



2024 – 2025

Western University Sustainable Development Goals



About Western University

Land Acknowledgement

Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton Nations, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. This land continues to be home to diverse Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) whom we recognize as contemporary stewards of the land and vital contributors of our society.

Sustainability Commitment

At Western University, we are dedicated to sustainability across economic, social, and environmental dimensions. Our approach evolves with current research, trends, and societal shifts. We use the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as guiding principles to tackle some of the world's most pressing challenges. Recognizing the interconnectedness of these 17 SDGs, we employ interdisciplinary methods to drive meaningful change.

About the Report

This report demonstrates Western University's efforts in promoting sustainability through all 17 SDGs. It outlines our initiatives in research, teaching, outreach, and operations, primarily reflecting activities and accomplishments from 2024, that underscore our commitment to building a sustainable future.



Towards Western at 150



Western University has a remarkable history and is eagerly preparing for its 150th anniversary in 2028: [Towards Western at 150](#). Its mission is to nurture visionary leaders who can address today’s challenges for the betterment of society. Sustainability is identified as an imperative in this strategic vision and is integrated across the university’s operations, academic programs, and world-class research activities. Guided by the [President’s Advisory Committee on the Environment and Sustainability](#) (PACES), Western is developing a new [climate and sustainability strategy](#) that reflects our community’s deep commitment to sustainability and expands opportunities for engagement across campus. This work requires collective action across the entire campus community, and community input is a vital part of the design and execution of this strategy. These efforts reinforce our dedication to the overarching themes of: (1) Greater Impact; (2) People, Community, and Culture; and (3) Western’s Place in the World.

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Sustainability at Western

Western integrates the three essential pillars of sustainability—environmental, social, and economic into our research, teaching, outreach, and operations. Environmentally we promote research in climate and renewable energy, and embed SDG knowledge in our teaching. Socially we promote new programs and partnerships to provide community-engaged learning opportunities. Economically we support entrepreneurship, and offer programs with work experience placements.



The 17 SDGs

In 2015, the United Nations and its member states signed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development—a call to action to meet some of the most pressing challenges facing our world. The specific challenges and objectives are defined in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which offer state- and non-state actors a plan for promoting and achieving sustainability in areas such as the environment, access to food, gender equality, and healthy and safe communities. Canada was one of 193 UN member states that adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and it is committed to implementing the SDGs both in Canada and internationally.

1NO
POVERTY

2ZERO
HUNGER

3GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING

4QUALITY
EDUCATION

5GENDER
EQUALITY

6CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION

7AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY

8DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH

9INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

10REDUCED
INEQUALITIES

11SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES

12RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION

13CLIMATE
ACTION

14LIFE BELOW
WATER

15LIFE
ON LAND

16PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS

17PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS

End poverty in all its forms everywhere



43rd

in the world for No Poverty

12%

of operating budget spent on scholarships & bursaries

97

undergraduate courses related to SDG 1

179

relevant publications 2019-2023

Research

→

CRHESI

The [Centre for Research on Health Equity and Social Inclusion](#) is leading the evaluation of [London's Health & Homelessness Whole of Community System Response](#), a cross-sector initiative addressing chronic homelessness through integrated health and housing supports. The [Centre's research](#) focuses on outcomes for unhoused individuals, the well-being of frontline workers, systemic processes, and the effectiveness of community collaboration. This work informs policy and practice, contributing to sustainable solutions for homelessness in London.

→

London Poverty Research Centre

Addressing the root causes of poverty specific to London, ON, the [London Poverty Research Centre](#) works towards addressing inequality and social exclusion in our community. The Centre approaches poverty reduction by focusing on three steps: research, knowledge mobilization, and community action. Faculty and students learn more about local and broader poverty reduction initiatives by collaborating with 20 local organizations.

“

I'd say the political will in London is growing for addressing issue of inequality and social exclusion. These are issues that affect people across the socioeconomic status.

- Michael Courey

”

Teaching

→

Ivey's 39 Country Initiative

Housed in the [International Business Institute](#), the [39 Country Initiative](#) now supports faculty in **46** of the world's least developed countries by providing free access to Ivey Publishing's full catalogue of over **7,300** business cases, exercises, and technical notes. Over **2,000** professors have registered to use these resources, significantly enhancing the reach of high-quality management education.



This initiative also tracks the global distribution of physical books through an [interactive map](#) of shipments and collection points.

→

Anti-Poverty Education Course

The [Master of Professional Education program](#) offers an [Anti-Poverty Education Course](#) that delves into the significant impact of poverty on educational access and academic achievement. It addresses broader themes of social class and economic disparities, providing a framework to understand class privilege and its effects on teaching and learning. Students engage with organizations that assist economically disadvantaged groups and explore partnerships with community initiatives aimed at alleviating poverty.

→

Financial Literacy Workshop Series

[Money Talks @ Western U program](#) delivers free workshops on financial literacy aimed at empowering students with essential money management skills. These workshops cover crucial areas like budgeting, banking, credit usage, and planning for educational expenses and life after graduation. The program seeks to instill responsible financial behaviours that prevent economic hardship and stress, providing students with the tools to navigate their financial future. The importance of financial literacy is especially highlighted by the inclusion of this program on the Western co-curricular record.



Outreach



Western United Way Campaign



[Western's United Way campaign](#) aims to strengthen communities through donations and volunteerism. In 2024, it raised over \$572,000 for United Way Elgin Middlesex, becoming one of the largest university campaigns nationally and the top contributor in the region.

by the numbers

\$572,000	39 social agencies	44 programs
donated through Western's 2024 employee and retiree giving campaign	funded this year by United Way Elgin Middlesex	offered by those agencies received grant money



Purple Hands

[Purple Hands](#) is a homeless advocacy organization run by students at Western University. They organize annual events such as Purple Hands Winter Outreach, World Homeless Action Day, and Halloween For Hunger to support the homeless by distributing essential items and collecting food for donation to food banks.

Our Impact

 500+ hygiene products donated	 650+ food items donated	 1200+ pieces of clothing donated
 200+ volunteers	 15+ community partners	 30 youth mentors



UNICEF Western



As an official branch of [UNICEF Canada](#), [UNICEF at Western](#) raises awareness of global issues affecting children, including poverty, inequality, and access to education. Through events, outreach, and educational campaigns, the club empowers students to take action and support the well-being of children worldwide.

Operations



Tuition shouldn't be a barrier to your success.
- Marisa Modeski, Registrar



Western University Financial Aid Overview 2024-25

Actions	Amount	Details
 Graduate Emergency Fund	\$500K	for unexpected financial emergencies among graduate students
 Bursary Program	\$2.8M	needs-based aid for both undergraduate and graduate students
 Student Support Programs	\$41.7M	includes scholarships and extensive needs-based awards



Local Startup Assistance

Western supports [local entrepreneurship](#) through funding, mentorship, and training for students and community members. Programs like the [Western Accelerator](#) and [Morrisette Institute](#) promote business ideas that prioritize social impact, responsible consumption, and climate action. Dedicated spaces like the [Ronald D. Schmeichel Building](#) and events such as [Western Angels' Demo Day](#) connect entrepreneurs with investors, industry leaders, and the tools needed to scale their ventures.



Bursaries and Work Study

Western University has [multiple bursaries](#) and funding opportunities:

- The [Bursary Program](#) supports students from low-income families by helping them overcome financial and food insecurity for academic success. It covers expenses like tuition, housing, and textbooks.
- The [Work Study program](#) provides part-time on-campus jobs that equip students with valuable work experience and training, supporting both their studies and university staff.
- [Ontario Student Assistance Program \(OSAP\)](#) offers financial aid through grants and loans to college and university students.

2 ZERO HUNGER



End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture



38%

plant-based food and beverage purchases

1,616

daily eggs served in campus dining halls in 2024

250

relevant publications 2019-2023

51

undergraduate courses related to SDG 2



Research

→ Advancing Regenerative Agriculture in Canada

Envision a future where Canadian farms thrive while restoring ecosystems and combating climate change. Dr Diane-Laure Arjaliès and the [Ivey Sustainable Finance Lab](#) team at Western University present a compelling [report on regenerative agriculture](#), highlighting sustainable practices that enhance biodiversity and mitigate environmental impacts. Discover innovative financial strategies and collaborative efforts crucial for this green transition, with actionable insights for policy-makers, farmers, and stakeholders.



[Read the full report](#)

[Read the report summary](#)

→ Plant Stress & Food Security

[Researchers](#) in Western's [Department of Biology](#) are addressing global food security challenges by studying how plants respond to environmental and biological stress. Their work spans molecular, biochemical, and physiological research on plant tolerance to climate-related factors such as drought and heat, as well as plant-pest and plant-microbe interactions. By exploring biosynthetic pathways and resilience mechanisms, this research contributes to the development of harder crops and more sustainable food systems in the face of climate change.

Teaching

→ Nutrition Education

The undergraduate [Foods and Nutrition program](#) at Western University delves into nutrition's critical role in society, encompassing food science, health determinants, and cultural influences. The program features specialized modules such as [Nutrition and Dietetics](#) and covers topics like Nutrition Care, Community Nutrition, and Sustainable Food Systems. This comprehensive educational approach equips students to contribute positively to societal health, addressing issues like disease prevention and community well-being through informed dietary and nutritional practices.

→ Regenerator: An Impact-Driven Program

The [16-week accelerator program](#) is dedicated to agri-food start-ups committed to sustainability and systemic change. In partnership with the [Morrisette Institute for Entrepreneurship](#) and the [Centre for Building Sustainable Value](#), it offers hands-on mentorship and educational training focused on decarbonization, biodiversity conservation, and bio-circularity. Designed to embed best practices into actionable strategies, the program empowers entrepreneurs to accelerate their ventures and contribute significantly to the global sustainability goals. The Regenerator program will deliver live modules on key sustainability topics and fund 8 agri-food ventures for a 4-month intensive program.

→ FRESH at Western

[FRESH](#) (Food Resources and Education for Student Health) is a nutrition education program developed by graduate students enrolled in the [Master of Science in Food and Nutrition](#) program. It aims to enhance nutritional awareness and skills among university students, focusing on improving the campus food environment and providing experiential learning opportunities. Through this initiative, graduate students lead efforts to educate their peers about nutrition and healthy eating practices.

→ Nutrition Management

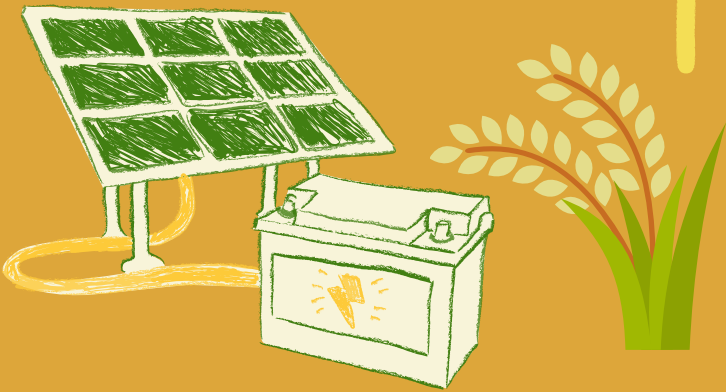
Western's [Nutrition Management](#) program combines academic and hands-on training in clinical nutrition, food preparation, and foodservice operations. Students gain practical skills in menu planning, business development, and food safety, preparing them for leadership roles in diverse institutional and commercial food settings.



Outreach

→ Sustainability, Food and AI Conference

Western hosted a [conference](#) exploring how artificial intelligence (AI) can challenge and support global food sustainability in the face of climate change. The event focused on emerging innovations such as agrivoltaic systems that combine solar energy with food production, AI-powered tools for monitoring soil and crop health, and waste heat recovery from data centers to support greenhouse agriculture. By integrating technology and sustainable practices, the conference highlighted opportunities to build more resilient and efficient agri-food systems.



→ MealCare

Western partners with [MealCare](#) to recover surplus edible food and redirect it to those in need in the London community. Through this initiative, over 8,900 meals have been diverted from waste and delivered to local food aid organizations. The program supports both sustainability and food security, with staff and community members benefiting from the redistributed meals.

→ Free and Open-Source Hardware

Western's [Free Appropriate Sustainability Technology \(FAST\)](#) Research Group advances sustainable agriculture by developing [open-source](#), solar-powered 3D printers and recycling technologies. By enabling decentralized production of farming tools through accessible designs and AI integration, FAST supports cost-effective, efficient, and locally adaptable solutions for Canadian farmers.

Operations

→ Hospitality Services

Western [Hospitality Services](#) is dedicated to fostering a healthy and sustainable food system on campus. They focus on aligning and assessing current initiatives with the UN SDGs. Additionally, they partner with organizations like [MealCare](#), [Food Support Services](#), and [Ark Aid Mission](#) to enhance food recovery processes, ensuring more efficient use and distribution of resources within the campus community.



11,692 Meals served in Western dining halls every day

→ Local Meal Programs and Food Banks

To support students and community members facing food insecurity, Western has compiled [a list](#) of local food banks and community meal programs across London. This [resource](#) connects individuals with accessible food support options beyond campus.

→ Value Picks

Western's [Hospitality Services](#) launched the [Value Picks program](#) to provide nutritious and affordable meal options priced under \$10. Using a three-colour labelling system to indicate nutritional value, the initiative helps students make informed food choices without compromising on taste or quality. Value Picks are available at various campus dining locations, clearly marked on menu boards and grab-and-go items.

