

WESTERN UNIVERSITY

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

REPORT | 2021



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SDG17: Partnerships for the Goals

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development



'Partnership for the Goals', seeks to improve the implementation and reactivation of global partnership for sustainable development.

It aims to bring together national governments, the international community, civil society, the private sector, community members, and various other actors to improve collaboration for increased sustainable development.



SDG17: Partnerships for the Goals

Research

Ivey's Lawrence National Centre for Policy and Management

The [Lawrence Centre](#) at Ivey Business School is an important voice on business-government issues and develops future leaders who better understand the immense value of the collaborative relationship between the public and private sectors and the development of sound policy. The centre's faculty and fellows oversee the research, teaching, and outreach activities of the centre.

The centre's most recent publication, [Perspective: Building a Post-Pandemic Canadian Economy](#), discusses current economic conditions, the importance of removing trade barriers, and how Canada's historic spirit of collaboration can propel its future. Former Governor of the Bank of Canada, Stephen Poloz, Chair of the Lawrence National Centre's Advisory Council, shared this perspective at the True North Free Trade Forum in March 2021.

The centre also holds [engaging dialogues](#) open to the public such as the 'Vaccines, Resilience and Economic Competitiveness' event, and the 'Path to Sustainable Prosperity: Translating Value(s) into Action.'

52

academic departments
are researching
sustainability at
Western



The Lawrence Centre developed and delivered the MBA 2021 Capstone Course, GLOBE, with an emphasis on building smart communities. GLOBE focuses on connecting Ivey's soon-to-be MBA graduates with a current global phenomenon or challenge. More than any other course in the MBA program, GLOBE is about developing actionable ideas – with a broader goal of enabling students to see their actions as future leaders from the broadest possible vantage point.

5G-Connected Research Centre at Western

Launched in 2020, the [5G-Connected Research Centre](#) at Western is bringing together cutting-edge technology with research aimed at helping students thrive during their time at university. In partnership with Canada's largest telecommunications company, Bell, Western is the first university in Canada to test 5G capability using 3.5 GHz 5G spectrum in pre-commercial mode. It is the beginning of a \$2.7-million project to deploy 5G network infrastructure throughout the Western campus.

This centre's research will engage in areas such as smart cities planning and infrastructure, mental health and wellbeing, and policy development. One of the research projects looks at capabilities of the 5G network to develop an app designed to guide student mental wellness using biofeedback to help students learn mindfulness and relaxation skills.

The first 5G site on campus is designated for research now, but by the summer of 2021, a full network is expected to be available across campus.

Network for Economics and Social Trends (NEST)

[NEST](#) is a flagship research and policy alliance in the Faculty of Social Science at Western University that informs social and economic policy and practices in Canada and North America. NEST is conducting world-class multidisciplinary research, fostering national and international collaborations, and training the next generation of leaders in academia, the private and non-profit sectors, and government.

Research conducted in NEST focuses on topics such as population change, economic inequality and poverty, mobility (social, economic, and geographic), immigration and ethnic diversity, educational attainment, governance, urban affairs, and community development.

NEST is the umbrella organization for all seven Western Research Centres in the Faculty of Social Science, such as the [Centre for Urban Policy and Local Governance](#) and the [Centre for Research on Migration and Ethnic Relations](#), where NEST set their agenda and provide its governance. NEST also aims to train the next generation of policy researchers through mentorships, fellowships, and their graduate program - the [MA in Research for Policy and Evaluation](#).

Announced by NEST in 2020 and currently under construction, the [Canadian Communities Policy Observatory](#) will be a new web-based platform that will make it easier for policymakers, non-profit organizations, academics, journalists, and businesses to access data on Canadian urban centres, neighbourhoods, and regions.



Western
SocialScience

Network for Economic
and Social Trends (NEST)

Western Social Science Research and Policy



Sustainability in West Africa

A new [team of researchers](#) from Western University and West Africa will be working on a project to improve social development in struggling West African countries. Together, they will focus on areas such as better health, gender equity, empowerment of disadvantaged groups, good governance of land resources, and enhanced knowledge of sustainable agricultural practices across five West African countries.

The team will inform progress on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a focus on integrating SDG 5 (gender equality) as a crosscutting or mainstream goal.

