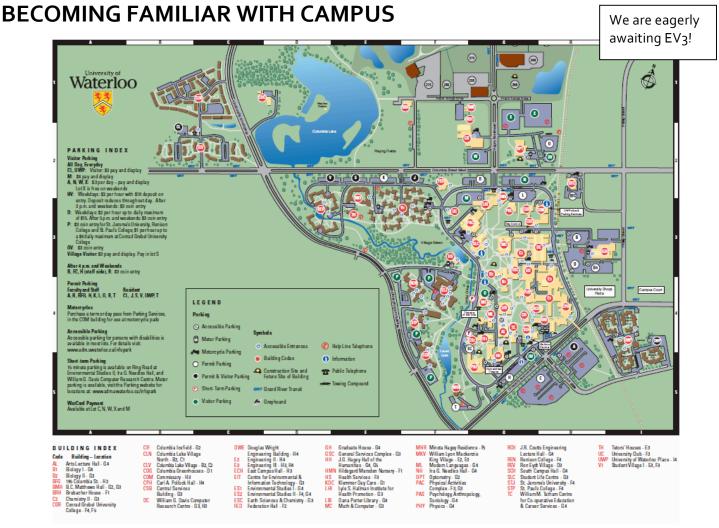


Waterloo. On behalf of the Association of Graduate Planners (AGP) and all graduate students, we look forward to meeting you in September and welcoming you to Waterloo!

Brad Bradford & Kathryn Randle, Co-Presidents, Association of Graduate Planners.



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## **GETTING SET UP**

#### STUDENT CARD

Each student at The University of Waterloo is issued an identification card called your WATCARD. It can be obtained by going to the Watcard office located in the lower level of the Student Life Centre (SLC). The Watcard has many on and off campus uses such as access to library and gym facilities and services. Additionally, money can be added to your account for purchasing use on and off campus at a variety of food, retail and printing services. Funds can be added online with a credit card, at the Watcard office with cash, credit card or debit card. More information about your Watcard can be found at http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/

## E-MAIL

The Mapping, Analysis and Design (MAD) Help Desk is where to go for computer and technical resource information. It is located in ENV2-1008 (enter through room 1011), or you can contact MAD at helpdesk@envmail.uwaterloo.ca MAD's website is

http://www.environment.uwaterloo.ca/computing/index.html.

The campus supports wireless internet and wireless printing. MAD maintains a number of facilities in the ENV buildings including multiple Mac and Windows based computer labs, a photography studio with dark room, a tech shop, and an audio visual studio and lab. These are great resources that many of you may want to use.

## **BUSINESS CARDS**

The University of Waterloo offers an extraordinary deal on business cards- \$5.00 for 50 cards! Business cards can be purchased from the main reception desk on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the William Tatham Centre (Coop Building). As you will learn, networking is an important part of planning and a good business card is a must.

## **PARKING PASS**

A parking pass can be obtained from parking services at the general services building located on the north side of campus. More information can be found at http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infopark.

## LIBRARY ACCESS

As a student at UW you will become very familiar with the library, accessing both print and electronic resources. Each student will become familiar with our search engine, Trellis, which gives you access to books, journals and other material located at Waterloo, Laurier and Guelph Universities. All books can be delivered right to EV1 (Map Library). Students can register with the UW libraries either in person at the circulation desk in the Dana Porter or Davis Centre libraries, or on line at http://tug.lib.uwaterloo.ca/trellis/regist.html. Your

http://tug.lib.uwaterloo.ca/trellis/regist.html. Your Watcard is necessary to access library material and search Trellis while off campus.

## **FACILITIES**

## LAB SPACE

The training and grad computer lab is specifically for graduate students and is located in ENV1-134. This lab is equipped with a black and white laser printer as well as GIS software. If PCs are not your style, then the MAC lab (ENV1-136) might be a better fit for you. All computers in the MAC lab are loaded with Adobe Creative Suite 3, several design packages (such as Visual Nature Studio) as well as GIS software. The MAC lab is not exclusive to graduate students, but is restricted to planning students. Both labs require access codes that can be obtained via the MAD helpdesk. All the information about printing formats and pricing can be found at: <a href="http://www.environment.uwaterloo.ca/computing/">http://www.environment.uwaterloo.ca/computing/</a>





## **COURT YARD**

The recently renovated court yard is an excellent place to have lunch, study or just relax. The court yard contains two 'Living Walls' and the glass ceiling provides a sunny place to sit, even in the middle of winter.

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## OFFICE SPACE/WORK SPACE

Graduate students within the Faculty of Environment have access to two large work rooms equipped with desks, chairs, lockers and lamps. ENV1-355 is designated as a quiet work area, while ENV1-357 provides a more relaxed atmosphere, outfitted with couches, for group work and socializing. These rooms require access codes which will be given to you during orientation week.





## **MAILBOXES**

Graduate students within the Faculty of Environment share mail boxes located in ENV1-309. These boxes allow students to communicate with administration as well their peers.

## **GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION**

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) is responsible for maintaining a graduate voice on campus and creating an inclusive environment for all graduate students. In addition, GSA is responsible for the grad student health plans, International Student Identification Cards and many important organizational activities.

## THE GRAD HOUSE!

The GRAD HOUSE is located on campus and is a pub style restaurant tailored to graduate students. The GRAD HOUSE offers amazing homemade daily lunch and dinner specials and is always hosting fun events. More information about GSA can be found at http://www.gsa.uwaterloo.ca/



#### HOUSING

If you currently do not have a place to live, or need to change accommodations in the future, here are a few helpful links to guide you in the house hunt:

University of Waterloo Housing Office <a href="http://www.och.uwaterloo.ca/">http://www.och.uwaterloo.ca/</a>

Waterloo Cooperative Residence Inc. <u>http://www.wrci.coop/</u>

Kitchener Pennysaver <a href="http://www.kitchenerpennysaver.com/">http://www.kitchenerpennysaver.com/</a>.