→ Food Support Services

[Food Support Services](#), managed by the University Students' Council, is committed to alleviating food insecurity among students, staff, and the wider community. This service raises awareness on food insecurity, hunger, and poverty, both locally and globally. It offers an anonymous [food hamper program](#) where students can complete a request form to receive a grocery bag. A walk-in food bank is accessible during business hours.

This page also supports:



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



Research



The study led by Dan Hardy (left) and Kendrick Lee (right)

→ Omega-3 and Fetal Development

Researchers from [Schulich Medicine & Dentistry](#) have identified Omega-3 supplementation as a potential intervention to counteract the harmful effects of prenatal cannabis exposure. Using rat models, the study found that Omega-3, specifically DHA and EPA, prevented low birth weight and early cardiac dysfunction in offspring exposed to THC in utero. Published in [Scientific Reports](#), this is the first study to demonstrate that a widely accessible dietary supplement could mitigate the developmental risks associated with cannabis use during pregnancy.



Dr Anna Gunz advocates for greener hospital practices and sustainability in healthcare.

→ Sustainability Leadership in Healthcare

[Dr Anna Gunz](#), a paediatric intensive care physician and associate professor, received the [2025 Western Climate and Sustainability Award](#) for her leadership in advancing sustainability in healthcare. She leads initiatives like the [Children’s Environmental Health Clinic](#) and the [Land-based Healing Program](#), integrating environmental health, clinical care, and advocacy. Her work promotes greener hospital practices and highlights the connection between climate change and children’s health.

Teaching

→ MA in Advanced Health Care: Diverse Specializations

[The Advanced Health Care Practice master’s program](#) at Western is a unique, one-year, course-based initiative designed for seasoned healthcare professionals seeking graduate-level education in specialized fields.

The program offers eight distinct fields of study:

- Clinical epidemiology and research management
- Sport and exercise medicine
- Upper extremity rehabilitation
- Comprehensive musculoskeletal physiotherapy
- Wound healing
- Interdisciplinary pain management
- Health equity and sustainability
- Applied health sciences



→ Community Service Learning

The [Community Service Learning](#) program offers undergraduate dental students opportunities for community service and engagement. They provide services at placements in local clinics and community sites in Southwestern Ontario. The program aims to provide person-centred and trauma-informed oral health treatment to equity-seeking community members.

→ Global Health Systems

The [Global Health Systems](#) program is a one-year professional master’s degree focusing on international health, particularly in marginalized populations. Students have the opportunity to discuss solutions to issues in low- or middle-income countries while gaining the knowledge and skills to become leaders in this growing and dynamic field.

739

undergraduate courses related to SDG 3

5,386

relevant publications 2019-2023

3,350

graduates in health professions in 2024

Outreach

→ MedLINCs Summer Elective Program

Through [Schulich Medicine's Distributed Education](#), the [MedLINCs program](#) places first- and second-year medical students within the [Chippewas of Nawash community](#) in the Grey-Bruce region. Over four weeks, students engage local youth through health-focused activities, hands-on learning, and traditional summer camp experiences. In partnership with the Chippewas of Nawash Community Health Centre, the program promotes interest in health-related careers and post-secondary education while strengthening community connections.



Western PhD candidate Petra Owusu.

→ Rural Medicine Outreach Club

The [Rural Medicine Outreach Club](#) broadens students' exposure to rural healthcare by highlighting diverse medical practices across Southwestern Ontario. In partnership with the [Distributed Education Office](#) at Schulich and rural community stakeholders, the club organizes talks, hospital visits, and outreach programs to promote rural health careers. Through initiatives like [Discovery Healthcare Summer Camp](#), interactive workshops, and virtual career fairs, the club supports secondary students in rural areas by offering mentorship and accessible career exploration opportunities in medicine and healthcare.

→ Black Youth Mental Health Community-Based Project

This [project](#) engages Black students in Grades 7, 8, 11, and 12 to better understand and support their mental health needs. In partnership with two schools in Windsor, the initiative includes focus groups, mental health workshops, and knowledge mobilization activities. By centering youth voices, the project aims to advance culturally responsive mental health supports and reduce barriers to well-being.

→ Canadian Centre for Activity and Aging (CCAA)

The [CCAA](#) is a unique national research and education centre within the [Faculty of Health Sciences](#) at Western that promotes physical activity and well-being for older adults. Its education and leadership training programs instruct thousands of individuals across Canada through exercise classes, conferences, certifications, and more to enhance the functional fitness of older adults at every level of mobility.

Operations

→ Mary J. Wright Child and Youth Development Clinic

Western's [Mary J. Wright Clinic](#) provides accessible psychological services to children and youth aged 3 to 18 years, supporting well-being and success in school and life. Graduate students, supervised by licensed psychologists, offer [assessments and treatments](#) grounded in evidence-based, inclusive, and strength-based approaches. The clinic serves families from diverse backgrounds and integrates research, teaching, and practice to deliver personalized care.

→ PurpleCare

[PurpleCARE](#) enhances student well-being through essential health services:

- [My Virtual Doctor](#): Ensures 24/7 access to virtual healthcare across Canada, featuring multilingual support, quick consultations, and comprehensive medical services such as diagnosis, prescriptions, and specialist referrals.
- [My Student Plan](#): Offers coverage for prescription drugs, vision, dental care, and mental health counselling, supplementing provincial health insurance.
- [Emotional / Mental Wellness](#): Provides resources for mental health challenges, including assessments, video counselling, and balancing tools.

PurpleCARE is committed to providing affordable and accessible health and wellness coverage to help students thrive both academically and personally.



→ Western's Trans Care Team

Recognizing the unique needs of gender-diverse students, the [Trans Care Team](#) consists of clinicians from both the mental and physical health support teams at Health & Wellness. Together, they provide specialized psychological counselling and medical care in a [2SLGBTQIA+ affirmative environment](#).

→ Wellness Support

[Health & Wellness Services](#) offers free, confidential services to help students achieve personal, social, and academic goals. Services include consultations, referrals, therapy, workshops, and group sessions. Centralizing all services supports a holistic care model with a single intake for medical and counseling services and wellness education. The newly renovated Thames Hall features a central atrium adorned with a living wall. With plenty of natural lights, the study space is infused with beautiful scenery and nature sounds.



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Research

→ Centre for Education Research & Innovation

Located at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, this [Senate-approved research centre](#) is dedicated to advancing education in the health professions. It brings together scholars from a range of disciplines to explore innovative teaching and learning approaches in medical and health sciences education. The team offers research training, supports scholarly collaboration, and contributes new knowledge to improve educational practices. Its work strengthens the quality and impact of health education at Western and across Canada.

→ Centre for the Science of Learning

Western's [Centre for the Science of Learning](#) promotes interdisciplinary research and collaboration to better understand how children learn. Bringing together experts in education, cognitive psychology, and neuroscience, the Centre connects researchers with K-12 educators and policy-makers to translate scientific findings into practical classroom solutions. With links to the Centre for School Mental Health and the Mary J. Wright Child and Youth Development Clinic, the Centre supports early childhood development, learning interventions, and evidence-based professional development for educators.



→ Canadian Research Centre on Inclusive Education

Western University collaborates with the [Canadian Research Centre on Inclusive Education](#). This partnership focuses on improving educational practices and outcomes for all students, particularly the most vulnerable. The research covers inclusive education, policy, programming, training and implementation. It brings together researchers, educators, parents and advocates in support of the education of students with a disability, or other underrepresented learning groups.



Teaching

→ Continuing Medical Education

Western's [Continuing Medical Education](#) (CME) program supports healthcare professionals across Southwestern Ontario and beyond through accessible, high-quality learning opportunities. Offering small-group workshops and flexible online modules, the program enhances clinical skills, promotes lifelong learning, and ensures practitioners stay up to date with evolving medical knowledge and practices.

→ Western Continuing Studies

[Western Continuing Studies](#) provides opportunities for everyone to keep learning at Western. From recent graduates, job seekers, and corporate clients, there is an array of choices for lifelong learning from a variety of programs, courses, and professional certificates.

→ University Consortium Year 1 Program

In partnership with Western and other Ontario universities, this [community-based program](#) allows students to complete the first year of a Bachelor of Arts degree within the Six Nations of the Grand River community. With courses in social sciences, environmental sciences, and Indigenous studies, students can earn up to five transferable credits toward a degree. The program enhances access to post-secondary education and supports culturally grounded learning pathways.

719

undergraduate courses related to SDG 4



555

relevant publications 2019-2023

93%

students continued to their second year in 2023-24

→ Experiential Learning

Western has [committed](#) to ensuring that all undergraduate students participate in at least one [experiential learning](#) opportunity by 2028. These opportunities include internships, [research](#), [entrepreneurship](#), [education abroad](#), and community-based projects that help students apply classroom knowledge in real-world settings. Through partnerships with more than 225 local organizations and global institutions, students gain job skills, explore career paths, and contribute to meaningful community impact, preparing them for success beyond graduation.

\$33,150 - \$49,134

average annual salary range for paid internships

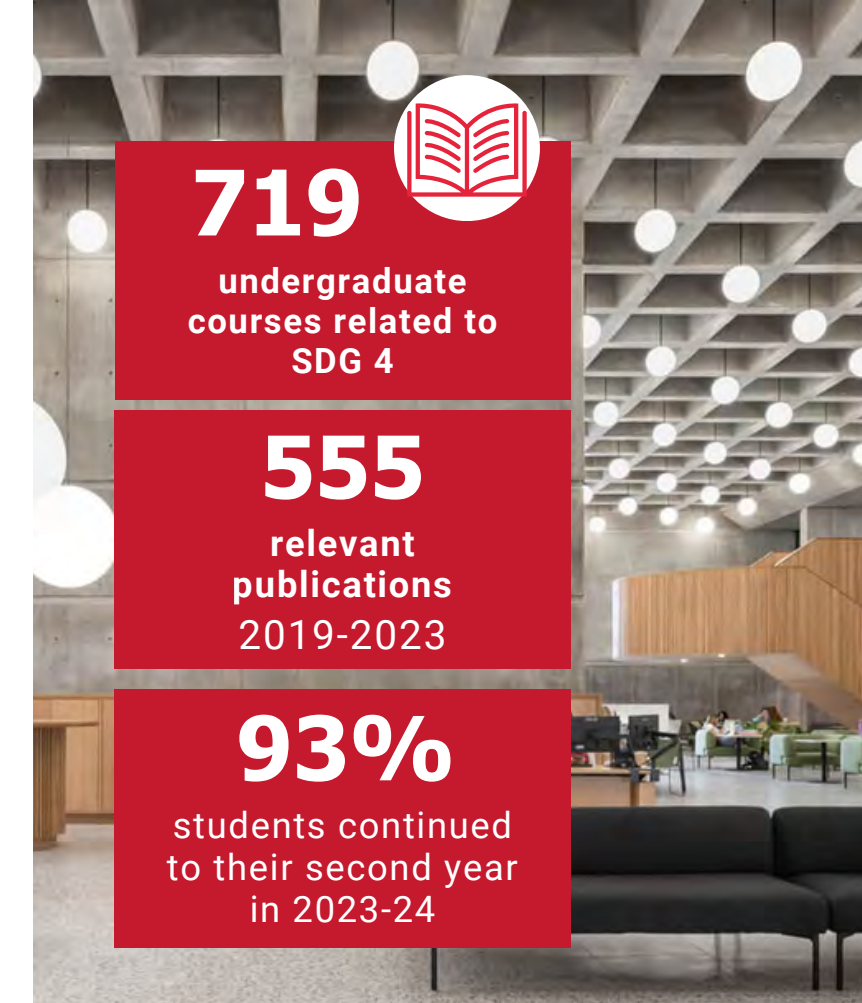
2x

placements have doubled in the last 5 years



4700+ students

participated in work experiences



Outreach

→ Complimentary Cases for Secondary School Classrooms

Ivey Business School offers a selection of [free business cases to secondary school teachers](#), supporting interactive and practical learning through its renowned Case-Method of Learning. As one of the world's top publishers of business cases, Ivey provides students with real-world scenarios that build critical thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making skills in classroom settings.

→ In-School Workshops

Western [Engineering Outreach](#) offers hands-on STEM workshops for elementary and secondary students throughout the school year. Delivered by enthusiastic instructors, these in-school sessions aim to spark curiosity and make science and technology fun and accessible. Aligned with the Ontario curriculum, workshops cover topics such as screen-free coding, circuitry, artificial intelligence, encryption, and assistive technology. Reaching students from kindergarten to Grade 12 across London and surrounding areas, the program helps build foundational STEM skills and inspires future innovators.



→ Arts & Humanities Day at Western

[Arts & Humanities Day](#) engages high school students in interdisciplinary learning through workshops, lectures, and interactive sessions led by faculty and students. Participants explore subjects such as philosophy, literature, languages, and cultural studies in a university setting. The event encourages curiosity, critical thinking, and academic confidence, especially among youth who may not have considered humanities pathways. By making postsecondary education accessible and engaging, it promotes inclusive learning and inspires future scholars. This outreach initiative strengthens connections between secondary and postsecondary education, helping diverse learners envision themselves in university and supporting equitable access to quality education.

Operations

→ Weldon's New Silent Study Space

As part of Weldon Library's revitalization, a newly renovated [silent study room](#) now offers 90 seats with adjustable desks, comfortable lounge chairs, and an abundance of power outlets. Designed in response to campus feedback, the space features acoustic panels and natural light to create a quiet, focused, and inviting environment for students, faculty, and staff.

→ Western Libraries and Open Access

With more than 12 million items—both in print and online—[Western Libraries](#) houses one of the largest collections in North America. The general public is welcome to visit Western Libraries and make use of most collections.