Centre for Sustainable Curating at Western

Launched in May of 2021, Western's new [Centre for Sustainable Curating](#) supports research, exhibitions, visual/digital production, and pedagogy focused on environmental and social justice. Located in the department of visual arts, the centre encourages research into waste, pollution, and climate crisis, and the development of exhibitions and artworks with low carbon footprints.

Other Western efforts to lessen the carbon footprint of museums include introducing a Curating with Environmental Awareness course by 2023.

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Relationships Supporting the SDGs

WORLDiscoveries

Born out of a partnership between Western University, Roberts Research

Institute, and Lawson Health Research Institute, [WORLDiscoveries](#) draws upon a mix of industry connections, sector-specific market knowledge and business development expertise. The partnership helps researchers and local inventors commercialize their discoveries through licensing and new company spin-offs.

WORLDiscoveries operates as a department of Western University and works with collaborators both locally and internationally who are committed to innovative research products and services to the community for the benefit of all. Its market has a wide variety of consumer ready products, such as AITCS-II, a diagnostic instrument to assist health care teams, and TEAMc, the Toolkit to Enhance and Assist Maximizing Team Collaboration.

Founded by WORLDiscoveries and grown to collaborate with universities across Canada, [Proteus Innovation Competition](#) brings students together to propose viable paths to market for novel technologies.

Through WORLDiscoveries:

50 & **207**

active spin-off companies active licenses

World's Challenge Challenge

[World's Challenge Challenge](#) is an annual international competition hosted by Western in which teams from more than a dozen universities offer up their best solutions to urgent environmental, educational, and social issues. The mission of the competition is to bring together students to form a strong international network and create potential solutions to significant global issues.

The best of ideas from Western competitors advance to the global competition held at Western. Finalists network with some of the best and brightest students from around the world, participate in virtual academic events, and generate further discussion around global issues. To help further develop the proposed solution and support the winning team, the first prize awarded consists of a total of \$30,000.

The Africa Institute

The Mission of [The Africa Institute](#) at Western University is to address African priorities through impactful engagement in knowledge creation and exchange with African partners and in collaboration with other Canadian and global partners. The institute collaborates with over 22 partners in 13 countries and focuses on topics such as ecosystem health, gender studies, linguistics, refugee studies, and transitional justice.

Among their initiatives is the [Global Health Systems](#) program offered to students at Western, which has a special focus on extensive and life-threatening issues facing the African continent, as well as broader global health issues. Another initiative is [Western Heads East](#), which is a program working to enhance community health in underserved areas of Sub-Saharan Africa largely through probiotic yogurt.



Community Legal Services

Western Law offers students the opportunity to develop practical skills and gain valuable hands-on legal experience through various clinics and programs that support the community.

[Pro Bono Students Canada \(PBSC\)](#), Western Chapter is a national program launched by the Faculty of Law. The mission of the program is to pair law students with community agencies in need of free legal services. Agencies typically involved with PBSC include public interest and non-profit organizations, tribunals, legal clinics, and lawyers working pro bono on a particular case. More than 300 organizations have been involved in PBSC's Western Chapter, and in 2020/2021, the Western Chapter is worked on 23 projects with over 51 volunteers.

[Community Legal Services](#) provides free legal services by law students, who work under the close supervision of expert staff lawyers. Services are available for low-income individuals in London, as well as to Fanshawe College and Western University students. The clinic is among the most progressive legal clinics in Canada and a leader in the cause of access to justice.



Western United Way Campaign

Western's [United Way campaign](#) aims to strengthen communities through donations and volunteerism. The campaign reaches beyond campus and engages alumni, community, institutional, and international partners.

The campaign's focus includes strengthening families who are struggling with poverty, violence, and mental health issues, as well as advising newcomers with their transition into Canada and helping to keep youth off the streets. United Way Elgin Middlesex has also provided financial support for student-led projects addressing local social challenges.

Western University contributed \$627,829 from its 2020 campaign in support of United Way Elgin Middlesex, which funds more than 90 programs at 50 community agencies to help people in poverty. In addition to these important funds raised, campus members also collected hundreds of backpacks and boots for those in need.

International Week

Held every year, [International Week](#) is an event focused on an inclusive, globally aware campus, with the goal of celebrating Western's international community, diversity and international collaborations, as well as enhancing overall global activity and awareness.