## PEOPLE school of planning, faculty of environmnet



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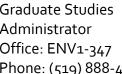
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Hassan Nasir Graduate Student Association President

More information about AGP and how to get involved will be provided during

orientation week. Check out our website at

AGP executive elections will take place in the fall term and the new executive will take

http://uwaqp.wordpress.com

over in January 2011.

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Interim Dean, Faculty of

## THE AGP

You are part of the Association of Graduate Planners (AGP), as are all of your graduate planning colleagues. As the executive of AGP, we welcome you to take advantage of the wide range of functions offered including; lecture series, charity fundraisers, sports teams and social events. As AGP we are your official representation within the School of Planning, and we are here to answer questions or resolve any concerns you may have. Within AGP there are numerous roles, including:

President: Brad Bradford & Kathryn Randle

Vice-President Kent Hakull Finance Coordinator Maria Diaz

Communications Coordinator Julia Coburn

Special Events Coordinator Shannon Morris-Rice & Amanda Marsh

Webmaster Kent Hakull WESEF REP: Dave Onishanko



**Brad Bradford** 

Co-President of AGP Email: bbradfor@uwaterloo.ca krandle@uwaterloo.ca kghakull@uwaterloo.ca



Kathryn Randle Co-President of AGP Email:



Kent Hakull Vice President of AGP

Email:

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## LIVING IN WATERLOO!

## **BICYCLE**

A bike is not only a good way to protect our environment, it is also one of the most efficient ways to get around in Waterloo. In addition to the University providing a "yellow bike" program that is operated through the Student Life Centre's (SLC) Turnkey Desk, the City of Waterloo has a network of trails and dedicated bike lanes. See http://www.bike.uwaterloo.ca/yellowbike.html for more information about borrowing a bike and http://www.city.waterloo.on.ca/DesktopDefault.as px?tabid=76 to view a map of the City's trails and bike lanes.

## **VEHICLE**

If you choose to drive your own vehicle, make sure that you park in the appropriate spaces on campus to avoid being ticketed. Consult the campus maps on the UW website for more parking information.

## **TRANSIT**

We are thrilled to announce that this past year, University of Waterloo graduate students voted in favour of a mandatory public transit fee to be included in tuition fees (same as the undergraduate students). This allows graduate students unlimited ridership on the Grand River Transit (GRT) for only \$52.92 per semester, which also includes reduced rates for Greyhound. The GRT provides bus service within the Kitchener-Waterloo area. Buss maps and schedules can be

found at www.grt.ca. All buses are equipped with bike racks!

## **TAXIS**

The three main taxi services in Waterloo are: Waterloo Taxi at 519-886-1200, City Cabs at 519-747-7777 and United Taxi at 519-888-9999. In addition to



taking cash, some of the taxis take Watcards, credit cards or debit cards, although payment methods should be verified by phoning.

## **GROCERIES**

Valu-Mart: 75 King Street South, Waterloo ON Zehrs: Lincoln Heights- University and Lincoln Beechwood Centre-



Conestoga Mall- King and Northfield Sobeys: 94 Bridgeport Road East

Food Basics: 851 Fisher Hallman, Waterloo ON 1405 Ottawa Street, Kitchener ON

St Jacobs Market: 878 Weber Street North, St Jacobs (Thursdays & Saturdays year round)

## **GETTING OUT OF TOWN**

The need may arise for you to travel out of the City of Waterloo to explore the surrounding landscape of Southern Ontario. Waterloo is strategically located in close proximity to a number of major centres, making them accessible even for a day trip.

## **VIA RAIL**

An hour and a half on the train will get you to either London or Toronto and cost you (one way, economy) \$15.00-\$20.00. For more information see www.viarail.ca.

## **GREYHOUND**

The bus can easily take you to Guelph, London, Toronto and many more destinations. Prices range from \$12.00-\$15.00 with a student discount. For more information see www.greyhound.ca.

#### **SHUTTLEBUS**

Airways Transit shuttle bus offers a quick and easy way to get to Toronto Pearson International Airport. It leaves from the SLC on campus several times daily. An adult fare is \$46.00. For more information see http://www.airwaystransit.com/airpor ter.shtml

## **DOWNTOWN WATERLOO-KING ST.**

King Street is lined with fabulous independent restaurants, bars and pubs, along with great places to shop. The AGP loves to get together and go downtown for good food and great fun! Here are some of our favourite spots!

#### **RESTURANTS**

The Bauer Kitchen 187 King St. S (\$\$\$\$)
Tryone T Restaurant 56 King St. N (\$\$\$)
becomes bar/lounge at night
My Thai 51 King St. N (\$\$)
Ye's Sushi 538 King St. N (\$\$) All you can eat option

Fratello Pizzeria 84 King St. N (\$) Open late night)

Ethel's Lounge 114 King St. N (\$) taco Tuesdays

## **BARS/PUBS**

**McMullans** 56 King St. N – great beer and food deals!

Fox and Fiddle 77King St. N Chainsaw 28 King St. N- karaoke Tuesdays and Saturdays!

Bomber ON CAMPUS!!! Starlight 47 King St. N



We are excited to meet all of you in September and look forward to working with your throughout the year. The 2010 AGP is committed to enhancing your post-graduate experience academically and socially. Your involvement with the AGP will only enhance your time at Waterloo. We greatly encourage you to become part of the AGP, and other student organizations, to become an active participant in shaping the time you will spend here in the School of Planning.

