



the Leaf

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ABOUT THE SCHOLARS PROGRAMS

The Scholars programs provide an exceptional platform for students to gain a comprehensive university experience that extends far beyond the classroom, and fosters the creation of change-makers, innovators and global leaders.

There are two student communities within the Scholars programs: Western Scholars and Scholar’s Electives. These programs create a scholastic community for high-achieving, self-directed students at Western, who are interested in pursuing an interdisciplinary academic experience. As part of the Scholars programs, students have access to a multitude of exclusive enrichment opportunities and can interact with like-minded peers who share a passion for dynamic leadership, global equity and progressive change.



SCHOLAR'S ELECTIVES

Program Overview

The Scholar's Electives program offers a unique educational experience for a select group (less than 50) of high-achieving students. Its objective is to provide an intellectually-stimulating learning environment for students who wish to undertake an interdisciplinary education supplemented by intensive research experience.

Scholar's Electives students boast a high school admission average in excess of 90.0%, and are enrolled in one of the following faculties/programs: Arts and Humanities, Science, Medical Science, Health Science, Kinesiology and Social Science (excluding BMOS).

In Year 1, students participate in an interdisciplinary course to develop critical thinking and reasoning skills. During Years 2 and 3, students work on a supervised individual research project under the guidance of a faculty mentor of their choice. In Year 4, students partake in a capstone course designed to build on the knowledge and skills acquired in previous years and apply them to real-world settings. This takes the form of workshops, presentations, bi-weekly reflective journal entries, and a community-based project.

In addition to coursework, the Scholar's Electives program creates a tight-knit community of high-achieving, like-minded individuals, and offers great networking with Associate Deans and Professors.

SCHOLAR'S ELECTIVES STUDENT PROFILES



"The Scholar's Electives Program is amazing! My most memorable experiences to date have been the great friends I met living on the Scholars' floor at Elgin in first year, Dr. de Looze's thought-provoking lectures, two extraordinary trips to Nicaragua with the Scholars Alternative Spring Break, and our fantastic coordinator!"

Isaac Rigby

Hometown:
Arva, ON, Canada

Degree:
HBA/HBHSc dual degree

Graduating Year:
2021

- Most Prestigious Awards:
- Western National Scholarship
 - Scholar's Scholarship
 - Yeandle Family HBA Scholarship
- Extracurriculars:
- Varsity Football
 - Faculty Health Science Student Council
 - Learning It Together
 - Alternative Spring Break (Student Team Leader)
 - VP Ivey Cup

Jiya Hai

Hometown:
Thornhill, ON, Canada

Degree:
Honours Specialization in Political Science

Graduating Year:
2021

- Most Prestigious Awards:
- Andrew Grant Scholarship in Second Year Political Science
 - ALPHA Education Guest Speaker
 - DECA international award winner
- Extracurriculars:
- Scholar's Electives Student Association
 - The General Assembly (Peer Review Team)
 - Leadership and Democracy Lab

"Scholar's Electives has given me access to a network of brilliant, inspiring peers and opportunities for extended learning unprecedented in my academic career. I am encouraged to step beyond the university bubble as a global citizen and an interdisciplinary learner."

Peter Akioyamen

Hometown:
Kleinburg, ON, Canada

Degree:
Honours Specialization in Data Science,
Major in Applied Math

Graduating Year:
2021

- Most Prestigious Awards:
- Goldman Sachs Undergraduate Camp
 - Laurene Paterson Estate Scholarship
 - USC Alumni Award
- Extra Curriculars:
- Mustang Capital
 - West London Lions Club
 - Scholar's Electives Student Coordinator

Farah Kamar

Hometown:
Peterborough, ON, Canada

Degree:
Honours Specialization in Medical Biophysics

Graduating Year:
2021

- Most Prestigious Awards:
- Medal of the Governor General of Canada
 - Lieutenant Governor's Student Community Volunteering Award
 - Placed at HOSA National Leadership Conference
 - Best Use of API at SheHacksII
- Extra Curriculars:
- Western Piano Society (VP)
 - Scholar's Connector

"Through the Scholar's Electives Program, I have met such incredible people who I'm proud to call my friends. It not only opens up so many opportunities in terms of networking and research, but everyone honestly just pushes you to be the best version of yourself; whether it be your supportive peers, dedicated professors, astounding supervisors, or wonderful program coordinator. I am truly grateful to be a part of it all."