Events through the week engage students, faculty, and staff in discussion and debate about international issues, and encourage learning about international education, intercultural skills, and cultural traditions and activities. Past events held include a Cultural Cooking Competition, "Why Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Matters at Western" keynote session, and a Virtual Go Abroad Fair student panel.

Western has

300+

international institutional agreements in 58 countries

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Education for the SDGs

Community Engaged Learning

[Community Engaged Learning](#) (CEL) allows students the opportunity to take their skills beyond the walls of the classroom and into the community. As a form of experiential learning, CEL experiences partner students with groups, individuals, and organizations in the London region and abroad to tackle important problems and issues.

For the curricular component of CEL, Western offers more than [36 CEL courses](#) across various Faculties and disciplines.

Co-Curricular CEL opportunities include Impact Experience and Western Serves Network. [Impact Experience](#) offers unique co-opportunities to support community projects during the Reading Weeks in locations like Peru and Costa Rica. Each experience is built around addressing at least one of the Global Sustainable Development Goals.

[Western Serves Network](#) connects students to the broader London community and non-profit organizations that work to tackle ongoing social issues. It provides the Western campus with a means to strengthen relationships with its communities and to produce graduates that are productive and reflective citizens.



Graduate Diploma in Mining Law, Finance, and Sustainability

This [Graduate Diploma in Mining Law, Finance, and Sustainability](#) is one component of the Mining Law, Finance & Sustainability (MFS) initiative at Western Law. The diploma is designed to provide academic leadership, meet industry needs, and set new standards in interdisciplinary collaboration.

To meet industry needs, the diploma partners with various industry stakeholders, including industry leaders; Indigenous communities; government agencies; NGOs; and multilateral development banks (MDBs).

Courses in the program include Aboriginal Law, International Environmental Law, and Corporate Social Responsibility.

Climate Change and Society

Western's new major [Climate Change and Society](#) integrates science, social science, and the humanities, and aims to harness that passion and help students address the challenges the climate crisis poses. Launching in the fall of 2021 under the Department of Geography and Environment, the module connects many existing courses into one integrated focus of study. The course modules will also be available to other post-secondary institutions and interested government organizations and community groups.



Centre for Environment and Sustainability

The [Centre for Environment and Sustainability \(CES\)](#) demonstrates Western's commitment and support for sustainability and environmental studies. CES's mission is to foster interdisciplinary teaching and learning that would advance the understanding of complex environmental and social interactions.

A variety of undergraduate and graduate programs are offered through the centre. The [Masters in Environment and Sustainability \(MES\)](#) program offers experiential learning opportunities, incorporating both a professional consulting project and a co-op placement into academic learning. The [Collaborative Specialization in Environment and Sustainability](#) is an enrichment program designed for current graduate students interested in the interdisciplinary nature of environmental problems and are eager to become specialists in specific aspects of environment and sustainability.

The undergraduate [Environmental Science](#) program provides students with an interdisciplinary approach to studying and solving environmental problems. Environmental Science modules are hosted by the CES in the Faculty of Science, rather than through a specific department, reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of the field.

International Learning

[International Learning](#) at Western collaborates with international partners to develop, promote, and support a broad range of activities that cultivate global-ready graduates, and a community of internationally engaged faculty and staff.

International Learning gives the opportunity to participate in more than 170 different programs in over 40 countries around the world. Students can also participate in international research opportunities to network and experience research methodologies in other countries.

HBA Sustainability Certificate

The [HBA Sustainability Certificate](#) empowers Ivey HBA students to build and lead more sustainable organizations. It includes a coordinated set of courses and experiences around sustainability designed to provide a strong grounding in the principles and best practices of sustainability. The program positions students to begin their journeys as responsible C-Suite decision-makers, entrepreneurs, non-profit leaders and policymakers.

Students engage in exclusive events, where past events include a [field trip to Harris Park](#) to participate in activities centred around Indigenous communities. Students also complete the academic requirement of taking sustainability-centred courses such as *4564 Design-Driven Innovation*, and *4458 Leading Change*.

Certificate students are paired with sustainability mentors who are Ivey alumni working in sustainability-related fields or roles that support students throughout the year.

