

Brock Graduate Students' Association

THE GRADUATE GAZETTE

VOLUME 4 / ISSUE 2



SEPTEMBER 2025

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS



Hello, Graduate Students!



Fall Term Office Hours

Our office hours for the Fall Term (September–December):

Monday to Friday — 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Please note: our office is typically closed from 12:00 – 12:30 PM daily.



GSA Health and Dental Benefits is now open! Sept. 1 – 30, 4PM EDT.

The **FALL OPT-IN/OPT-OUT** period for GSA Health and Dental Benefits for **Fall Enrolled Graduate Students ONLY**, runs from **September 1 - 30, 2025**. NOTE: ALL Graduate Students enrolled in the Fall Semester are automatically assessed the GSA Health and Dental Benefit Plan Fee.



The GSA Health and Dental plan is **MANDATORY** for ALL graduate students who do not have alternate, continuous Canadian health & dental insurance coverage in place from September 1, 2025, to August 31, 2026.

- **Opt-in** will be available for graduate students wishing to enroll eligible dependents through Student VIP.
- **Opt-out** will be open for graduate students who are Fall term enrolled only. You will need to provide valid proof of your alternate, comparable and continuous Canadian insurance plan through the Student VIP portal.

Students can also **COORDINATE** their alternate insurance benefits with the GSA H&D plan for maximum coverage. Important: Grad Students enrolled in the Fall Term **CANNOT** opt out during any other opt-out period.

Questions about your Health & Dental Benefit plan; email: health@brockgsa.ca or visit <https://brockgsa.ca/services-health-plan/> to review Opt-out/Opt-in Policy and Procedures



Questions about StudentVIP and the Health and Dental plan? Join us for a virtual session to learn more! Happening on **Monday, September 22, from 1-2 p.m.** RSVP [here](#) on ExperienceBU! Join us for an **in-person** session to learn more about UHIP on **Monday, September 29 from 1-2 p.m. in MC-C300.**

GSA Fall Term Executive Fall Office Hours - MC-C300

Please find the Executive Team's office hours below.

- **Mario Berro, President** (president@brockgsa.ca) - Thursdays, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.
- **Philip Akoje VP External & University Affairs** (external@brockgsa.ca) - Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-11 a.m.
- **Ibrahim Adefolu, VP Student Life & Equity** (studentlife@brockgsa.ca) - Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.



Get Involved with the GSA **GSA Board of Directors Recruitment**

Interested in advocating and helping graduate students? The GSA is currently recruiting graduate student members to serve on the GSA Board of Directors, open positions for students in:

- At-large seat

Click [here](#) for more information and how to apply.

GSA Internal Committees Recruitment

Our [internal committees](#) are a great place for students interested in graduate student life and leadership. **All internal committee meetings are virtual.** We are recruiting for graduate student-at-large representatives on our 2025-2026 internal committees:

- [Governance, Elections and Nominating](#) (1 hour/month)
- [External & University Affairs](#) (1 hour/month)

Click [here](#) for more information and how to apply.



Brock University Committees Recruitment

The GSA is looking for graduate student representatives to sit on the following University Committees:

Two Row Council (2 hours/month)

- The mandate of the Council is to make recommendations and provide advice to Senate and its committees regarding academic policies, programs, structures and strategies to support meaningful Indigenization, reconciliation and decolonization.
- Bi-monthly meetings from September to June
- **Open positions: 1 Indigenous graduate student**

Senate Graduate Studies (2 hours/month)

- This Senate committee oversees and advises on graduate academic programs and policies, including admissions, new degrees, student conduct, awards, and curriculum updates—supporting the quality and reputation of graduate studies.
- Bi-monthly meetings from September to April
- **Open positions: 1 graduate student at-large**

To apply for the university committees listed above, please submit a statement of interest (150-words maximum; tell us about yourself and why you'd like to be involved). Applications will be accepted at opportunities@brockgsa.ca.

GSA Events for Grad Students



Big Brothers Big Sisters Info Session

Looking to make a difference in your community? Join us on **Tuesday, Sept. 24 anytime from 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. in MC-C300** for a casual drop-in event with Big Brothers Big Sisters Niagara. Meet special guests Rachel Schmidt (Volunteer Enrollment Coordinator) and Jodie Ricci (Casework Supervisor) to learn more about volunteer opportunities and the impact of mentoring. Plus, enjoy free coffee, tea & snacks while you connect and explore how you can get involved in empowering local youth. ❤️



Financial Literacy & Coffee Social

Join us on **Wednesday, October 1 from 1:00–2:30 p.m. in Cairns 207** for free coffee, snacks, and practical financial tips! Kevin from Primenet Financial and Adelle from Billyard Insurance Group will cover essentials like insurance, smart investing, and retirement planning. Whether you're new to managing money or just want extra tips, you'll leave feeling more confident—and you'll also have a chance to **win a \$50 e-gift card!** RSVP [here!](#)



Say “Hi” to Heidi!

