

WELCOME TO



*An exclusive
guide book
from the
community just
for you!*

Western
UNIVERSITY • CANADA



Jambo! ሰላም! Muraho! Hello!

Going to university is a new and exciting chapter of life. It's a time for immersing oneself in a chosen field of study, forging lifelong connections, and experiencing personal growth. And when this journey unfolds within a community that embraces you wholeheartedly, the experience becomes even richer.

Welcome to our guidebook—a treasure trove of insights into life at Western University, as shared by members of our vibrant community. Through the eyes of students, professors, faculty, and staff, we offer an exclusive glimpse into our diverse cultures and the ways in which we've flourished at Western.

Join us as we uncover our favorite campus spots, reflect on what makes Western special to us, and impart the wisdom we've gathered along the way. Whether you're considering embarking on this exciting chapter of your life at Western or already envisioning yourself as a future Mustang, this guide is tailored just for you.

Here's to the adventure that awaits, Future Mustang 🎉

Dr. Melanie Nyambura Katsivo

Kenya 🇰🇪

Associate Director, The Africa Institute; International Partnerships Lead, Frugal Biomedical Innovations Program; and Adjunct Research Professor, Dept. of Epidemiology & Biostatistics.



“ Nugget of Wisdom:

Come to Western with a very open and inquisitive mind. Do not hesitate to explore options that are open to you, whilst remaining focused on what you truly want to accomplish.

Seek out peers that have similar experiences like you do in terms of culture, language and/or orientation and create your own community for support and social networking.

—”

What I love about Western:

There are plenty of opportunities for engagement in innovative and exciting scholarly and non scholarly activities!

Favorite Spot on Campus:

None! Each is unique and with interesting offerings.





Mr. Lamek Osinde

IS and Project Management Lecturer, Ivey Business School. Been at Western for 11 Years!

Kenya 🇰🇪

What I love about Western:

I love the support from administration, colleagues, and a great student community and the growing interest in Africa.

“—

Nuggets of Wisdom:

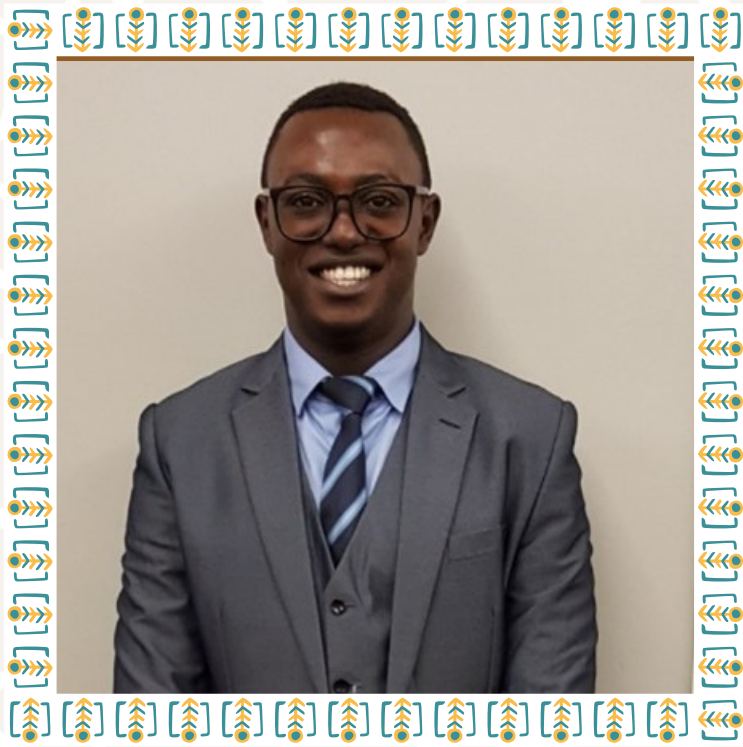
Western is a great place to pursue your higher education. It has a great and strong student community that will support you, especially when you are new. The professors are very supportive and will always create time to chat with you.

—”

Favorite Spot on Campus:

Ivey open spaces. Just seeing diverse students from all corners of the world collaborating and working their day away gives me a sense of pride in the contributions I make toward achieving their dreams.





Dr. Egide Kalisa

Assistant Professor- Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Rwanda 🇷🇼

What I love about Western:

Western values a strong multicultural society. You can embrace your culture here and share it with others happily.

I also love how Western supports international research collaboration and allows Faculty or students to do research anywhere in the world.

“**Nuggets of Wisdom:**
If you do not know, please ask. Be confident in who you are. Know yourself. Know your own culture. You don't need to change your culture, but just be accepting.”

Favorite Spot on Campus:

The University Community Center (UCC) is the best place to visit after many hours in lab. You'll find fascinating exhibitions there about students' activities and, of course, nice restaurants that makes it a great location for hosting visitors or having meetings



Dr. Nassisse Solomon

*Educational Developer
(International TA programs),
Centre for Teaching and Learning,
Western.*

Ethiopia 🇪🇹

What I love about Western:

The solidarity that I have found with my fellow colleagues, my students, and faculty.



“ — **Nuggets of Wisdom:**

Find a friend. Build a community - even if it is with 1, 2, or 3 people. Be sure to connect with people in your cohort. The community of support that you create will sustain you.

— ”

Favorite Spot on Campus:

Weldon Library. It's an inspirational space to enjoy a good cup of coffee with someone, attend an event, or simply learn.





Dr. Margaret Mutumba

Program Director, Frugal Biomedical Innovations (FBI)

Uganda 🇺🇬

What I love about Western:

Western is intentional about its global reach and commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Our FBI program is actively advancing Global Health Equity in partnership with institutions in East Africa to co-create and implement affordable medical technologies that will solve locally identified healthcare challenges. It's been amazing working with students and colleagues from East Africa through our program and we look forward to welcoming you!