Silent Study Room at Weldon Library

→ Writing Support Centre

The [Writing Support Centre](#) is available year-round to assist with university-level writing. It offers free one-to-one appointments, writing seminars, resources, and presentation help with a writing advisor. Services are available in-person at two campus locations or online. The Writing Support Centre supports all members of Western's community, including undergraduates, graduate students, postdocs, and faculty. Assistance is provided for any academic or professional writing, at any stage of the writing process, in any genre, across disciplines. Additionally, the Centre offers [free online modules](#) publicly accessible to introduce university-level writing.

→ McIntosh Gallery

Founded in 1942, [McIntosh Gallery at Western University](#) is a public art gallery that promotes visual arts education. It engages with artists, academics, and the community through innovative exhibitions and educational programs. Supported by various arts councils and Western University, the gallery provides enriching visual culture experiences, offering free educational opportunities for all.



Achieve gender
equality and empower
all women and girls

Research



→ GEMS Research Lab

The [Gender, Equity, Media & Society \(GEMS\) Lab](#) is a collaborative research space for scholars and students interested in exploring issues related to gender, equity, media, and society. Rooted in intersectional feminist values, the lab emphasizes inclusivity, care, reciprocity, and community-based approaches to research. Through regular meetings, members discuss academic literature, develop and share research, and engage in professional development. The lab envisions a future where critical, empathetic, and inclusive thinking drives meaningful scholarship and positive societal change.

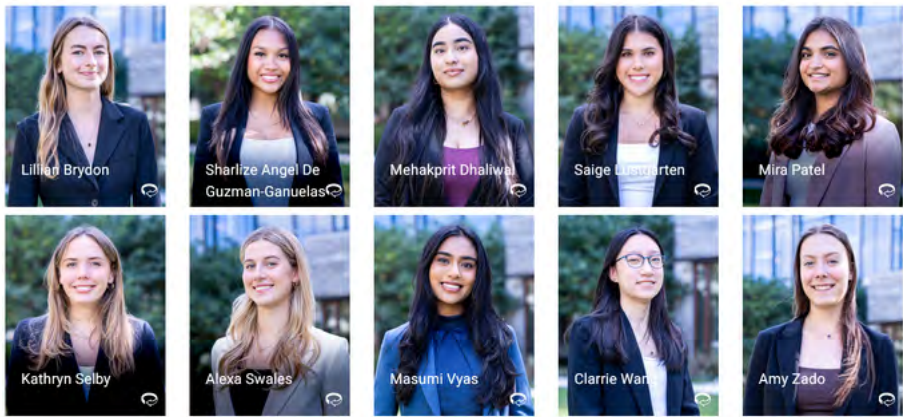


→ Sexuality and Gender Research Group

The [Sexuality and Gender Research Group](#) brings together researchers from the [Faculty of Arts and Humanities](#) with scholars in other disciplines to discuss questions of sexuality and gender. Every year, the group hosts several academic talks as well as Queer Research Day every April, a full-day event involving both papers and poster presentations.

Teaching

→ Linamar Scholarship



2024-25 Linamar Scholarship Recipients

The [Linamar Scholarships](#) at Western will support up to 10 female students in the dual degree program in Engineering and Business (BESc/HBA). The scholarship includes half of the tuition for all years of the dual degree program, summer co-op, and guaranteed employment.

→ Women of Ivey



The Ivey Business School supports and celebrates [women pursuing an MBA](#) through a range of resources that encourage success in business education and leadership. The initiative offers mentorship, networking opportunities, scholarships, and dedicated support throughout the recruitment and application process. By creating a welcoming and collaborative environment, Ivey is committed to removing barriers and helping women thrive in their academic and professional journeys.

→ Women in Asset Management

[Ivey Business School's Women in Asset Management program](#) aims to boost female presence in Canada's asset management industry. This tuition-free program, subsidized by corporate sponsors, offers a combination of in-class training and a subsequent internship, designed for second-year female university students across Canada.



The 2024 WAM cohort at Ivey

185

undergraduate
courses related to
SDG 5



503

relevant
publications
2019-2023

88%

of women
graduate in
six years



Outreach

→ The Learning Network

The [Learning Network](#) enhances the capacity of those working to end gender-based violence by connecting research, practice, and lived experience. Through accessible resources, webinars, podcasts, and community partnerships, it promotes trauma-informed approaches, evolving language, and best practices. The initiative supports service providers across sectors to prevent violence, support survivors, and advance gender equity.



→ Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children

The [CREVAWC](#) was established in 1992 following a national study on violence against women, prompted by the 1989 École Polytechnique de Montréal tragedy. CREVAWC reflects Western's commitment to public service and advancing knowledge. It collaborates with local, national, and academic partners to confront systemic barriers to the safety and well-being of women and children, addressing community-based issues and works to disrupt cycles of gender-based violence in homes, workplaces, and communities.

→ Girls in Engineering

[Go ENG Girl](#) and [Go CODE Girl](#) are some of the community outreach programs offered by [Western Engineering](#) that provide interactive and exciting opportunities for girls in grades 7-11 to be introduced to engineering, coding, and related STEM fields. Girls learn about the world of engineering from female professionals, academics, and students.

→ Women in Science

[Women in Science](#) (WiS) is a student-led organization at Western that supports and encourages women in the Faculty of Science. The group promotes inclusivity, leadership, and mentorship through academic and social events, including workshops, speaker series, and networking opportunities. With a focus on building community and addressing gender disparity in STEM, WiS creates a welcoming space where women can connect, share experiences, and grow together in their scientific pursuits.



Operations

→ Women's Only

[Western's Sports & Recreation](#) offers [Women's Only](#) programming and spaces to create safe, inclusive environments for female-identifying members. Developed in collaboration with the [Western EDI office](#), these offerings support individuals' right to participate in spaces that feel appropriate and respectful to them. The initiative encourages trust, inclusivity, and respect within the campus recreation community.



→ Trans Affirm: Supporting Gender Diversity in Education

Western provides access to licensed childcare through the on-site [University Child Care Centre](#), operated by the [YMCA of Southwestern Ontario](#), offering full- and part-time care for children aged 2 weeks to 4 years. Additional resources, including information on other licensed childcare centres, parenting support, and prenatal services, are available through the Child Care & Schooling and Resources for Parents platforms. Established by the Society of Graduate Students, the [Western Day Care Centre](#) continues to offer a safe environment tailored to the diverse needs of young children.



→ Gender-Based & Sexual Violence Advisory Committee

The [Gender-Based & Sexual Violence Advisory Committee](#) at Western aims to transform campus culture by addressing and preventing gender-based and sexual violence. The committee makes strategic recommendations to foster a safer and more inclusive environment. Western University values respect and diversity, providing a range of services under [Wellness & Well-being](#) to prevent harm, respond to reports, and support those affected by gender-based and sexual violence, ensuring a supportive campus community.

→ Parental Leave Policy

Western supports equitable [parental leave](#) to ensure all parents can participate in child care responsibilities. In line with the [Employment Standards Act](#), eligible employees may take unpaid leave and access maternity or parental benefits through Employment Insurance. Western also offers [Supplemental Employment Insurance](#) Benefits to eligible faculty and staff, providing additional financial support during leave. Employees retain benefit coverage and job protection throughout their leave period.

This page also supports:





Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Research

→ Global Water Futures Observatories

Western collaborates with top Canadian universities and global networks to [advance freshwater research and innovation](#). Through partnerships in hydrology, climate science, and AI, it supports data-driven solutions for water security. Linkages with organizations like Global Energy and Water Exchanges and AI4Snow enhance predictive modeling and environmental monitoring, strengthening Canada’s ability to address complex water challenges through shared knowledge, infrastructure, and open-access data.

→ Systems Analysis to Water and Environmental Management

[Professor Slobodan Simonovic](#) is globally renowned for advancing systems analysis in water and environmental management. His research combines simulation, optimization, and decision-making to address complex societal and ecological issues. With over 550 publications and numerous awards, his work has shaped global thinking on risk, resilience, and infrastructure. He continues to influence engineering education, policy, and practice worldwide.

→ Water Engineering

Since the late 1970s, [Western Engineering](#) has been a leader in [water-related research](#), advancing technologies in water resources, quality, source protection, and treatment. Faculty develop practical solutions to improve water system resilience, access, and environmental health. Their work includes filtration innovations, watershed modeling, and integrated management strategies that support safe, efficient, and equitable water distribution for communities locally and globally.



Teaching

→ Environmental and Water Resources Courses

Western Engineering offers a diverse range of [graduate-level courses](#) focused on water resource management. These courses explore key themes such as hydrosience, stormwater and wastewater systems, environmental geotechnique, groundwater flow, water quality, and sustainable building practices. Designed to equip students with advanced technical knowledge and practical skills, the curriculum emphasizes interdisciplinary approaches to addressing current and future challenges in environmental engineering and water resource management.

46

undergraduate courses related to SDG 6



317

relevant publications 2019-2023

200+

free water bottle filling stations



→ Civil & Environmental Engineering

[The Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering](#) offers a range of courses in drinking water treatment at both undergraduate and graduate levels. [Key specialized courses include:](#)

- Watershed Modelling
- Environmental Assessment Process for Water Resources
- Environmental Water Chemistry
- Modeling and Simulation of Wastewater Processes
- Water Quality and Treatment
- Groundwater Flow and Contaminant Transport

→ Master of Environment and Sustainability

As part of [the Master of Environment and Sustainability \(MES\) program](#), the Engineering Solutions course equips students with critical skills in wastewater treatment and water pollution control. Through practical exercises and case studies, students learn to apply advanced strategies for managing pollution and treating waste-water.



Outreach

→ Great Lake Fish Ontario Supply Chain Analysis:

This [free public report](#) offers insight into fish harvesting and processing in Ontario’s Great Lakes region, helping to raise awareness about sustainable fishing practices. Released in partnership with the [Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers](#), the report explores how the fishing industry can reduce waste and create greater value by making full use of Walleye and Yellow Perch catches. It provides practical recommendations to enhance both ecological sustainability and economic performance, contributing to the broader [100% Great Lakes Fish initiative](#).



→ Ontario Water Consortium

As a member of the [Ontario Water Consortium](#), Western University collaborates with federal and provincial governments to advance water security through research and innovation. With more than 50 researchers working in areas like wastewater treatment, water resource management, groundwater remediation, and resource recovery, Western builds on its research strengths and state-of-the-art facilities to develop solutions to current and emerging water challenges.



[Water Brigades at Western](#) is part of a global student movement that works with local communities to design and build sustainable clean water systems. Students collaborate with community leaders to construct infrastructure like dams, storage tanks, and pipelines, while supporting the creation of Water Councils to maintain the systems. Integrated with health, sanitation, and economic initiatives, the program promotes long-term community development and sustainable access to clean water.

Operations

→ Waterless Urinals

Western installed [three Urimat waterless urinals](#) in the [Faculty of Education](#) as part of a pilot project to reduce water consumption. These units eliminate the need for flushing, saving thousands of litres annually. Made from 100% recyclable materials, they use a chemical-free, microbiological cleaning system for hygiene and odor control. This initiative reflects Western’s commitment to innovative, sustainable solutions that conserve resources and improve operational efficiency across campus facilities..



→ Water Consumption

Western tracks campus water consumption and implements conservation strategies across operations. An official review of the [Energy Conservation and Demand Management 2019–2024 Plan](#) showed that, despite a 6% increase in campus space since 2018, water use dropped by 9% and water use intensity by 14%. These measures strengthen resource efficiency and support long-term water sustainability.

→ Drought Resistant Landscapes

Western is incorporating [drought-resistant landscaping](#) across campus to conserve water and maintain green spaces during dry periods. Native plants and low-water species are prioritized for new projects, reducing reliance on irrigation while supporting biodiversity. These landscapes are designed to thrive in local conditions, lowering maintenance needs and promoting ecological resilience. This approach reflects Western’s commitment to sustainable practices that protect resources and adapt to changing environmental challenges.





Ensure access to
affordable, reliable,
sustainable, and
modern energy for all



100%

renewable
energy pledge

897

relevant
publications
2019-2023

13

LEED® certified
buildings

87

undergraduate
courses related
to SDG 7



Research

→ Wind Engineering

Western University is internationally recognized as the leading university in wind engineering and wind-related research. Western's strength comes from a strong, interdisciplinary team of more than 20 researchers from several faculties, including Engineering, Science, Social Science and Ivey Business School. Research facilities include the [Boundary Layer Wind Tunnel Laboratory](#) and the [Wind Engineering, Energy, and Environment \(WinEEE\) Dome](#), capable of simulating high intensity wind systems. Wind engineering is critical for developing and improving wind power technology, a key component required to increase the share of renewable energy and transition away from fossil fuels.

→ Collaborative Carbon Solutions

[Carbon Solutions](#) is an academic and partner collaboration on innovative strategies to reduce GHG emissions. [Funded projects](#) include: an integrated solar-powered heat pump and modular storage to offset natural gas usage, scaling up nature-based climate solutions, microalgae-based eco-plastic, development of a farm-size biomass carbonizer for biocarbon production and carbon sequestration, production of renewable jet fuels from waste, carbon sequestration through land conservancies, replacing methanol with compostable plastics as a carbon source for biological nutrient removal from wastewater, high performance batteries for large-scale grid energy storage and electric vehicles, and more.