Have questions about graduate policies, international student concerns, or barriers to completion? Drop in on **Wednesday, October 8 from 1–2 p.m. in MC-C300** to chat with Heidi Madden (FGPSA) and get guidance in a relaxed setting with coffee and snacks. ☕ Special for this session: create your own pumpkin spice coffee! 🎃



Art Therapy Thursday

Take a break and de-stress with a relaxing drop-in session of colouring and painting on **Thursday, October 9 from 1–3 p.m. in MC-C300**. No experience needed—just drop in, unwind, and enjoy free light refreshments and snacks. Open to current registered grad students, with support from the Student Wellness & Accessibility Centre's Peer Graduate Navigator, Daniel Krowchuk.



Fall Hike with the GSA

Join fellow grad students for a scenic hike of the escarpment on **Wednesday, October 15 from 10:30 AM–1 p.m.** Meet at the GSA Meeting Room (MC-C300) at 10:30 a.m. for check-in before heading to the trail at 11 AM, led by Brock Recreation. Open to current registered grad students only. Register by October 14 to secure your spot! After the hike, enjoy a cozy hot chocolate bar back at MC-C300. RSVP [here.](#)



**VISIT [EXPERIENCEBU](#) AND [BROCKGSA.CA](#) FOR
MORE EXCITING EVENTS WITH THE GSA!**

Brock HRE Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Student Advisory Committee Information

The Human Rights & Equity Office, in partnership with Student Life and Success, is launching a new EDI Student Advisory Committee for undergraduate and graduate students. The committee will meet once a month over a one-year term, with the purpose of:

- Providing recommendations for EDI programming and initiatives on campus
- Sharing insights about the student experience
- Informing institutional strategies

Students involved will also earn volunteer hours on the Campus-Wide Co-Curriculum (CWC).

Deadline to apply: Friday, October 3, 2025

Learn more and sign up here: [EDI Student Advisory Committee](#)

BUSU Events Corner



Did you know? As part of our ongoing collaboration with BUSU, graduate students are welcome to attend BUSU events! Here are some of their upcoming events:

- Campus Discs at Union Station on September 18 (9 a.m.-3 p.m.)
- Get Crafty with BUSU: Drop-In Painting at Residence 8 on September 18 (Noon-3 p.m.)
- Free Grab & Go Breakfast on September 23 (8:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m.)
- Tuesday Trivia on September 23 at Residence 8 (5 p.m.-7 p.m.)

[RSVP for Events Here!](#)

Brock Library - The Wellness Book Club

Registration is now open for the Fall 2025 Wellness Book Club. This term, we will be reading the second book in Jenny Han's bestselling The Summer I Turned Pretty trilogy: *It's Not Summer Without You*. Praised as "a convincing and poignant read," this series has inspired a popular streaming adaptation, merchandise, and a devoted fan following.



The Book Club is hosted by librarian Justine Cotton, who is passionate about the positive impact of reading and community. For questions about the Club, you can contact her at jcotton@brocku.ca

Graduate-Only Study Space on Campus

Library space: Graduate Student Study Room (6th FLOOR) - You must call the GSA office (ext. 4094) to receive the current passcode

Graduate Student Meeting Room (6th FLOOR) - [Reserve online here](#). Please forward the booking ID confirmation to office@brockgsa.ca to obtain the passcode.

Note: THE ACCESS CODE WILL BE CHANGED ON A REGULAR BASIS. Contact office@brockgsa.ca to receive the access code.



Brock Student Wellness & Accessibility Centre

SWAC Fall Hub Hours

Grad school can be a lot—so we're here when you need a breather. Stop by the Wellness HUB. Parker is available Wednesdays from 11 AM–1 PM and Thursdays from 1–3 PM for student support. Starting October 7, Daniel will also be available Tuesday evenings from 5–7 PM, offering a dedicated space for 2SLGBTQ+ students to connect and feel supported. Whether you've got questions, need resources, or just want a quiet place to land, we've got you. Located at the Wellness HUB (Market Hall).

Feeling Disconnected? Let's Reconnect.

Campus Connections is a supportive space where you can chat 1-on-1 with a Wellness Navigator and get matched with campus resources, events, or activities that fit your interests. Whether you're looking to meet new people, get involved, or just feel more grounded—this is a great place to start.

This isn't counseling—it's a conversation.

Let's talk about what matters to you.

 Book a time that works for you

 Meet in office or online

 Learn more or book a spot: <https://brocku.ca/health-wellness-accessibility/hub/campus-connections/>

Art Therapy Thursday

De-stress and unwind from the hustle and bustle of graduate student life by spending a relaxing time colouring or painting. There will be free light refreshments and snacks available. This is a drop-in event, feel free to stay however long you would like! You do not need any prior artistic experience. Join us on **Thursday, October 9 anytime from 1-3 p.m. at MC-C300.** (weather permitting). Daniel Krowchuk (He/They), your Graduate Wellness Peer, will be there if you'd like to connect.