"The Scholar's Electives program provided me with a community. With a supportive program coordinator in Rebecca, a passionate professor in Dr. de Looze, and awesome peers, the program has facilitated my personal, academic, and professional growth. I'm continuously inspired to reach outside of my comfort zone, trying new things and pushing myself to be a better version of myself. If I were to go back in time, I would definitely do it all over again."



"Through the Scholar's Electives Program, I have met such incredible people who I'm proud to call my friends. It not only opens up so many opportunities in terms of networking and research, but everyone honestly just pushes you to be the best version of yourself; whether it be your supportive peers, dedicated professors, astounding supervisors, or wonderful program coordinator. I am truly grateful to be a part of it all."

SPOTLIGHT: LEVI HORD

RHODES SCHOLAR



Levi Hord, Scholar's Electives alum and 2018 Rhodes Scholar, strongly believes that their Western education prepared them for further studies at the prestigious Oxford University. Much like the transition from high school to post-secondary, leaving Western to attend Oxford seemed daunting at first. Hord attributes their ability to succeed at a higher level to the skills acquired during their undergrad. "Having the opportunity to do my own research in second- and third-year allowed me control and to shape my education the way that I wanted to; that [has] helped with that transition," said Hord.

Hord's first research project, supervised by Drs. Wendy Pearson and David Heap, focused on gender neutral language and the implications of the linguistically- and grammatically-gendered structures of four languages (English, French, German and Swedish) on trans and non-binary individuals and their ability to express their own gender.

Next, Hord partnered again with Dr. Pearson to conduct trans theory research, a new area of study for Western and the academy in general. Then in fourth-year, Hord was able to initiate a book project through SASAH, which allowed them to leave Western with a manuscript that is currently being completed as a part of their dissertation. Hord also did an honors thesis within the department of women's studies, and presented their research at conferences across Canada, as well as internationally.

"I think the biggest highlight for me was getting to furnish my own projects," said Hord. "Something I've realized since I've been to Oxford is that the reason I was able to do that is because the faculty here provided me with such incredible support and passion. And getting to build up my creative work alongside my academic work and balance both of those things."

Hord acknowledges the tremendous impact of the Scholar's Electives program on their academics. Hord said, "I didn't even realize how much the program prepared me [for future studies] until I got to grad school. The interdisciplinary nature of it and the variety of opportunities I was presented with and the fact that I got to be exposed to different disciplines gave me that broader picture of the world." Hord expressed that when they've been faced with challenges, it's been helpful to reflect on what they gained from their time at Western. "It helped to think back to Professor de Looze and our classroom discussions, in terms of the level of critical thought, or when you get stuck on something and think, how would my professors from Western approach this issue. I felt like I had a big tool-kit that I had been very carefully given by the people here."

Hord is Western's 23rd recipient of the scholarship, and not the first to credit Scholar's Electives as a gateway to extraordinary opportunities for scholarly exploration. Saumya Krishna (BHSc '13), also a Scholar's Electives student, was the last Rhodes Scholar to come out of Western.

Hord's advice to future Scholars? "It is always, and always will be, your responsibility to make the best of your experiences and I saw that here [at Western]. You will get out of it what you put into it. So if you come here and you're able to harness some of that energy and some of that ambition that you have in high school, awesome. Especially with profs like the ones at Western, if you put a lot of effort and a lot of care into your studies, that will be recognized, and you will get more than you could've imagined out of your time at Western."

ALUMNI PROFILES

Alex Wolf



Hometown:
Vancouver, BC, Canada

Degree:
Bachelor of Health Sciences

Graduating year:
2017

Most Prestigious Award:
- Health Studies Award of Recognition

Extracurriculars:
- Health Studies Student Association (VP Administration and Senior Advisor)
- Residence Advisor and Don
- Statistician for Western Men's' Hockey Team

Current Pursuit:
MSc in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

"I don't think a bigger gap exists than the one between theory and practice. I remember talking about how socioeconomic status affects health in my classes, but to see the effect in the real world on real people is another thing entirely. It is just a stat or a concept in the classroom until you go out into the world and see make it real."