Teaching

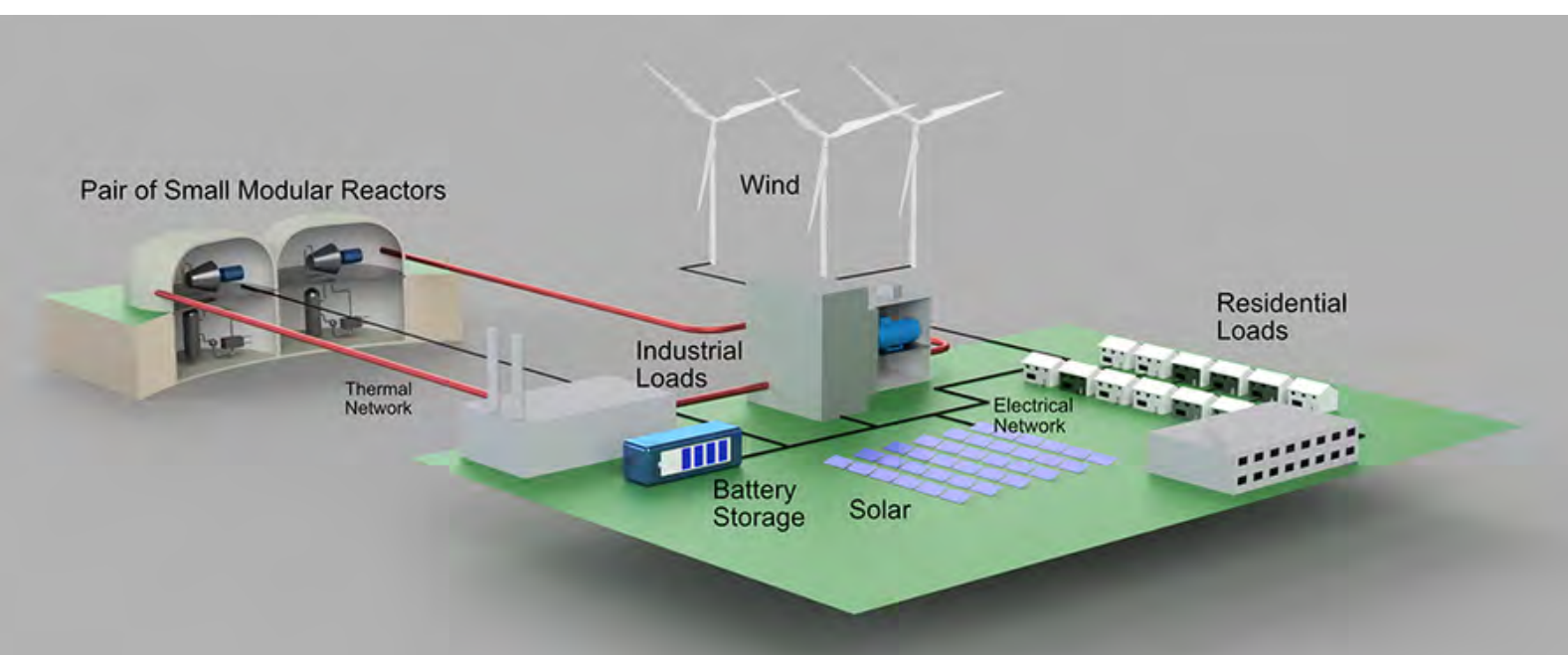
→ Energy Sector Strategic Leadership Accelerator

The Ivey Business School provides executive education in the electricity sector through the [Energy Sector Strategic Leadership Accelerator](#). This three day program equips senior leaders across the electricity sector to drive electrification, infrastructure investments, and strategic transformation. The program explores the latest advances in clean tech, grid modernization, and energy innovation with visionary energy leaders who lead growth, sustainability, and innovation.



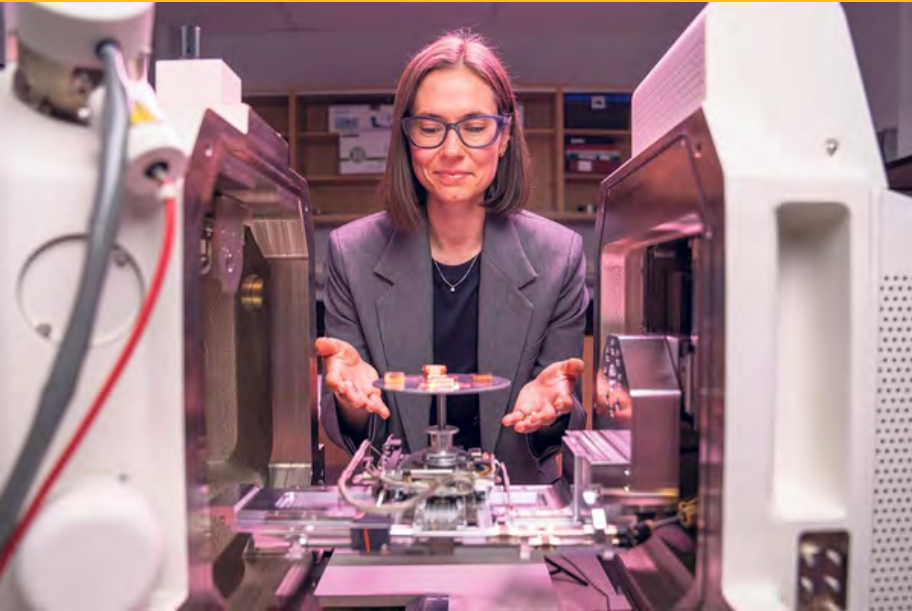
→ Geography Energy and Power Course

Offered through the Faculty of Science, the [Energy and Power](#) course in the Department of Geography investigates the political ecology of energy. Issues of politics and power, social equity, and environmental impact are examined through Canadian and international case studies. The concept of 'energy justice' is used both to critically assess current patterns of energy production and use and to explore more sustainable possibilities. Students learn to apply an energy justice framework to critically assess the impacts of different energy sources (e.g. oil, coal, nuclear, wind, solar, hydro, biofuels) and express well-supported arguments about how energy systems could better address social and environmental justice challenges.



→ **Canada’s Role in the Future of Nuclear Energy**

The Ivey Business School’s [conference on Canada’s nuclear energy future](#) highlighted the country’s leadership in clean power through advanced safety, waste management, and scalable infrastructure. Ontario’s success in reducing emissions and expanding nuclear capacity showcases practical pathways to sustainable energy. The event underscored how strategic investment and innovation in nuclear technologies can drive resilient, low-carbon energy systems and support international collaboration for a cleaner future.



→ **Ivey's 8th Annual Electricity Workshop**

The Ivey Energy Policy and Management Centre hosted its [8th Annual Workshop](#) on the Economics of Electricity Policy and Markets in October 2024 in Toronto. This event gathered scholars, practitioners, and industry leaders to discuss contemporary issues in electricity policy, regulation, and markets. The annual workshop aims to build a community of experts, expand research networks in Canada, and support academic research contributing to effective electricity policies and market designs. The theme centered on the future of electricity market design in Canada. Panelists explored the impacts of decarbonization policies and technological innovations in provinces such as Alberta, Nova Scotia, and Ontario.

→ **Electricity Policy and Regulation Breakfast Series**

The [Ivey Business School Electricity Policy and Regulation Breakfast Series](#) convened experts to explore how Ontario can attract private investments to meet rising electricity demand and support the energy transition. Discussions addressed policy gaps, regulatory uncertainty, and strategies for financing new nuclear, hydro, solar, and storage projects. The event emphasized the importance of stable, forward-looking policies to unlock capital for electrification and infrastructure development. By fostering collaboration across sectors, the conference advanced solutions for building a resilient, low-emission energy future.



→ **Electric Boilers**

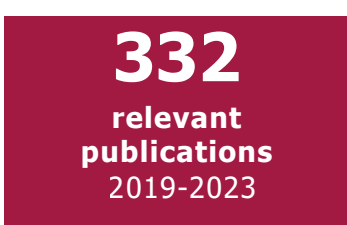
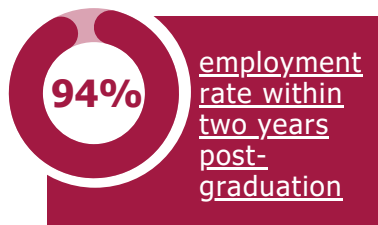
Western University is modernizing its campus energy infrastructure by replacing an aging natural gas boiler with a [high-efficiency electric model](#), supported by \$4.75 million in federal funding. The new boiler will supply 40% of the steam used for heating and hot water across nearly 100 buildings, including University Hospital. This operational shift enhances system resilience, reduces maintenance risks, and cuts emissions by over 80% compared to natural gas. The project aligns with Western’s long-term strategy to improve energy efficiency, lower carbon output, and support resilient utility operations as part of its commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

→ **Sustainable Workplace Ambassadors Program**

Western University’s [Sustainable Workplace Ambassadors Program \(SWAP\)](#) engages staff and faculty in embedding sustainability into everyday workplace practices. Through peer collaboration and practical guidance, participants address energy use, waste reduction, sustainable food choices, and low-impact commuting. The program builds on the Green Office initiative, fostering a culture of environmental responsibility across departments. By encouraging behaviour change and continuous improvement, SWAP strengthens operational sustainability and supports Western’s broader climate goals through grassroots leadership and departmental engagement.



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth; full and productive employment; and decent work for all



Research

→ Menstrual Leave

Western University sociology PhD student Meaghan Furlano conducted [research into menstrual leave and flexibility policies](#) across five countries, analyzing how workplace practices affect menstruating employees. Her findings highlight the need for inclusive, non-medicalized approaches that support worker well-being without reinforcing stigma or gender inequality. By advocating for menstrual flexibility—such as remote work options, rest spaces, and equitable health benefits—this research challenges structural barriers and promotes healthier, more inclusive workplaces. It contributes to broader efforts to improve labour conditions, reduce discrimination, and foster decent work environments that support diverse employee needs.

→ AI-Powered Job Portal

Western University computer science professor Anwar Haque developed an [AI-powered job portal](#) for the London Economic Development Corporation, streamlining job posting aggregation across hundreds of employers. The system uses machine learning to automate formatting and updates, reducing manual labour and improving access to employment opportunities. This research enhances regional productivity, supports economic growth, and strengthens workforce development. Hosted at Western’s BioNext incubator, Haque’s Bamboo Innovations bridges academic research with real-world applications, while also training students and advancing responsible AI solutions that improve operational efficiency and expand access to decent work.

Teaching

→ Virtual Reality Business Education

Western University’s Ivey Business School is pioneering the use of [virtual reality to enhance leadership education](#). Led by Shannon Rawski and Zoe Kinias, the initiative helps students develop perspective-taking skills critical for inclusive and effective workplace leadership. By simulating real-world team dynamics, the program fosters empathy, communication, and decision-making—key competencies for decent work and productive employment. This innovative teaching method prepares students to navigate complex organizational challenges and lead diverse teams in evolving economic environments.



→ Own Your Future

Western’s [Own Your Future](#) program prepares graduate students for diverse career paths through leadership training, career design, communication, and teaching development. Built on frameworks from Ivey and Stanford, it promotes lifelong learning, workplace adaptability, and professional resilience. The program equips graduates to thrive in evolving labour markets and contribute meaningfully to inclusive, sustainable economic growth.

→ Ivey Executive Education

[Ivey Executive Education](#) equips learners with strategic thinking, innovation, and change management skills through immersive case-based learning, coaching, and peer collaboration. Programs blend in-person and virtual formats and participants tackle real-world challenges, empower teams, and lead with impact. Designed for executives across industries, Ivey fosters leadership growth that drives organizational success in dynamic business environments.

→ Graduate Employability

Western University ranks among Canada’s [top institutions for graduate employability](#), with 93.5% of students employed within six months of graduation. Its strong performance in global rankings reflects employer recognition, alumni success, and robust industry partnerships. Through experiential learning, career development programs, and research-driven education, Western equips students with the skills and adaptability needed for productive employment and contributes to sustainable economic growth and workforce resilience across sectors.



Outreach



Workplace Solutions

Western’s [Workplace Solutions](#) program offers research-informed training, policy support, and leadership guidance to help organizations prevent and address workplace harassment and violence. Engaged by teams globally, the program promotes trauma- and violence-informed practices, fosters safer work environments, and strengthens occupational health. Through outreach, education, and collaboration, it empowers employers to build inclusive, respectful, and productive workplaces aligned with sustainable development goals.

The Founder’s Journey

[The Founder’s Journey](#) is a free, online course developed by Western University’s Morrisette Institute for Entrepreneurship that expands access to entrepreneurial education across Canada. Created in partnership with RBC and The Globe and Mail, the program reaches aspiring founders beyond traditional academic settings. Through expert-led modules and flexible delivery, it empowers individuals from diverse backgrounds to explore business creation, build economic resilience, and engage in innovation, and facilitates inclusive outreach and broader participation in entrepreneurial ecosystems.

Dialogue with the Dean

Ivey Business School’s Impact Podcast series, [Dialogue with the Dean](#), features Dean Julian Birkinshaw in conversation with leading faculty on topics shaping the future of work, leadership, and business. Covering ethics, AI, sustainability, and inclusion, the podcast shares research-driven insights with global audiences. By translating academic expertise into accessible dialogue, the series fosters public engagement, leadership development, and informed decision-making across sectors.

Operations

Educational Assistance Plan

Western’s [Educational Assistance Program](#) supports staff development by funding credit courses, professional training, and continuing education. Available to eligible employees, the program enhances career mobility, workplace adaptability, and lifelong learning. By investing in internal talent, Western strengthens workforce resilience and promotes decent work through inclusive access to education and skill-building opportunities.

