

# The University of Western Ontario



FOUNDED IN 1878, ITS SCENIC CAMPUS stretching along the banks of the Thames River in the "Forest City" of London, Ont., the University of Western Ontario enjoys a strong reputation in business, medicine and the liberal arts. In recent years, the university has expanded on those strengths by introducing ambitious new undergraduate programs in areas as diverse as health sciences, software engineering and media studies. At the same time, it has made it a cornerstone of its mandate to become, in the words of Paul Davenport, who wraps up his 15 years as president at the end of June, "the premier residential university in Canada."

Western provides nine residence facilities on the main campus, and guarantees a space in residence to all full-time, first-year students admitted directly from high school. Many join one of the university's active fraternities or sororities. Others enjoy the benefits of the Academics in Residence initiative, which makes guest speakers and skill-development programs a regular feature of dorm life. Says Davenport: "It's all part of committing ourselves to nurturing a rich and fulfilling community."

That commitment to learning reaches right across the campus. Western offers more than 200 undergraduate programs and 125 graduate programs. Among the most recognized are the business programs at the Richard Ivey School of Business, which has two campuses in Southern Ontario and one in Hong Kong. Western's journalism school—known as the faculty of information and media studies—enjoys a solid reputation as well, offering an undergraduate program in media, information and technoculture, and a one-year master's degree in journalism. The sciences are also a strong suit. The faculty of engineering offers interdisciplinary research opportuni-

ties in such fields as advanced robotics, environmental engineering and biotechnology, as well as an accelerated master's program that allows third-year engineering students with a grade average of 80 per cent or above to apply to complete their M.E.Sc. in another two years.

The university has made a special push to lure the brightest students, offering anyone with a high school average of 90 per cent or higher the chance to craft their own one-of-a-kind degree. In programs as wide-ranging as the liberal arts, social sciences, kinesiology, media studies and health sciences, the Scholar's Electives program invites students to take whatever courses suit their interest from across the spectrum of faculties. Similarly, high school students who graduate with a minimum 90-per-cent average and satisfy other requirements can take advantage of the Ivey Advanced Entry Opportunity. Securing a conditional spot in the honours business administration program at Ivey, AEO students take undergrad courses anywhere on campus during their first two years, then move directly into the third year of the business degree.

Former AEO student, 24-year-old Robert Davis who graduated in 2008 and now works for Goldman Sachs in New York, discovered that the Ivey experience offers the kind of opportunities that make a difference. Two years ago, Davis found himself teaching fourth-year economics students at Ural State University in Yekaterinburg, Russia. He had come as part of the Leading Education and Development in Emerging Regions project. LEADER is an initiative run by Ivey students to encourage economic growth in transitioning economies around the world through lectures and case studies. "The curriculum is focused on teaching business decision-

making skills and entrepreneurship," explains Davis. It's a mutually beneficial experience for the student-teachers and those they instruct. As Davis recounts: "At the end of the two weeks we were all very close. I think these friendships and the impact you have as a teacher are the most rewarding points of this program." Last year, the LEADER project took Davis to Macedonia where, rather than teach, he worked as a consultant for local entrepreneurs on their existing businesses.

Building on the success of Scholar's Electives, Western has taken additional steps to give students a well-rounded education. The Western Scholars initiative provides extracurricular growth opportunities for a select group of students, allowing them to participate in service-learning activities related to their program of study. And with the New Academic Choices degree structure, students can combine existing academic programs—matching

## FACTS + FIGURES

### The University of Western Ontario

**London, Ont. (1878)**

President:  
Paul Davenport until June 2009;  
Amit Chakma as of July 1

#### UNDERGRADUATES

Full-time: 30,828

Part-time: 4,644

#### GRADUATES

Full-time: 4,135

Part-time: 551

#### FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

6.1% from out-of-province; 4.5% from outside Canada

Tuition: \$5,583

[www.uwo.ca](http://www.uwo.ca)

#### Admissions

Admissions Office

Room 165

Stevenson-Lawson Building

The University of Western Ontario

London, Ont. N6A 5B8

(519) 661-2100, ext. 82100

#### Scholarship and Bursary Office

(519) 661-3991

#### Financial Aid Office

(519) 661-2100, ext. 82100

#### Residence Spaces

5,246

#### Residence Spaces for First-Year Students

4,185

#### Male-Female Ratio

41 to 59

#### Minimum Entering Grades in First Round of Admissions

Arts: 85%

Science: 85%

Commerce: 87%

Engineering: 85%

#### Most Popular Majors

Biology, Engineering,

Health Sciences,

Management and

Organizational

Studies, Psychology

#### Co-operative Education

Economics, Education,

Engineering,

Master of Library and

Information Science,

Social Justice and

Peace Studies,

Social Work

#### Internships

Engineering, Global

Studies, History,

Kinesiology, Manage-

ment and Organiza-

tional Studies, Master

of Arts in Journalism,

Master of Science in

Foods and Nutrition,

Media Information and

Technoculture,

all four-year Science

and Medical Science

programs, Visual Arts

a module in kinesiology with one in computer science, for example—to meet their individual needs. Meanwhile, four years ago, a project called PRESSWestern was the first in Canada to have students use wireless transmitters to respond to questions in real time, allowing professors—now in roughly two dozen classes—to engage a greater number of students in large classes.