Tim Rappon

Hometown:
Thunder Bay, ON, Canada

Degree:
Bachelor of Medical Science - Medical Cell Biology

Graduating Year:
2014

Most Prestigious Awards:
- Governor General's Gold Medal
- William Wyatt Scholarship
- NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award

Extracurriculars:
- Elgin Scholar's Floor Soph
- Elgin Hall VP Programming
- Scholar's Innertube Water Polo (Team Captain)
- Scholar's Connector Program Coordinator

Current pursuit:
MD/PhD (Health Services Research, Organization and Management)
student at the University of Toronto



"My (now) wife Odre and I first met when I was an Elgin soph on the Scholar's floor with bright green hair. Scholar's Electives was not only an amazing platform to launch a career as a physician-scientist (I've had professors at U of T openly wonder why it hasn't been copied yet!), it was also how I met the love of my life." was also how I met the love of my life."

REBECCA SMITH SCHOLARS' PROGRAMS COORDINATOR



Rebecca Smith is the backbone of the Scholars' programs. A Western alumna herself, Smith has been working at the university for almost twenty years, spending more than half of that time engaging with some of the country's best and brightest. Smith's expertise, combined with her bubbly personality and genuine caring nature, make her a treasured resource not only among the students she supports, but the entire campus community.

In addition to her work with the Scholars community, Smith oversees the Western Initiative for Scholarly Excellence (WISE) program, is the newest co-director for SHAD Western, and facilitates frequent wellness trainings for students, staff and faculty members.

FACULTY MENTORS



"The Scholar's Electives program is designed for outstanding students with enquiring minds and a desire for both breadth and depth in their academic studies at Western. Students in the program are drawn from a variety of disciplines and faculties, and they work closely with instructors and advisors to achieve their goals in their chosen fields at the University and beyond. As a faculty member, I can testify that working with them and contributing, even in a small way, to their success is enormously enjoyable, stimulating and fulfilling."

David Bentley, PhD, FRSC, FRSA

Distinguished University Professor, Department of English

Professor Bentley specializes in Canadian literature and culture, and in nineteenth-century English literature and art. He is the founding and continuing editor of *Canadian Poetry: Studies, Documents and Reviews* and the *Canadian Poetry Press*, and the Director of the Canadian Poetry Project. He is a recipient of the Killam Prize for Humanities, which reflects his contributions to Canadian literary scholarship, and the 3M National Teaching Fellowship.

"The Scholar's Electives students are a most remarkable group. It is not simply that they are top performers in their fields, though they are. Rather, they rise to challenges, and they take greater initiative in creating opportunities on their own. The diversity in terms of ethnic origin, sexual orientation, linguistic background and intellectual interests is breathing. Scholar's Electives students are supremely prepared for the future."



Laurence de Looze, PhD

Professor, Department of Modern Languages and Literature

Dr. de Looze is a professor of Comparative Literature and a Fellow in the School for Advanced Studies in the Arts and Humanities. He was previously a professor of French at Boston University and of Comparative Literature at Harvard University. He has published numerous books and articles on English, French, Icelandic, and Spanish medieval literature as well as on more recent periods. His most recent book, *The Letter and the Cosmos* (2016) demonstrates how the alphabet has been a lens through which Western culture has consistently interpreted the world. It is currently being translated into Chinese. Professor de Looze has been the recipient of two SSHRC General Research Grants as well as the Edward G. Pleva Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Chil-Yong Kang, PhD, DSc, FRSC

Professor of Virology, Department of Microbiology and Immunology,
Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry

Dr Kang's research in molecular virology includes the development of viral-specific antiviral therapeutic agents and efficacious vaccines against various human viral diseases including AIDS, hepatitis B and C, Ebola hemorrhagic fever and hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome. He has already developed a second-generation vaccine against hepatitis B virus and an experimental vaccine against HIV/AIDS by using state-of-the-art technologies of genetic engineering and biotechnology. His HIV/AIDS vaccine based on genetically modified killed whole-HIV has recently completed Phase I human clinical trials successfully.

Dr Kang holds eleven international biotechnology patents in over 70 countries. He has received numerous awards such as the Lifetime Achievement Award from the University of Western Ontario (2009), Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal of the Governor General of Canada (2012), and Scientist of the Year Award of the Korean Federation of Science and Technology (2014).



WESTERN SCHOLARS

Program Overview

The Western Scholars program is designed for outstanding student leaders who wish to pursue a unique and rewarding academic experience. The program provides the opportunity for students to learn and grow as both students and global citizens in an engaging and enriching environment. Students in this program are recognized for their achievements and are provided opportunities to participate in diverse activities to enhance their university experience. The program allows them to not only develop connections with like-minded peers, but also strengthen relationships with Associate Deans and Professors.

Students in the Western Scholars program enter Western University with a minimum admission average of 90.0%.