Living Well @ Western

[Living Well @ Western](#) enhances workplace well-being through free fitness classes, mindfulness sessions, and wellness challenges for faculty and staff. By promoting physical and mental health across seven wellness domains, the program fosters a resilient, engaged workforce. It supports operational excellence by reducing burnout, improving morale, and encouraging sustainable work habits across campus.



One of Southwestern Ontario’s Best Employers

Western University was named [one of Southwestern Ontario’s top employers](#) for its commitment to employee well-being, professional development, and inclusive workplace policies. With 14,000 staff, Western offers strong benefits, wellness programs, and learning opportunities that foster decent work, career growth, and operational excellence across its academic and administrative functions.

Excellence in Leadership at Western

Western’s [Excellence in Leadership](#) program strengthens institutional capacity by developing academic and administrative leaders through targeted competencies: self-leadership, team management, service delivery, and innovation. These supports foster high-performing, inclusive workplaces and resilient leadership amid complex change. The program enhances operational effectiveness and aligns leadership development with strategic goals for sustainable growth and decent work.

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Research

→ Building Better Batteries

In September 2024, Western researchers, led by Dr. Yang Zhao, advanced the [development of solid-state batteries](#)—a safer, longer-lasting alternative to conventional lithium-ion batteries. This work supports the emerging electric vehicle (EV) industry, especially in light of Volkswagen’s \$7-billion EV battery gigafactory being built nearby in St. Thomas, Ontario. Western’s expertise in materials science, energy storage, and advanced manufacturing positions it as a key contributor to sustainable industrial innovation and infrastructure development.



→ Vancouver Seismic Mapping

Western University researchers, led by Sheri Molnar, are [mapping seismic hazards across Metro Vancouver](#) to improve infrastructure resilience and emergency preparedness. The decade-long project uses seismometers and geological data to assess ground vibration patterns at over 17,000 sites. These findings inform land-use planning, retrofit priorities, and risk mitigation strategies. By advancing urban seismic microzonation, Western supports safer infrastructure development and disaster-ready communities—key contributions to sustainable, resilient cities and innovation in public safety systems.

Teaching

→ Ivey Certificate in Entrepreneurship at Western

Western University’s [Ivey Certificate in Entrepreneurship](#) equips undergraduate students with the skills to innovate and build ventures through interdisciplinary coursework and experiential learning. Open to students across faculties, the program encourages creative problem-solving, digital design, and venture development. With access to maker spaces, mentorship, and a capstone New Venture Project, it prepares students to contribute to sustainable industry and infrastructure. This initiative strengthens innovation capacity and supports inclusive economic development through education.

→ Maker Spaces

[Western’s maker spaces](#) empower students to explore hands-on innovation and design. Equipped with tools like 3D printers, laser cutters, and CNC machines, these spaces encourage creativity, problem-solving, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Students from any faculty can access training and materials to prototype ideas, build projects, and develop entrepreneurial skills. By encouraging experimentation and practical learning, Western cultivates a culture of innovation and supports the development of future-ready graduates who can contribute to technological advancement and creative industries.

→ Industry Projects

Western’s [Industry Projects](#) program connects students with small- to medium-sized businesses to solve real-world challenges through course-based consulting. Students apply academic knowledge to practical scenarios, gaining experience in teamwork, communication, and problem-solving. Projects are designed in collaboration with industry partners and aligned with course learning outcomes, ensuring relevance and impact. This initiative cultivates innovation, supports local business development, and helps students build career-ready skills while contributing meaningfully to organizational goals.

664

undergraduate
courses related to
SDG 9



523

relevant
publications
2019-2023

54

university
spin-offs

→ Peer AI Training Program

Western’s [Peer AI Training Program](#) helps students build confidence and competence in using artificial intelligence through hands-on, peer-led workshops. Developed by the Students’ Council in collaboration with Western’s chief AI officer, the program features student instructors guiding participants in exploring AI tools and techniques. Sessions highlight real-world applications across disciplines, encouraging ethical and effective use of AI in academic and professional contexts. This initiative fosters collaborative learning and prepares students for an increasingly AI-integrated future.



Outreach

→ Engineering Community Partnerships

Western Engineering’s [Community Partnerships](#) extend STEM learning beyond campus by collaborating with local organizations to deliver inclusive, hands-on programming. Through initiatives with libraries, museums, resource centres, and youth clubs, Western brings engineering education to underserved communities, supporting curiosity, confidence, and skill-building. Programs are designed to complement existing efforts, not duplicate them, and include activities like robotics, design challenges, and science fairs. This outreach fosters innovation, strengthens community infrastructure, and builds pathways for youth to engage with engineering in meaningful, accessible ways.

→ Connector Suites at Western Discovery Park

The [Connector Suites at Western Discovery Park](#) support innovation outreach by providing a versatile, high-tech venue for collaboration among researchers, entrepreneurs, and community partners. Located within Western Research Parks, the space hosts conferences, workshops, and seminars that foster knowledge exchange and interdisciplinary engagement. With cutting-edge AV equipment, customizable layouts, and access to local art and catering, it creates an inclusive environment for idea-sharing and networking. Free bookings for community groups and academic affiliates further promote accessibility, helping bridge academia, industry, and the public in a shared pursuit of innovation and development.



→ Western Innovation and Strategic Partnerships

Western University’s [Innovation and Strategic Partnership](#) initiatives extend its impact beyond campus by connecting researchers, students, and industry to co-create solutions for real-world challenges. Through collaborative platforms, technology transfer, and community-engaged research, Western supports the development of accessible technologies, sustainable infrastructure, and entrepreneurial ventures. Programs like Frugal Biomedical Innovations and DiscoveryX promote inclusive design and local manufacturing, while strategic partnerships foster knowledge exchange and capacity-building. These efforts strengthen regional and global innovation ecosystems, contributing to economic development and resilient communities through education, research, and applied problem-solving.

Operations

→ Research Commercialization

Through its [Technology Transfer Office](#), Western supports researchers in transforming innovations into market-ready solutions via licensing, spin-offs, and strategic partnerships. The process includes invention disclosure, IP protection, market assessment, and business development. Programs like WE-Empower! and Graduate Student Innovation Scholars provide training and mentorship in entrepreneurship and commercialization. These services leverage institutional infrastructure to promote sustainable innovation, strengthen industry collaboration, and contribute to regional economic development.

→ Sustainable Impact Fund

Western’s [Sustainable Impact Fund](#) supports campus-based projects that use university operations as a platform for innovation and experiential learning. In 2024, initiatives included prototyping carbon capture devices using 3D printing and exploring circular textile systems through business-focused seminars. These projects integrate student research with operational infrastructure—such as labs, maker spaces, and recycling systems—to test and refine sustainable solutions. By leveraging existing campus resources and cross-disciplinary collaboration, Western fosters practical innovation, supports skill development, and strengthens its role as a living lab for environmental and technological advancement.

→ Campus as a Living Lab

Western’s [Campus as a Living Lab](#) program integrates operational infrastructure into academic learning and innovation. Facilities Management collaborates with faculty and students to turn campus systems—such as energy, biodiversity, and building performance—into real-world research and teaching opportunities. Projects include AI-enhanced building energy modeling, biodiversity inventories, and sustainable landscaping. These initiatives use Western’s built environment and operations as a testing ground for sustainable solutions, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and continuous improvement in campus systems while engaging the broader community in experiential learning.



Reduce inequality within and among countries

Research

→ Hate Indicators

Researchers from the Faculty of Law developed the [Canadian Hate Crime Case Law Research Tool](#). It strengthens legal research, teaching, and outreach by providing a structured, evidence-based resource for analyzing hate crime cases in Canada. Developed through collaboration between law students, faculty, and the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, the tool identifies key indicators across 15 years of case law. It supports legal professionals, educators, and students in understanding patterns and improving responses to hate-motivated offenses. By integrating academic research with practical application, the tool enhances legal literacy, promotes equity, and fosters collaboration between the university and justice system stakeholders.

→ Intimate Partner Violence

Western researchers are advancing public understanding of [intimate partner violence \(IPV\)](#) through evidence-based analysis and policy engagement. Drawing on national data and legal inquests, their work highlights the widespread impact of IPV on health, economic stability, and social systems. By identifying patterns and consequences of gender-based violence, Western contributes to informed policymaking and community awareness. The research supports calls for systemic change and encourages municipalities to recognize IPV as a public health crisis. These efforts reflect the university’s commitment to addressing complex social issues through rigorous scholarship and collaboration with legal, health, and advocacy sectors.



Teaching

→ Blackademia

[Blackademia](#) supports inclusive teaching by amplifying Black scholarship and lived experiences within academic spaces. Through curated resources, events, and storytelling, it fosters critical dialogue around race, identity, and systemic inequities. The initiative encourages faculty to integrate diverse perspectives into curricula and pedagogy, promoting equity and belonging in the classroom. By supporting culturally responsive teaching and highlighting Black excellence, Blackademia helps dismantle barriers to representation and learning, contributing to a more inclusive and socially aware educational environment at Western.

→ Indigenous Program Modules

Western’s new [Indigenous Studies undergraduate modules](#) support inclusive teaching by centering Indigenous knowledge systems, histories, and perspectives. The updated curriculum offers interdisciplinary approaches that reflect Indigenous worldviews and lived experiences, fostering



critical engagement with colonialism, reconciliation, and cultural resurgence. These modules encourage respectful dialogue and relational learning, equipping students to understand and challenge systemic inequities. By embedding Indigenous scholarship into core teaching practices, Western promotes equity, representation, and culturally responsive education, contributing to a more inclusive and socially aware academic environment.

→ Accessibility Boosts

Western’s [Accessibility Boosts](#) initiative enhances inclusive teaching by helping instructors design online learning environments that support diverse student needs. It provides practical strategies and downloadable resources to improve accessibility in course content, assessments, and digital platforms. By applying principles of universal design and equity, the initiative enables educators to reduce barriers and encourage participation across learning styles and abilities. These efforts promote fairness and opportunity for all students through thoughtful, research-informed teaching practices.

483

undergraduate courses related to SDG 10

691

relevant publications 2019-2023

18

EDI workshops and modules offered at Western



→ Domestic Violence at Work Initiative

The [Domestic Violence at Work initiative](#) helps organizations create safer, more inclusive workplaces by offering tools, training, and policy development resources. It supports employers in recognizing and responding to domestic violence as a workplace issue, with customizable policy templates, readiness assessments, and risk screening tools. Research highlights how domestic violence affects job performance, workplace safety, and economic stability, especially for marginalized groups. By integrating evidence-based practices into workplace operations, the initiative promotes equity, supports vulnerable workers, and fosters healthier, more resilient employment environments across sectors.



→ Schulich X-LABS

Western’s [Schulich X-LABS program](#) engages high school students from varied backgrounds in immersive biomedical research experiences. By connecting youth with advanced lab environments, mentoring from PhD candidates, and exposure to university life, the initiative builds confidence and scientific literacy. It opens pathways to higher education and careers in science for students who may not otherwise access such opportunities. Through hands-on learning and personal mentorship, X-LABS strengthens community ties and expands participation in biomedical fields across generations.



→ Global Skills Opportunity Ambassadors

Western’s participation in the [Global Skills Opportunity](#) program supports outreach by expanding access to international learning for underrepresented students. Through funding and tailored support, the initiative enables students to gain global experience, build intercultural competencies, and strengthen career readiness. It promotes equity by reducing financial and systemic barriers to study abroad, particularly for Indigenous students, those with disabilities, and low-income learners. These efforts extend Western’s educational impact beyond campus, fostering inclusive global engagement and helping students thrive in diverse professional and academic environments.

This page also supports:



→ Gender-Based Sexual Violence Training

Western’s operational support for gender-based violence prevention is reflected in its use of [evidence-based models and resources](#). The university promotes knowledge dissemination through mandatory training and printable tools, helping staff and students recognize and respond to violence. Programs like Undressing Consent offer engaging, pleasure-focused approaches to learning about consent and rejection, while ManMade provides evaluated strategies for engaging men in prevention. These models contribute to Western’s broader initiatives by embedding research-informed practices into campus operations, fostering safer environments and promoting equity through education, policy, and community engagement.

→ Declarations of Indigenous Citizenship

Western’s [Indigenous Affirmation Policy](#) ensures that designated opportunities for Indigenous students, staff, and faculty are accessed through verified citizenship or membership. Developed with local Indigenous communities, it strengthens institutional integrity and accountability. The policy is operationalized through a formal procedure led by the Indigenous Affirmation Advisory Committee, promoting transparency and respect for Indigenous sovereignty in recruitment, admissions, and resource allocation.

→ Accessible Education

[Accessible Education](#) at Western University ensures students with disabilities receive tailored academic accommodations across courses, exams, and internships. It provides accessible formats, assistive technologies, and learning strategy instruction, while coordinating with faculty and services to remove barriers. Through individualized support and inclusive infrastructure, the unit operationalizes equity in academic access, enabling students to fully participate and succeed in their educational journey.



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



Research

→

Art & Sustainability

Western researchers in art and literature are exploring how [creative expression can drive environmental awareness and action](#). Through projects like the Synthetic Collective, which visualizes microplastic pollution, and studies on extinction narratives, scholars engage diverse audiences in understanding ecological challenges. These interdisciplinary efforts contribute to shaping sustainable urban cultures by integrating environmental themes into public discourse, exhibitions, and education.

[Kirsty Robertson](#)

→

Canadian Neighbourhood Change Explorer

Western’s [Neighbourhood Change Explorer](#) transforms decades of census data into a digital platform for analyzing urban trends. Researchers use it to study housing, income, and mobility patterns across Canadian cities. This tool supports evidence-based planning and policy development, helping scholars and decision-makers understand long-term urban change and promote inclusive, sustainable communities.