Western's three affiliated colleges—Huron, Brescia and King's, each tucked into quiet corners of the campus—offer smaller class sizes, more hands-on learning and dedicated professors. Typical is King's psychology prof Laura Melnyk, a past winner of the Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching award and six times on the Dean's Honour Roll of Teaching Excellence. "Because King's is small, we get to know our students by name and I think that makes a difference in education," reflects Melnyk. "I know their goals and their abilities, and I can help them with their options for graduate programs or careers." Melnyk frequently sends emails to individual students, cheering on their progress, offering guidance and suggesting study tips. "Her enthusiasm for psychology is undoubtedly infectious," says recent King's grad, 23-year-old Chloe Hamza, now pursuing a master's in child psychology at Brock Uni-

versity. "I attribute my desire to pursue graduate studies in development psychology to her."

That focus on the student experience will no doubt continue to define Western in the years ahead. As part of a seven-year \$500-million fundraising campaign that began in 2007, the university plans to expand academic, administrative and recreational space on campus, including a \$35-million sports and recreational facility that opened earlier this

year. The university's financial aid program now offers \$26.5 million annually in both scholarships and bursaries. As well, there are more than 2,000 work-study jobs across campus. It's that kind of commitment that has allowed Western to boast the largest—and perhaps the most boisterous—homecoming weekend in Canada. Says Davenport, "We believe there is no conflict between being a great academic community and being, simply, a great community."



## CAMPUS CONFIDENTIAL: STRAIGHT FROM THE STUDENTS

### What's Hot

• Western Student

Recreation Centre:

fabulous new facility

features 50-m pool,

five gymnasiums, five

squash courts and

more

• Mustangs sports:

men's and women's

squash, soccer and

rugby; men's hockey;

badminton team wins

fourth straight provin-

cial championship;

men's football team

wins second straight

Yates Cup

• The Wave: campus

bar and restaurant

features live acts and

Buffalo chicken wraps;

Wednesday night per-

formances by popular

singer Rick McGhie

• Shinerama: Western

raises nearly \$100,000

annually for the

Canadian Cystic

Fibrosis Foundation

• PrideWestern: com-

prehensive support,

advocacy, educational

and social network for

LGBTQ2 students

• Delaware Hall:

residence has two

popular learning com-

munity floors—Global

Village and Visual and

Performing Arts—as

well as rooftop patio

• Western Idol: weekly

singing competition;

winner gets a trip to

Europe

• Clubs: roughly

12,000 students in

more than 180 clubs,

including the Snow-

board Federation and

the skydiving club

• Sex and Culture,

a.k.a. "sex and the cit-

ies": first-year course

dealing with human

sexuality is a big draw

• Orientation Week:

alcohol-free festivi-

ties include concerts,

carnival, charity events

and a foam party; last

year's event featured

illScarlett

• Theatre Western:

students write, direct

and act in productions

throughout the year

• Western Foot Patrol:

evening escort any-

where on campus

• Volunteering: at the

campus food bank,

the week-long Festival

of Arts program, the

Infusion Fashion Show

• Purple Spur Society:

premier campus social

club holds fundraisers,

hosts holiday parties

• Western Film: \$3 for

second-run films on

Tuesdays at McKellar

Theatre

• Bus-pass bargain:

\$127 for the year

• Homecoming:

parade, Mustangs

football and lots of

celebrating all night

long

• Mustang Varsity

Cheerleaders: national

champs for 23 of the

past 24 years

• Work-study program

• The Gazette student

paper: 102 years in

print

### What's Not

• Parking: undergrad

spots are at the edge

of campus, often full

• Exam schedule:

possible to have four

exams in two days;

exams on April 30

leave little time to

pack for students hav-

ing to move on May 1

• Library hours: larger

libraries close by

11:30 p.m.; smaller

libraries close even

earlier

• High tuition for

professional programs

• Public transit: over-

crowded buses

• Expensive fast food

at the CentreSpot

• Large classes

### Hot Hangouts

**ON CAMPUS:**

Concrete Beach in

front of the University

Community Centre;

the Grad Club, for

a pint; the Spoke

Lounge and Pub; the

Wave, for Tuesday

and Thursday pad

Thai; the Nucleus

and CentreSpot food

courts; Quotes Cafe

in the D. B. Weldon

Library; Einstein's; the

McIntosh Gallery

**OFF CAMPUS:**

the Ceeps bar, a

Western favourite; the

Barking Frog; Jack's

nightclub; Barakat

Restaurant; for Middle

Eastern food; Prince

Albert's Diner, for

late-night perogies;

Stobie's, for pizza;

Christina's Pub, popu-

lar for breakfast; Jim

Bob Ray's, for danc-

ing; the Symposium

Café; Call the Office

nightclub, for live acts;

Up on Carling; Cov-

ent Garden Market;

the Poacher's Arms;

Sammy's Souvlaki;

Molly Bloom's Irish

• Pub, for Monday

karaoke; rooftop

patio at T. J. Baxter's

Tap & Grill

• Source: Current Students

### Famous Grads

• Olympic medallists

Silken Laumann and

Marnie McBean; news

anchor Kevin Newman;

actor Alan Thicke

### What's New

• \$28.6-million Biotron

Experimental Climate

Change Research Centre:

interdisciplinary facil-

ity to study the impact

of climate change and

extreme environments

on plants, insects and

micro-organisms; rooftop

has six environmen-

tally controlled biomes