Program Benefits of Western Scholars Program

- Connect with other high-achieving students in the program through planned activities and events
- Opportunities to apply for sponsorships that are exclusively available to the Scholars programs
- Specialized support from the Student Success Centre and the Scholars program coordinator

Exclusive Extracurricular Experiences

The **Western Scholars Student Association** is the official student government for Western Scholars students, responsible for representing and advocating for the unique needs of Scholars students, providing both community and professional networking communities, as well as organizing fun community events.

Scholars' Publications is a conglomerate publication program that produces the Scholar's Showcase magazine, The Leaf and the Scholars' online blog, Purpology. The publications serve as another opportunity for Scholars students to showcase their exceptional talents and abilities.

WESTERN SCHOLARS STUDENT PROFILES



Erin Anderson

Hometown:
Burlington, ON, Canada

Degree:
BA Honors Specialization Creative Writing and English
Language & Literature
Certificate Professional Communication

Graduating Year:
2020

Most Prestigious Awards:

- Neen Hodgins Scholarship (Department of English)
- Excellence in Leadership Innovation Award
- Western International Learning Award
- Scholar's Scholarship

Extracurriculars:

- Leadership Education Program
- Summer Academic Orientation (Student Leader & Coordinator)
- Success Centre Wellness Initiatives Student Coordinator

"Western Scholars has provided me with opportunities I might not have had otherwise. The extra level of support and opportunities to network and learn about all the amazing scholarship that's happening in other fields has definitely been a highlight."



Rachel Creighton

Hometown:
Digby, NS, Canada

Degree:
Honors Specialization in Microbiology and Immunology

Graduating Year:
2020

Most Prestigious Awards:
- TD Scholarship for Community Leadership
- UWO Faculty National Scholarship
- Nova Scotia's Lieutenant Governor's Respectful Citizenship Award

Extracurriculars:
- LAMP Leadership Coordinator
- National Scholarship Mentor
- This Mind of Mine Mental Health Awareness Club (Events Director)
- Research Assistant (Microbiology lab)

Benjamin Martinez

Hometown:
Toronto, ON, Canada

Degree:
Bachelor of Medical Sciences, Biochemistry of Infection and Immunity

Graduating Year:
2020

Most Prestigious Awards:
- UWOF A Scholarship
- Dr. Arthur A. Nareff Scholarship in Medical Sciences

Extracurriculars:
- Western for Ooch USC Club (President)
- Biochemistry Club (VP Academic)
- LAMP Mentor

"Western has given me the opportunity to connect with like minded individuals, find what intrigues me, and has given me a new home and family, away from home."



"During my time at Western, I have been able to gain a sense of community and meet a group of inspiring, diverse, and motivated individuals. I feel supported by my peers when exploring my interests and developing myself."

Anthony Mastromarini

Hometown:
Toronto, ON, Canada

Degree:
Honors Business Administration at Ivey Business School

Graduating Year:
2020

Most Prestigious Awards:
- Professor David G. Burgoyne HBA '90 Scholarship
- Western National Scholarship
- Faculty Entrance Scholarship
- Queen's Chancellor's Scholarship
- Governor General of Canada Academic Medal
- National AP Scholar Canada

Extracurriculars:
- Kidney CARE International at Western (Co-Founder)
- World University Service of Canada (VP Finance)
- Western Scholars Student Association (VP Finance)
- Western Investment Club

Misha Apel

Hometown:
Dundas, ON, Canada

Degree:
Double Major in the School for the Advanced Studies in the Arts and Humanities (SASAH) and English Language and Literature
Minor in Transitional Justice and Post-Conflict Reconstruction

Graduating Year:
2019

Most Prestigious Awards:
- SASAH Travel Award
- Faculty of Arts and Humanities Entrance Scholarship of Excellence
- TD Bank Achieve the Dream Canada Scholarship

Extracurriculars:
- Arts and Humanities Students' Council (President)
- International Student Peer Guide
- Exchange to University of Haifa Israel (2018)



"Most notably, as a Western Scholar, I have been invited to join a community of high-achieving students. Not only has this enabled me to engage in discussion and learning opportunities with like-minded individuals, but it has inspired me to make the most of my time at Western University."



"My best experience at Western was taking FRE 3140B: Rwanda: Culture, Society and Reconstruction in 2016 to learn about the history of Rwanda and reconstruction efforts. I am looking forward to returning as the Teaching Assistant because this experience completely changed the way I see my relationships and also how I conduct myself as an individual."