Teaching

→

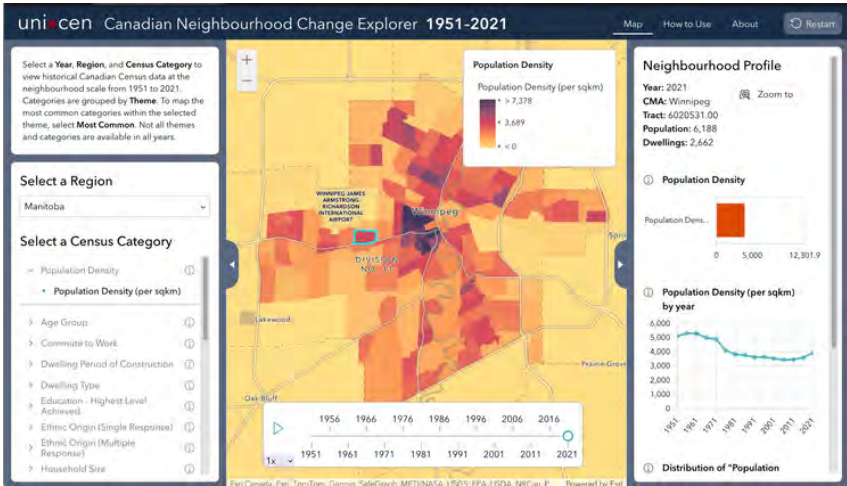
Civil and Environmental Engineering

Western’s [Civil and Environmental Engineering](#) professional graduate programs integrate urban sustainability into teaching through courses on smart cities, sustainable mobility, and intelligent transportation systems. Students gain practical skills in data-driven planning, infrastructure design, and environmental resilience. This curriculum equips future engineers to address urban challenges and contribute to more inclusive, efficient, and sustainable city development.

→

Urban Education

The Faculty of Education’s [Urban Education specialization](#) equips teacher candidates to address inequities in city schools through critical inquiry and practicum-based research. By examining how social factors shape student engagement and developing action plans for inclusive teaching, candidates contribute to safer, more resilient learning environments. This approach supports the development of equitable urban communities through education that responds to diverse needs and lived experiences.



→

Urban Development Program

Western’s [Urban Development](#) undergraduate program prepares students to analyze and respond to urban growth and change through interdisciplinary study. By combining geographic, economic, and social perspectives with analytical and business skills, students learn to address challenges in land use, housing, and infrastructure. This education supports the creation of inclusive, resilient, and sustainable urban environments through informed decision-making and planning.

248

undergraduate courses related to SDG 11

507

relevant publications 2019-2023

350

musical performances in 2023

Outreach

➔ How Should Cities Adapt to Climate Change?

Western experts like Gordon McBean and James Voogt translate [complex climate science into actionable insights](#) for the public, municipalities, and policymakers. Their work informs community-level responses to extreme heat, promotes awareness of urban heat islands, and encourages inclusive planning strategies —engaging citizens in climate adaptation through education, media, and local partnerships.

➔ Geography 50-Year Reunion

Western’s [Geography 50-Year Reunion](#) brought together alumni and faculty whose careers have shaped urban sustainability through planning, environmental innovation, and public service. The event included a departmental visit and public talk, creating space for dialogue on how geographic knowledge contributes to safer and more inclusive cities. It highlighted long-term impact and inspired future engagement with urban challenges.



Ema Nikolovska

➔ Partnership with Vancouver Recital Society

Western’s [partnership with the Vancouver Recital Society](#) brings celebrated musicians to campus for free public performances and student masterclasses. These events enrich cultural life in London, Ontario, and make high-quality artistic experiences accessible to a broader community. By connecting global talent with local audiences and students, the initiative strengthens the city’s cultural infrastructure and supports vibrant, inclusive urban living.

Operations



➔ Green Spaces and Gardens

Western University’s [campus operations emphasize ecological stewardship](#) across its 450+ hectares of diverse landscapes. Through native plantings, invasive species management, and pollinator-friendly gardens, Western protects biodiversity and supports healthy ecosystems. Rain gardens mitigate stormwater runoff, reducing flood risk and improving water quality. Public access and educational tours promote awareness and engagement with these natural spaces. These practices contribute to a resilient, inclusive, and environmentally responsible campus that integrates nature into daily life and long-term planning.

➔ Safer Roads and Crossings

Western’s [Safer Roads and Crossings](#) initiative improves campus mobility and safety through traffic calming measures, reduced speed limits, and enhanced pedestrian infrastructure. By installing medians and button-activated crosswalks, the university reduces vehicle speeds and prioritizes pedestrian access. These operational changes support a more inclusive and secure campus environment, contributing to broader efforts to create livable and sustainable urban spaces.

➔ Alert WesternU

Western’s [Alert WesternU](#) system enhances campus safety through real-time emergency notifications, preparedness resources, and coordinated response protocols. It helps protect students, staff, and visitors during severe weather, security threats, or other disruptions. By integrating technology and communication across university operations, Alert WesternU contributes to a safer, more resilient campus environment that supports broader efforts to build secure and responsive urban communities.



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



Research

→ Good to the Last Bite

Western [researchers analyzed food waste](#) in over 1,200 households in London, Ontario, uncovering significant amounts of avoidable waste, especially fruits, vegetables, and baked goods. Their findings, available in the [Good to the Last Bite?](#) report, highlight the economic and environmental costs of discarded food, including methane emissions and financial losses. The study offers practical insights into consumer behavior and emphasizes the importance of targeted education and data-driven strategies to reduce waste. This research supports more efficient resource use and long-term environmental responsibility.



→ Unlocking the Potential of Plants

Western researcher Bogumil Karas received \$1.5 million in funding from ARIA to [develop synthetic plant chloroplasts](#) capable of transferring entire genomes into crops. This innovation aims to create plants that are more nutrient-dense, resilient, and longer-lasting. By advancing genome design and regeneration techniques, the project supports breakthroughs in agricultural efficiency and sustainability. The research contributes to reducing waste and improving resource use in food systems through enhanced crop performance and adaptability.

Teaching

→ HBA Sustainability Certificate

Western's [HBA Sustainability Certificate](#) at Ivey prepares students to address the environmental and social impacts of consumption through business strategy. With a focus on systems thinking, ethical leadership, and regenerative practices, students explore how organizations can reduce waste, improve resource efficiency, and design sustainable products and services. Through experiential learning and real-world case studies, the program equips future leaders to make informed decisions that support responsible production and consumption across industries.



→ Foods & Nutrition

Western's undergraduate [Foods and Nutrition](#) program equips students to critically examine food systems, nutrition care, and food policy. Courses explore the social, cultural, and economic factors shaping food access and health outcomes. With modules in sustainable food systems and community nutrition, students learn to address real-world challenges through evidence-based approaches. The program emphasizes ethical decision-making and resource-conscious practices, preparing graduates to contribute meaningfully to healthier, more sustainable food environments.

→ Ivey Behavioural Lab

Western's [Ivey Behavioural Research Lab](#) supports evidence-based inquiry into decision-making, consumer psychology, and organizational behavior. By enabling faculty and students to conduct controlled experiments, the lab advances understanding of how individuals and groups respond to complex choices, including those related to consumption and resource use. This research informs strategies that promote ethical, efficient, and sustainable practices in business and society, contributing to more responsible decision-making across sectors.



190



undergraduate courses related to SDG 12

238

relevant publications 2019-2023

100,000 sq ft

Net Zero Energy Building



Outreach

→ The Future of Agri-Food Event Series



Ivey's [Future of Agri-Food Event Series](#) convenes experts from business, policy, and academia to explore challenges and opportunities in Canada's food system. Topics include regenerative agriculture, food security, and sustainable finance. By engaging executive leaders and the public in dialogue around consumption, production, and equity, the series promotes awareness and action toward more sustainable food systems. It supports informed decision-making and collaborative approaches to reduce waste and improve resource efficiency.

→ Planting Seeds

Western's [collaboration with SOAHAC on Indigenous food sovereignty](#) outreach emphasizes culturally grounded approaches to food systems. The initiative supports traditional food knowledge, land-based practices, and community-led programming that reconnect people with ancestral skills in growing, hunting, and preparing food. By promoting long-term solutions over short-term aid, the project encourages responsible consumption and sustainable food access. It also builds capacity through education and engagement with Indigenous knowledge keepers and local communities.



→ Free Store

Western's [Free Store](#) initiative encourages circular consumption by allowing students, staff, and faculty to donate and pick up usable items at no cost. By repurposing goods instead of discarding them, the program reduces waste and lowers emissions associated with manufacturing and transport. It also promotes a culture of reuse and resource mindfulness on campus. Volunteer opportunities further engage the community in sustainable practices and support waste diversion efforts.



Operations

→ Western Community Garden

[Western's Community Garden](#) supports sustainable campus operations by promoting local food production, biodiversity, and hands-on learning. With 38 raised beds for food crops and 21 planters for native species, the garden encourages resource-conscious growing practices. It serves as a collaborative space for students, staff, and faculty, integrating education and ecological stewardship. The garden also supports pollinator health and offers experiential learning through field courses, contributing to a more resilient and sustainable campus food system.

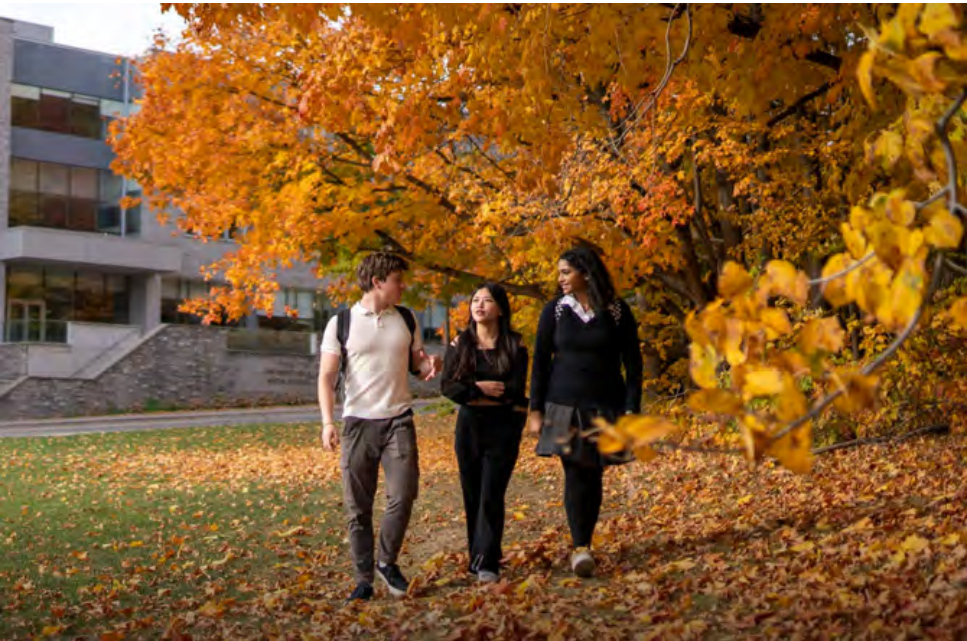
→ Responsible Investing

Western's [investment strategy](#) integrates environmental and social considerations into long-term financial planning. By allocating capital to sustainable funds and tracking carbon intensity across asset classes, the university supports more efficient resource use and reduced emissions. Engagement with investment managers promotes transparency and responsible practices, while scenario analysis informs decisions that align with low-carbon transition goals. These efforts contribute to a financial system that prioritizes sustainability alongside performance and accountability.



→ Siebens Drake Retrofit

Western's retrofit of the [Siebens Drake Research Institute](#) is part of its [Deep Energy Retrofit Program](#), aimed at reducing emissions and improving energy efficiency across campus operations. By replacing outdated chillers and connecting the building to Western's energy loop, the project redistributes excess heat and significantly lowers steam and electricity use. These upgrades are expected to cut utility costs by 40% and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, supporting a more resource-efficient and low-carbon campus infrastructure.



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Research

→

Canadian Severe Storms Laboratory

Western’s [Canadian Severe Storms Laboratory \(CSSL\)](#) contributes to climate action research by investigating extreme weather events such as tornadoes, hail, and flash floods. Through initiatives like the Northern Tornadoes and Hail Projects, CSSL collects high-resolution data to improve forecasting, risk assessment, and public safety. Its open-access model and collaborations with national partners support knowledge-sharing and innovation. This research helps communities adapt to climate-related hazards and strengthens Canada’s resilience to increasingly severe weather patterns.



→

Nature-based Carbon Solutions

Dr. Mensink’s project, [Nature-based Carbon Solutions](#), explores nature-based carbon solutions through land conservancy partnerships. By measuring carbon stored in forests, wetlands, and grasslands, and evaluating restoration impacts, the research supports climate mitigation. It also develops GIS tools to guide land trusts in estimating carbon sequestration potential. This work contributes to evidence-based strategies for preserving ecosystems and enhancing carbon storage across Southwestern Ontario.

Teaching

→

Campus as a Living Lab

Western’s [Campus as a Living Lab](#) program transforms university grounds into a hands-on teaching environment where students apply classroom knowledge to real-world sustainability challenges. Through interdisciplinary projects—from energy modeling and ecosystem management to flood mitigation and biodiversity enhancement—students gain practical experience while contributing to campus improvements. This approach deepens understanding of environmental issues and encourages innovative thinking, preparing students to lead sustainable change in their future careers.

