

Parent Newsletter, Western Housing

April Issue, 2017-18

A Western Residence Update – April 2018

Welcome to our final issue of the Parent Newsletter for the 2017-18 academic year!

We can't believe how quickly the time has gone, and hope that your student has enjoyed a wonderful residence experience. This newsletter includes important information about the Graduate Teachers Assistant contract negotiations, moving out, final exam support, meal plan top-up/refunds, tax credit, and accommodations after this academic year.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PROVOST

You may have heard that the University is in contract negotiations with the Public Service Alliance of Canada, Local 610, which represents our Graduate Teaching Assistants.

Since November, we have worked to reach an agreement that both sides will accept as reasonable and responsible but, so far, that has not been achievable. The union has decided to provide Western's final offer to the Graduate Teaching Assistants for a vote on April 11 and 12.

Western values our Graduate Teaching Assistants for the help they provide our professors by teaching, supervising labs, leading tutorials, and supervising and marking exams; they contribute a great deal to the student experience at Western. Their primary goal, however, is studying towards advanced degrees, while working part time in classrooms and labs. They are guaranteed a maximum 140 hours of paid work per term, and currently earn \$43.61/hour -- \$2.77/hour more than the average rate in Ontario for Graduate Teaching Assistants.

We remain hopeful we can avoid a labour disruption. At the same time, the University is taking steps to ensure both continuity and completion of the school term. The last day of undergraduate classes is scheduled for April 11, and final exams will begin on April 14.

We are working hard to support the success of your student, and we encourage you to keep informed on the latest developments as they are posted: [Contract Negotiations website](#).

-- Janice Deakin, Ph.D., Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

RESIDENCE MOVE-OUT & CLOSURE

All residents are required to move out within 24 hours following their last final exam, test, or class. Residence buildings officially **close at noon on May 1**.

Make the move-out process easier by encouraging your student to move items home on upcoming visits, or donate unwanted items in good condition to the Goodwill bins found in their residence lobby starting mid-April. Your student should also be aware that all mail sent to them in residence after they move out will be returned to the sender if [mail forwarding through Canada Post](#) has not been set up.

Details about the move-out process will be communicated to your student later this month.

Please be reminded that City of London bylaws dictate that residence traffic circles are designated fire routes that **must remain clear** for emergency vehicles at all times. Vehicles left unattended for ANY amount of time are subject to ticketing of up to \$100. While you help your student pack and bring items to the traffic circle in preparation for loading, you can park at any of our [visitor parking lots](#). View a parking map [here](#).

FINAL EXAM SUPPORT

We want to ensure that your student has the best opportunity for success during the [final exam](#) period. To encourage good studying and sleeping habits, all residences implement 24-hour exam quiet hours. If there is any concern about noise, students can call their [residence front desk](#) to dispatch a residence staff member. Dining halls and lounges are also converted into study spaces to ensure that your student can always find a quiet space to work.

Academic and Leadership Programmers (ALPs) have been working hard to prepare for Exam Jam on April 12, an academic and wellness event hosted in the Perth Hall backyard for all residents. Dining Halls will be offering one free [late-night breakfast](#) in each building to fuel study sessions from **April 14-26**. If your student is feeling nervous about exams, or would like some help preparing, please suggest a meeting with an ALP. They can be reached at alps@uwo.ca.

We understand that university life can be overwhelming with all the academic and social pressures that surround your student. Help is near with our professional and confidential counselling services, Residence Counselling, which is a no-charge service that welcomes all topics of discussion during one-on-one counselling sessions. If your student is feeling overwhelmed and would benefit from talking to a counsellor, please encourage them to email needtotalk@uwo.ca to set up a meeting. Additional campus mental health resources can be found [here](#).

MEAL PLAN TOP-UPS & REFUNDS

Is your student running low on meal plan funds? Additional credit can be added to meal plans using our [online top-up system](#). Students with leftover meal-plan credit may request a refund via the [myHousing portal](#) before **April 24**. Read our FAQ about Meal Plan Transfers & Refunds [here](#).

TAX CREDIT

Tax season is here! The Residence Admissions Office does NOT produce tax receipts for students living in residence as per [CRA Guidelines](#). Ontario students may claim an Ontario Energy and Property Tax Credit of \$25 on *Form ON-BEN*. No receipt is required for this claim. For more information on the Ontario Energy and Property Tax Credit, please visit the [Ontario Ministry of Finance](#) website.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR

Consider the convenience and support your student will enjoy by living on campus again next year. Residence spaces for upper-year students are still available, and students may choose their specific building and room online at the myHousing

Portal. [Alumni House](#) and [London Hall](#) are two suite-style upper-year residences, and offer the flexibility of optional meal plans and eight-month contracts. If your student applies via [myHousing](#) for upper-year residence by April 13, they will also be entered into a draw to [win a MacBook Pro](#), among other great prizes!

If your student has decided to move off campus next year, be sure to connect with Western Off-Campus Housing for free services such as [lease review](#) and landlord/tenant mediation.

In the meantime, if your student is looking for somewhere to stay this summer in London, [Western Summer Accommodations](#) offers affordable short- and long-term stays right here in residence. Starting May 10, we open our doors to the public, so anyone can enjoy on-campus accommodation in either Ontario Hall or London Hall residences.

Thank you for choosing Residence at Western for your student this past year. You can stay informed with all that is happening by following us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Questions? Feel free to call us at 519-661-3547 or email housing@uwo.ca.

Western Housing