“

Nuggets of Wisdom:

Come with an open mind, ready to make great connections, learn from different individuals from all walks of life and enjoy everything living in Canada and at Western has to offer.

”

Favorite Spot on Campus:

Western's one of the most beautiful campuses in Canada but my favorite location has to be Weldon Library! Something about its big, bright open space and towering green wall reminds me of Uganda's greenery. It offers an ambiance of calm and tranquility.





Jessica Ouko

*Western Alumna
Project Associate at the Office of
Equity, Diversity and Inclusion*

Kenyan 🇰🇪

What I love about Western:

I value how much of a hub the campus is. Throughout my undergrad I never really felt the need to venture outside of Western and its immediate surrounding area because I felt like I had everything I needed right here on campus.

“ — Nuggets of Wisdom:

- Broaden your social circle and have friends that you can lean on for different aspects of your journey at Western.
- Leverage all the connections you make at Western towards having a successful journey beyond Western.
- Don't forget to have fun! Enjoy your time as an undergrad student.

— ”

Favorite Spot on Campus:

When I was a student my favorite spot on campus was probably the basement of Taylor Library (the best library on campus). I honestly owe my degree to that study space, I got a lot of work done there.



WHAT DO STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT WESTERN?



Discover the vibrant pulse of student life at Western through the voices of some peers! Dive into the captivating narratives of why students have chosen to make Western their home away from home. From tales of academic inspiration to the camaraderie found within our dynamic campus community, explore the diverse perspectives that shape the fabric of our university.



Nicole Theuri

4th Year, Class of 2024- Chemical Engineering

Kenyan 🇰🇪

Western Highlights:

- The sense of community in the Engineering class- we help each other win and grasp concepts, there's no sense of competition
- Most people I interacted to be really friendly and never once treated me like an outsider just because I'm not from Canada.
- I love the wide range of clubs and activities that Western has to offer despite having little to no experience. For example, joined the Fencing Club in my third year and found out that it was actually a really fun sport!

Nicole's Top Tips:

- ★ Don't be afraid to talk to anyone, even the smallest conversations with your roommates and classmates can bloom into the most magical friendships which can go way beyond your campus years.
- ★ Take advantage of O-Week and make as many friends as possible because everyone is new!
- ★ If you're really far from home make sure you've established a support system of both people you can speak to and hang out with in London while still trying to maintain your friendships back home, it will all be worth it in the end. Trust me!

Favorite Spot on Campus

Amit Chakma Engineering Building 4th floor. Amazing views throughout, a motivating and peaceful study spot campus.

Tip: the sunsets here are stunning!





Grace Asouth

3rd Year, Biology

South Sudan 🇸🇩

Western Highlights:

- How passionate the professors are about teaching and it shows. It's also incredibly easy to talk to them about their life experiences and gain valuable insights.
- The various opportunities at Western—from MUN (Model United Nations) and the ASF (African Students Fellowship)—connecting with a community larger than myself

Grace's Top Tips:

★ Step out of your comfort zone. You're in an environment where the possibilities are endless. Embrace new experiences, engage in clubs, network, and broaden your horizons because a single opportunity can transform your entire life. For instance, I landed an internship in Kenya simply by striking up a conversation with someone in line.

★ Additionally, stay true to yourself and your values throughout your journey.

Favorite Spot on Campus

The Huron Library. It's serene, and peaceful, and exudes a dark academia vibe. Whenever I need to concentrate and delve into my studies, it's my go-to place.





Ore Alugo

4th year, Biology

Nigeria ■ ■

Western Highlights:

- Western has many different academic support systems and services that offer course tutoring, essay help, counselling and so much more.
- I love the student clubs, especially the African Students Association (ASA). This club not only hosts numerous exciting events they also create a space for Black and African students to engage with each other and create a home away from home.

Ore's Top Tips:

★ Join a club!! Coming to university can be intimidating and isolating and it's really easy to fall into the trap of rotating between classes and your bedroom. Joining clubs helps you to get immersed into the school culture and may also help you to find people who look and think like you.

★ It's definitely worth it to explore the options that are available because you never know when you may need support!

Favorite Spot on Campus

The MZ floor of Weldon Library. This is my typical study spot on a day to day basis and I like it because although it's in the library it's not uncomfortably silent and it's close enough to UCC that I can go and grab a snack when I need to!



Casey Akase

2nd year, Financial Economics

Rwanda 🇷🇼

Western Highlights:

- I appreciate the various academic resources Western and its affiliates. For example, at Kings University College, students have access to Academic Advisors, the MEM help center, and the Write Place that give students opportunities to seek help from faculty or fellow students in their programs.
- I love the numerous and diverse clubs on campus. At first it was overwhelming stepping out of my comfort zone and figuring out what clubs best suited me. However, joining several clubs on campus has made my experience a thousand times better.

Casey's Top Tips:

★ Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone no matter how uncomfortable it may be. I was extremely nervous my first year and was not as involved. However, during my second year I took initiative and joined the clubs I felt I could contribute to best and would also benefit me. Although this was a big commitment, it's one that I wouldn't change for anything. It allowed me to learn more about myself and who I am outside of my studies.

★ Everyone is doing life for the first time just as you are, so mistakes and discouragements will happen but don't let that hinder you from asking for help or advice.

Favorite Spot on Campus

Either Thames Hall because of the beautiful scenery or Weldon because its motivating to everyone else studying.





So there you have it! You've heard some of our reasons why we call Western our home away from home as well as some pointers from our experiences on how to make the most of your time here.

We hope to see you here soon Future Mustang!

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