→

Master of Environment and Sustainability

Western’s [Master of Environment and Sustainability \(MES\) program](#) equips students to address climate challenges through interdisciplinary learning and applied experience. With coursework focused on climate change, conservation, and waste reduction, students gain practical skills in environmental consulting, stakeholder engagement, and project management. The program includes a co-op term and real-world client projects, preparing graduates to lead climate-responsive initiatives across sectors and contribute meaningfully to sustainable development.



→

Geography and Environment

Western’s undergraduate [Geography and Environment](#) program integrates climate action into teaching by bridging natural and social sciences. Students explore the causes and impacts of climate change through courses like [Connecting for Climate Change Action](#), which combines Indigenous and Western knowledge systems. The program emphasizes experiential learning, systems thinking, and community engagement, preparing students to understand environmental challenges and contribute to sustainable solutions across diverse sectors.

80

undergraduate courses related to SDG 13

405

relevant publications 2019-2023

2050

achieve net-zero emissions for campus operations by 2050

Outreach

→ Riverfest

Riverfest engages the Western community in climate action through hands-on environmental restoration and education. By combining shoreline cleanups, tree planting, and interactive learning, the event fosters awareness of local climate impacts and promotes sustainable practices. It operationalizes outreach by connecting students, staff, and partners in collaborative efforts to protect ecosystems and build resilience against climate-related challenges.

→ EnviroCon

EnviroCon at Western University fosters climate-focused dialogue and collaboration by bringing together students, faculty, and community partners to share research and solutions on environmental challenges. Hosted by the Centre for Environment and Sustainability, the event operationalizes outreach through interdisciplinary presentations, networking, and knowledge exchange—empowering participants to take informed action on climate issues locally and globally.

→ ClimateChangeCon

ClimateChangeCon at Western University empowers graduate students and postdoctoral researchers to share innovative climate research and foster interdisciplinary collaboration. Organized by the Western Climate Centre, the conference operationalizes outreach through presentations, networking, and knowledge exchange. It builds capacity for climate action by connecting emerging scholars with faculty, community members, and policymakers in a dynamic, solutions-focused environment.



Operations

→ Ivey's Net-zero Commitment

Ivey Business School's [net-zero commitment by 2034](#) strengthens sustainable campus operations through targeted reductions in direct and indirect emissions. The plan includes infrastructure retrofits, energy conservation, and clean technology evaluations. It also addresses waste, paper use, and business travel, with progress tracked through new sustainability metrics. Community engagement and behavior-based initiatives complement capital projects, ensuring collective accountability and long-term impact across Ivey's facilities and operational practices.



→ WeCLISH Climate Café

Western's [Centre for Climate Change, Sustainable Livelihoods and Health](#) hosts a [Climate Café](#) that offers a unique educational space for informal, inclusive conversations on climate change. Hosted monthly via Zoom, it brings together researchers, students, policymakers, and community members to explore climate topics through dialogue rather than debate. By encouraging respectful, evidence-informed exchanges, the Café builds climate literacy, supports interdisciplinary learning, and strengthens community engagement—key components of effective climate action education.



→ Michael Newark Digitized Tornado Archive

The [Michael Newark Digitized Tornado Archive](#), housed at Western University, operationalizes climate data stewardship by curating and maintaining a comprehensive, open-access record of Canadian tornado events. It supports research, teaching, and emergency planning through detailed meteorological data and geospatial tools. This initiative strengthens Western's institutional capacity to address extreme weather impacts through informed, evidence-based decision-making and community engagement.



This page also supports:



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



Research



→ Migratory Fish in Medway Creek

[Migratory Fish in Medway Creek](#) is a project supported by the [Western Sustainable Impact Fund](#). Researchers examined how freshwater fish species respond to climate-driven changes in temperature and habitat. Using long-term data and predictive modeling, the project identified shifts in species distribution and ecosystem dynamics. This research informs conservation strategies and resource management practices that help maintain biodiversity and ecological balance in freshwater systems connected to larger aquatic environments.



→ Motus on the Move

[Motus on the Move](#), in the [Centre for Animals on the Move](#), advances ecological research by tracking bird and fish migration across aquatic and coastal regions using radio telemetry. This data reveals how environmental changes affect species that depend on healthy water systems. By identifying key habitats and migration corridors, the project supports evidence-based conservation strategies that protect biodiversity and sustain the ecological integrity of freshwater and marine environments.

Teaching

→ Chile Study Trip

During their [International Study Trip to Chile](#), Ivey Accelerated MBA participants explored real-world sustainability challenges in marine and coastal industries. By engaging directly with local businesses and ecosystems, students applied classroom concepts to complex environmental contexts. This immersive experience deepened their understanding of sustainable resource use and equipped them with practical insights into managing the environmental impacts of global supply chains.



→ Environmental and Water Resources Courses

Graduate courses in [Environmental and Water Resources Engineering](#) at Western integrate real-world aquatic challenges into the curriculum. Students gain hands-on experience in hydrology, water quality, and ecosystem modeling—developing technical skills to address environmental issues affecting freshwater and marine systems. This applied learning approach equips future engineers to design sustainable solutions that protect and restore aquatic environments.



40
undergraduate
courses related to
SDG 14

114
relevant
publications
2019-2023

99%
of seafood for
residence dining is
responsibly sourced

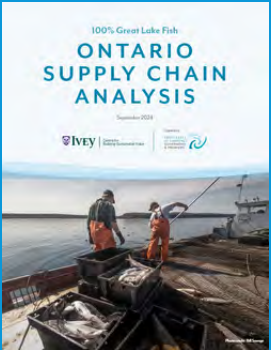
→ Land Healing and Responsibility

The field course [Land Healing and Responsibility: Community Based Research in Indigenous Studies](#) integrates Indigenous knowledge systems with environmental issues, including water and land stewardship. Through readings, discussions, and experiential learning, students explore relationships between Indigenous worldviews and ecological sustainability. This course deepens understanding of environmental ethics and governance, equipping students with diverse perspectives to address contemporary challenges affecting aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

Outreach

→ 100% Great Lake Fish: Ontario Supply Chain Analysis

The [100% Great Lake Fish: Ontario Supply Chain Analysis](#) project, part of Ivey's Circular Economy Lab, engages industry and community partners to explore how to use more of each fish harvested from the Great Lakes. Through applied research and collaboration, it promotes sustainable practices, reduces waste, and supports healthier aquatic ecosystems—translating academic insights into real-world improvements across Ontario's fisheries and food systems.



→ Marine Makeover

[Marine Makeover](#) raises awareness about microplastic and microfibre pollution in aquatic environments. Through storytelling, expert commentary, and public engagement, it connects scientific research with everyday choices. By translating complex environmental issues into accessible narratives, the initiative encourages sustainable behaviour and empowers individuals to take action in protecting freshwater and marine ecosystems.

→ Water Management under Changing Climate Workshop

The [Water Management Under Changing Climate Workshop](#), led by Dr. Slobodan Simonovic, brought together students, researchers, and professionals to explore system dynamics modeling for managing water-related risks. Participants used real-world data to simulate flood and drought scenarios, gaining practical skills in sustainable water resource planning. By linking academic research with applied solutions, the event contributed to efforts aimed at conserving freshwater systems and promoting the responsible, long-term use of aquatic environments in the face of climate and environmental change.



Operations

→ Medway Creek Rehabilitation Photos

The [Medway Creek photo monitoring project](#), coordinated through Western, engages the campus and local community in tracking ecological restoration using seasonal imagery. This citizen science initiative builds a visual record of habitat changes, contributing to research and public understanding of freshwater health. By integrating community participation with academic goals, it strengthens long-term stewardship of aquatic environments through accessible, on-the-ground environmental observation.



→ Reduced Campus Water Use Intensity

In the [Results of Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan 2019-2024](#), Western reduced water intensity by 13.9% and campus water use by 8.8% from 2018 levels. Measures included optimizing chiller plants to reduce electricity use and installing electric heat pumps to share low-temperature water across buildings. A closed-loop ground source heat pump system was introduced for efficient heating and cooling. Updated design guidelines ensure new buildings are net-zero ready and evaluated for renewable energy integration, supporting sustainable aquatic resource management through reduced water and energy consumption.

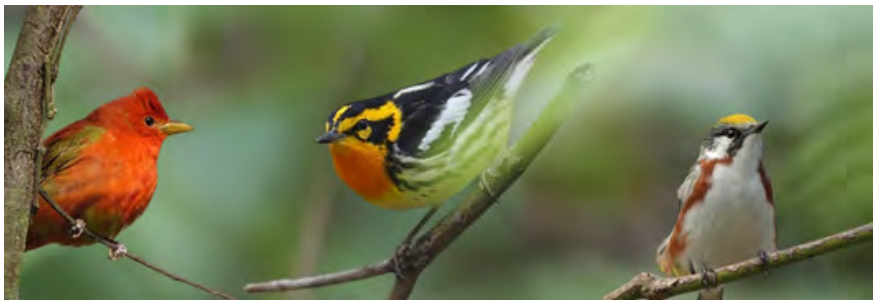


Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Research

→ Advanced Facility for Avian Research

The [Advanced Facility for Avian Research](#) investigates how birds respond to environmental stressors like habitat disturbance, climate change, and disease. Research spans reproduction, migration, and wintering, revealing how ecological pressures impact physiology and behaviour. Birds serve as indicators of ecosystem health, with studies on flight energetics, immune function, and vocal learning contributing to conservation biology. Field and lab work inform strategies for biodiversity protection, emphasizing the role of avian species in maintaining ecological balance and understanding global environmental change.



→ The Western Skylark

The [Skylark CubeSat](#) enhances wildlife tracking by collecting space-based data on migratory songbirds, waterbirds, and shorebirds. By extending the Motus telemetry network, Skylark enables precise monitoring of animal movements, contributing to conservation science. The mission supports ecological research through real-time data collection and student-led innovation in satellite technology. Skylark’s outreach initiatives engage communities and students in understanding biodiversity and environmental change, while its technical design demonstrates scalable, efficient tools for tracking species across vast and remote landscapes.

Teaching

→ Ecosystem Health

Western’s Major in [Ecosystem Health](#) equips students to analyze ecological systems and human impacts on biodiversity. Through interdisciplinary coursework in biology, environmental science, and field research, students explore ecosystem dynamics, conservation strategies, and restoration practices. The program emphasizes scientific inquiry and applied learning, preparing graduates to address environmental challenges and contribute to sustainable land and species management.

→ Animal Behaviour

Western’s BSc. in [Animal Behaviour](#) integrates biology and psychology to explore ecological and evolutionary influences on behaviour. Students examine communication, foraging, and social organization through fieldwork and lab research. Courses emphasize critical thinking and data analysis, preparing graduates to address biodiversity challenges and contribute to conservation science through evidence-based understanding of species interactions and environmental pressures.



112

undergraduate courses related to SDG 15

202

relevant publications 2019-2023

1st

university in Canada to be designated a Bee Campus

→ Biodiversity and Conservation

Western’s [Honours Specialization in Biodiversity and Conservation](#) equips students with expertise in systematics, genetics, ecology, and field biology. Through capstone courses and hands-on research, learners explore species diversity, climate impacts, and restoration strategies. The curriculum emphasizes scientific understanding of ecological systems and prepares graduates for careers in conservation, public policy, and environmental research in a rapidly changing global landscape.



→ Tropical House

Western's Sustainable Impact Fund empowers community-led projects that enhance ecological awareness and stewardship. Initiatives like the [Tropical House greenhouse rejuvenation](#) expand public access to biodiversity education through tours, workshops, and plant sales. By supporting infrastructure upgrades and engagement materials, the fund strengthens teaching and research capacity while promoting sustainable practices. These efforts connect students, faculty, and the broader community in learning about plant care, composting, and environmental responsibility.

→ Madagascar Field Course

Western's [Environmental Anthropology field course in Madagascar](#) connects students with local communities to study ecotourism and climate change. Through collaborative research, students explore biodiversity, conservation challenges, and sustainable livelihoods. Camping at community-run sites, they model responsible tourism and conduct climate surveys to support local adaptation efforts. The program builds intercultural understanding, strengthens community ties, and promotes ecological awareness through immersive, reciprocal learning experiences.

→ Forest City Tree Festival

Western's [Forest City Tree Festival](#) engages the public in urban forest stewardship through guided hikes, tree planting, and native plant exchanges. Collaborating with Indigenous leaders, conservation groups, and city officials, the event highlights ecological connections and community action. Educational panels explore careers in arboriculture and sustainable seed collection. Activities at the Wampus Learning Lodge integrate cultural knowledge and biodiversity restoration, while student-led research and Campus as a Living Lab initiatives promote long-term environmental awareness.

→ Friends of the Gardens: Plant Sale

Friends of the Gardens (FOGs) is a group of volunteer gardeners at Western University. The [FOGs plant sale](#) promotes biodiversity through the distribution of native perennials, trees, shrubs, and herbs. Proceeds support student bursaries and community programs, while volunteers share plant care knowledge and ecological stewardship practices. Located near the Biological and Geological Sciences Building, the sale encourages sustainable gardening and habitat restoration. By integrating education, outreach, and hands-on experience, the initiative strengthens campus-wide efforts to protect species and enhance green spaces.

→ Wildfire Resilience Consortium of Canada

As a [Wildfire Resilience Consortium of Canada core partner](#), Western contributes to wildfire resilience through collaborative research and knowledge exchange. The consortium integrates Indigenous stewardship, adaptive forest management, and technological innovation to address ecological threats. Western's involvement supports long-term land management strategies and enhances national capacity to mitigate biodiversity loss. By engaging with academic, governmental, and community stakeholders, Western helps shape evidence-based approaches to forest health, species protection, and sustainable ecosystem recovery.