**Some of the
amazing artwork
designs from art
therapy!**



September 18, 2025

FGSPA

Start your semester off right with Grad 101!

Explore this academic refresher course on Brightspace! Learn useful tips for planning your term, balancing your busy schedule, note-taking, studying, researching, writing, and more.

[Find Grad 101 on Brightspace here](#)



Meet Heidi! For academic and student success support

We're happy to announce that Heidi Madden is joining the FGSPA team to support the role during Katie's leave.

Students have access to a safe, welcoming, and confidential space to discuss matters such as status changes, academic policies, procedures, and more.

[Book an appointment with Heidi here](#)

Looking for writing support?

Our Academic Support Specialist, Danielle, offers a [variety of events](#) to help grad students develop their writing skills, including Writing Cafés, One-on-One Consults, Writing Workshops, and more.

[Book an appointment with Danielle here](#)

[Explore upcoming writing events here](#)



Fall Funding Info

Fall fellowships were posted on student accounts in August.

Students will be able to view their funding details on the **Graduate Student Funding** section on their my.brocku.ca portal.

Positive balances after September 16

Any eligible students with a credit balance on their student financial history account by the [fall add/drop date \(September 16\)](#) will have funding auto-released via e-transfer.

If your funding does not auto-release by the end of September you will need to [request a refund using the online request form](#).

Brock LINC

Join us at our LINC Up! Networking Event

Wednesday, September 24 from 5-7 P.M. | Register:

<https://brocku.ca/linc/linc-up-networking-event/>

Join us for an exciting networking event at the Brock LINC! This event brings together startups, SMEs, researchers and innovators for networking, conversation, and to learn about the many programs, services and funding opportunities available through the Brock LINC and the wider innovation ecosystem. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to make connections with entrepreneurs and innovators at the Brock LINC and meet and mingle with like-minded people.

Free snacks and refreshments will be provided. Registration is required.

Coworking and booking meeting rooms at the Brock LINC

As a Brock LINC member, you have access to:

- Open tables, seating and collaboration spaces in the Atrium (Level 200) and Upper Deck (Level 300) that are available in the Rankin Family Pavilion 24/7. This includes a kitchenette, eating spaces, accessible washrooms and wireless internet access.
- Hot desks in the Brock LINC Co-working Space (Level 300), available from 9am to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday on a first come, first served basis.
- Six meeting rooms with smart TVs, webcams, and whiteboards. Spaces include one large seminar room, two boardrooms, and three small meeting rooms. Meeting rooms can only be booked for entrepreneurial related activity and are available from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday. They cannot be used for classroom projects, student groupwork or student clubs. Book a room with one of our Team Assistants at the reception desk on Level 300.

**CLICK [HERE](#) TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
BROCK LINC!**

Brock Recreation



BROCK RECREATION

Grad students! 🏀🏈🏒
Don't miss out on all the exciting upcoming Brock Badgers games! 🎉
Check out the [full calendar of events](#) and cheer on your Badgers.



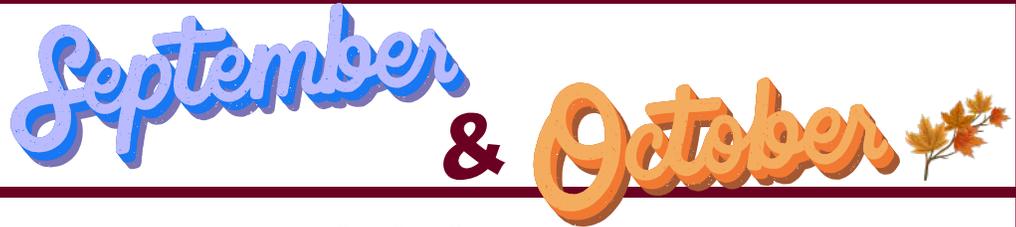
Upcoming Theme Games!



[Try it Free Week | Sept 22-26](#)

Curious about Brock's registered recreation programs? **From September 22-26, students can try them all for free!** (Please note: pool activities will not be offered during this week.) If you enjoy a class, you can secure your spot by registering online or at the Welcome Desk. Don't miss your chance to sample and find your favorite activity!

Upcoming Events



BBBS Info & Coffee Session,
11:30AM-1:30PM @
MC-C300



Financial Literacy Session, 1-2:30PM
@MC-C300



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation



Say "Hi" to Heidi,
1-2PM @ MC-C300

The GSA's Fall Term Office Hours (September to December)

Monday - Friday: 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

(Please note that our office is typically closed daily from 12 Noon - 12:30 pm)

Connect With Us!



If you would like to be removed from the GSA e-newsletter mailing list, please advise by return email stating your Brock email address and Student ID.