→ Western Tree Dashboard

The [Western University Tree Dashboard](#) maps over 4,000 campus trees, detailing species, location, and ecological value. It supports sustainable land management by tracking carbon sequestration, canopy coverage, and biodiversity metrics. Facilities teams use the tool to guide planting, maintenance, and restoration efforts. The dashboard enhances transparency and public engagement, allowing students and researchers to explore urban forestry data. This digital resource strengthens Western's commitment to ecological stewardship and informed decision-making for green infrastructure.



Nyssa sylvatica; Black tupelo, Black gum

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



Research

→ Research into Intimate Partner Violence

Western researchers examine early warning signs of [intimate partner violence](#) and its societal impacts. Studies highlight psychological predictors and systemic barriers to justice. International fieldwork, including research on [gender-based violence in India](#), deepens understanding of protest movements and survivor advocacy. These efforts inform policy, raise awareness, and support evidence-based interventions to reduce violence and promote human rights.

→ HIV Legal Network

Through the [Summer After 1L \(SA1L\) program](#), Western Law students gain hands-on experience addressing health equity and justice. At the [HIV Legal Network](#), students contribute to legal research on treatment access, prison health care, and harm reduction. Projects include UN submissions and advocacy for marginalized populations, advancing human rights through legal analysis, public education, and community engagement.



→ Hate Crimes Case Law

Western’s Faculty of Law developed a [national tool to support hate crime prosecution](#) by analyzing over 15 years of case law. The tool identifies legal indicators to guide police, prosecutors, and defence lawyers. It enhances access to justice, informs legal training, and equips students with practical skills to address bias-motivated violence through evidence-based legal strategies.

Teaching



→ Master of Studies in Law

Western’s [Master of Studies in Law](#) program equips professionals and academics with legal literacy to enhance their work in fields intersecting with justice, governance, and policy. Through interdisciplinary teaching and project-based learning, students critically examine legal frameworks and societal impacts. The program strengthens civic understanding and prepares graduates to engage with legal dimensions of public service, advocacy, and institutional accountability.

→ Community Legal Services

Western Law’s [Community Legal Services](#) program immerses students in real-world legal practice, serving low-income clients under lawyer supervision. Through intake interviews, court appearances, and public legal education projects, students develop advocacy, ethics, and procedural skills. The program strengthens access to justice while preparing future lawyers to address systemic inequities through experiential learning and community engagement.

2nd

in the world for Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

578

relevant publications 2019-2023

482

undergraduate courses related to SDG 16

7

free community-based legal clinics

→ John & Dotsa Bitove Family Law Library

[Western’s Law Library](#) plays a vital role in advancing legal education and civic understanding. It offers students and faculty access to comprehensive legal databases, case law collections, and scholarly resources essential for exploring justice systems and human rights. Integrated into coursework and clinical programs, the library supports ethical research practices and critical analysis. Librarians provide expert guidance on legal information literacy, helping students navigate complex legal frameworks and develop skills for responsible advocacy and public service.



Outreach

➔ 20 Days in Mariupol: Film Screening

Western’s screening of [20 Days in Mariupol](#) invites public reflection on war, media, and human rights. Through powerful frontline footage and storytelling, the event raises awareness of civilian experiences and journalistic integrity. It encourages dialogue on global conflict and justice, connecting campus and community audiences to pressing issues of violence, accountability, and international solidarity.

➔ Meditations on the Dead, the Dying and the Displaced

This [workshop critically examines global anti-Blackness and white supremacy](#) as foundational forces shaping African governance, conflict, and humanitarian crises. By challenging dominant narratives in Western media and scholarship, it amplifies marginalized perspectives and encourages public dialogue on justice, sovereignty, and resistance. It engages students, scholars, and community members in confronting structural violence and rethinking international relations through a lens of historical accountability and ethical global engagement.



➔ 2024 G20 Youth Summit

Western alumni joined Canada’s delegation to the [G20 Youth Summit](#), contributing to global policy discussions on governance, inclusion, and sustainable development. Through months of consultation and collaboration, they helped shape a youth communique for world leaders. Their roles in diplomacy, public health, and innovation reflect Western’s commitment to civic engagement and international cooperation. The summit amplifies youth voices, builds global networks, and promotes dialogue on justice, equity, and responsive policymaking.

Operations

➔ National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Western operationalizes commitments to justice and accountability through its [observance of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#). The university suspends classes to prioritize Indigenous-informed learning and reflection. Events led by the Office of Indigenous Initiatives include flag-raising ceremonies, cultural workshops, and sacred fires, engaging both campus and local communities. These practices create institutional space for dialogue, recognition, and healing, while reinforcing respectful relationships and systemic responsiveness to historical and ongoing injustices.



➔ Dispute Resolution Centre

The [Dispute Resolution Centre at Western Law](#) enhances access to justice by offering free, confidential mediation and conflict resolution training to residents of London and Middlesex County. Operated by law students under professional supervision, it provides timely, voluntary alternatives to litigation. Through one-on-one coaching and tailored workshops, the Centre equips individuals and organizations with practical skills to manage disputes constructively. This community-based model promotes fairness, dialogue, and peaceful resolution, contributing to a more inclusive and responsive legal environment.

➔ Advancing Inclusive Excellence

Western’s [EDIDA Strategic Plan](#) operationalizes inclusive governance by embedding equity, diversity, inclusion, decolonization, and accessibility into institutional structures. Each faculty and unit is tasked with identifying priority areas for change, supported by tools and timelines for implementation. The plan’s consultative development and accountability mechanisms ensure diverse voices shape decision-making. Through coordinated action planning and leadership engagement, Western builds transparent systems that uphold fairness, respect, and institutional responsibility across campus.



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development



Research

➔ **Partnerships with U.S. Universities**

Western’s research collaborations with U.S. institutions were highlighted during the [visit of Consul General Baxter Hunt](#). With over 7,000 co-authored publications and substantial NIH funding, these partnerships demonstrate Western’s commitment to advancing global knowledge through shared inquiry. The visit reinforced the university’s role in international research networks that promote innovation, academic exchange, and long-term institutional cooperation.

➔ **Whole of Community System Response**

Western’s CRHESI team is leading a city-wide evaluation of [London’s Whole of Community System Response to homelessness](#), coordinating over 100 researchers and partners. This collaborative effort integrates academic and community expertise to assess impact, improve strategies, and ensure sustainability. By aligning research with local needs and cross-sector input, Western strengthens institutional capacity for evidence-based decision-making and long-term partnerships that address complex social challenges.

➔ **Battery Materials Research**

Western advances global clean energy through [battery materials research](#), partnering with industry and government. By developing solid-state technologies and using synchrotron-based methods, Western fosters interdisciplinary collaboration, shared infrastructure, and knowledge exchange. These efforts demonstrate how coordinated research networks accelerate sustainable technology and strengthen long-term international cooperation.



Teaching

➔ **Bluewater Health Partnership**

Western’s [Schulich Medicine & Dentistry – Bluewater Health partnership](#) expands clinical education by placing medical students in immersive clerkship programs within regional hospitals. This initiative strengthens teaching through experiential learning and builds long-term collaboration between academic and healthcare institutions. By aligning medical training with community needs, Western supports capacity-building and knowledge exchange, contributing to sustainable partnerships that enhance healthcare education and delivery across regions.



9,317
relevant publications
2019-2023

100+
international learning programs across 40+ countries

144
undergraduate courses related to SDG 17

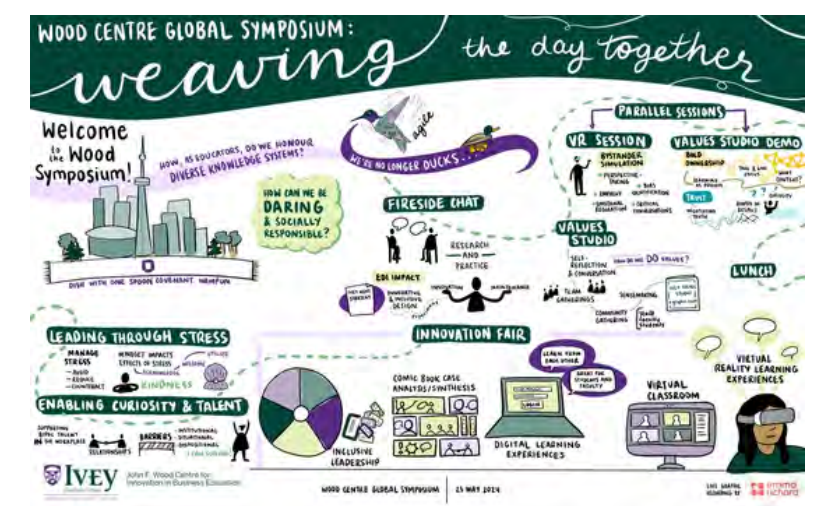


➔ **Best Practice Spotlight Organization**

Western’s partnership with the Registered Nurses’ Association of Ontario through the [Best Practice Spotlight Organization \(BPSO\) initiative](#) integrates evidence-based guidelines into nursing education. Students engage with best practices in care transitions, pain management, and person-centred care, and complete champion training to lead change in academic and clinical settings. This approach strengthens teaching by aligning curriculum with global standards and preparing graduates to contribute to collaborative, quality-focused healthcare environments.

➔ **Curriculum Development**

Western’s [Wood Centre enhances teaching](#) through global collaboration and curriculum innovation. By connecting Ivey researchers with international partners, it develops new pedagogical tools and refines best practices in business education. Initiatives like seminar series and Indigenous-led workshops promote inclusive learning and shared knowledge creation. These efforts strengthen institutional capacity for transformative education and support long-term partnerships across academic and cultural contexts.



Outreach



→ Studying Abroad at Western

Western welcomed [Indonesian students](#) through a government-funded mobility program supporting international academic exchange. Participants engaged in interdisciplinary coursework and cultural activities, building connections with peers and faculty. The initiative reflects Western's commitment to global engagement by enabling shared learning and institutional collaboration. By hosting students from diverse backgrounds, the university strengthens educational ties and builds inclusive, cross-border partnerships that enhance mutual understanding and capacity-building.

→ Global Skills Opportunity

Western's [Global Skills Opportunity](#) initiative strengthens international outreach by building inclusive mobility pathways for underrepresented students. Through funded study abroad programs and student-led engagement with education and government leaders, Western expands global networks and promotes equitable access to international learning. These efforts enhance institutional collaboration across borders, contributing to long-term partnerships that support capacity-building, knowledge exchange, and inclusive development in higher education.

→ Queen Elizabeth Scholars Program

Western's [QES Program at the Africa Institute](#) strengthens outreach by supporting student and researcher exchanges with West African universities. Participants engage in community-based projects and civic engagement activities focused on sustainable development. These collaborations build inclusive global networks, promote mutual learning, and enhance institutional relationships across borders. The program contributes to long-term partnerships that advance shared goals in education, research, and social impact.

Operations

→ The Starling Centre for Just Technologies and Just Societies

Western's [Starling Centre](#) operationalizes global collaboration by creating a platform for interdisciplinary research on technology and society. Its co-directorship model and inclusive governance structure enable shared leadership across academic and community partners. The centre supports knowledge exchange through public programming and partnerships that span sectors and borders. By addressing ethical challenges in digital innovation, it contributes to building sustainable networks for research, dialogue, and policy development across institutions and communities.



→ Western Research Parks

[Western Research Parks](#) operationalize global partnerships by connecting academic research with industry, government, and entrepreneurial ventures. Hosting over 50 companies across three campuses, the parks provide infrastructure and proximity to Western's research expertise, enabling collaborative innovation in health, cleantech, and advanced manufacturing. These partnerships support commercialization, regulatory advancement, and knowledge exchange, strengthening institutional capacity and contributing to sustainable development through cross-sector cooperation and shared problem-solving.

→ Research Engagement Collaborative Alliance with Partners (RECAP)

Western's [RECAP program](#) strengthens institutional infrastructure for collaborative research by supporting partnerships with government, industry, and non-profit organizations. It provides structured training, resources, and engagement opportunities to help researchers and external partners build effective, long-term relationships. By aligning internal processes with the needs of diverse collaborators, RECAP enhances Western's ability to coordinate cross-sector initiatives, share knowledge, and contribute to impactful research that addresses complex societal challenges through sustained cooperation.

Planning Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow

As Western University continues to advance its sustainability journey, we remain dedicated to aligning our research, teaching, outreach, and operations with the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through partnerships at the local, national, and global levels, we are committed to driving positive change and building a sustainable future.

Western is also actively engaged in sustainability tracking frameworks, including the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings, QS Sustainability Rankings, and AASHE STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System). They help us measure our impact, monitor our progress, and guide future actions in support of the SDGs. Western ranked 14th globally in the THE Impact Rankings 2025, 30th globally in the QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2025, and we proudly received a Gold STARS rating from AASHE.



Act With Us

The initiatives highlighted in this report represent just a portion of Western’s efforts to address the SDGs. To learn more about our actions and ongoing commitment to sustainability, please visit:

[Western SDGs](#)

[Western Sustainability](#)

[The President's Advisory Committee on the Environment and Sustainability \(PACES\)](#)

We invite you to connect with us! If you have research projects or sustainability initiatives to share, please reach out at sdg@groups.uwo.ca.

Join us in taking action—explore more ways to get involved in Western’s sustainability efforts [here](#).





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