Applying to Chemistry Graduate Program

Please read carefully before submitting your application

http://www.grad.uwo.ca/prospective_students/applying/index.html

For questions concerning the online application please contact gradapps@uwo.ca
Faculty Research Areas/Research Themes
http://www.uwo.ca/chem/people/faculty_research_theme.htm

Graduate Chair, Admissions Coordinator: Dr. Paul Ragogna
pragogna@uwo.ca

Graduate Program Coordinator: Darlene McDonald
dhagen@uwo.ca
Applying to Chemistry Department at Western University

- **Master of Science**
  - Admission to the M.Sc. program requires a four-year, Bachelor of Science Honours degree in chemistry with a research component, or equivalent, from a recognized university, college, or institute. For applicants who have not yet been conferred the B.Sc. degree, all program requirements must be completed prior to the start of the M.Sc. studies.
  - Domestic students require an overall average of 75% (B+) or higher in the last two years is required (special cases can sometimes be made for those with less 75%).

- **Doctor of Philosophy**
  - Admission to the Ph.D. program requires an M.Sc. degree in chemistry, or equivalent, from a recognized university, college, or institute. For applicants who have not yet been conferred the M.Sc. degree, all program requirements must be completed prior to the start of the Ph.D. studies.
  - Domestic students require an overall average of 75% (B+) or higher in the last two years is required (special cases can sometimes be made for those with less 75%).
Applicants whose first language is not English must furnish evidence of their proficiency in the use of the English language by a satisfactory achievement within the last two years in one of the following:

- **The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL):** The minimum acceptable score for chemistry is 90, with no individual score below 20 for the internet based version; 230 for the standard electronic version; or 570 for the paper and pencil version, although some programs require a higher minimum score. [Western's TOEFL ID is 0984].

- **The International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) of the British Council:** The minimum acceptable score for chemistry is 7 out of 9. The IELTS is offered in 6 test centres in the US and 3 in Canada.

- **The Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB) of the University of Michigan:** Students must have at least 80 on each of the sections and an overall score of at least 85. Arrangements to write MELAB may be made via www.lsa.umich.edu/eli/melab2.htm.

- **The Canadian Academic English Language Assessment:** The minimum acceptable score is 60. The CAEL Assessment is offered in several countries throughout the world as well as Canada.

Students who are required to present evidence of proficiency in English must make their own arrangements to write the TOEFL, IELTS, MELAB or CAEL and to have the official results sent directly to the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies by the testing agency.

**NOTE:** Although you may have completed your courses in English, if English is not the first language of your country of citizenship, you must have an English proficiency score. International students that have attended a university in the U.S.A. or Canada for 2 years or more are not required to provide English proficiency.
Western makes it possible for you to submit your supporting documents in a digital format. This includes an academic record/transcript from each school you note in your Academic History and any additional documents required by the program you are applying to.

Chemistry requires a CV and statement of interest.

These documents should be uploaded during the online application process.
Western accepts digital academic records within your application, however if you are offered admission you are required to provide one official academic transcript* from each post-secondary institution you have attended. These documents should be mailed directly to:

The School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies,
1393 Western Rd,
London, ON N6G 1G9

Past or current students of The University of Western do not need to provide transcripts for their academic history at Western. This information will be obtained internally.

Note: Western considers a transcript official only if it is received in a university envelope that is sealed and signed on the flap by the official person in the office issuing the transcript. If the transcript and degree certificate are not in English, a certified translation must also be included. (Non-English transcripts from institutions within Canada do not require a translation.)

All documents and transcripts submitted to The University of Western Ontario become the property of the University and will not be returned.
Electronic References

- Once your references have successfully completed the electronic reference form, you will receive confirmation that this has been submitted via e-mail. The electronic reference will be processed at Western centrally and delivered to the program(s) you have applied to in one business day.

- Reference letters must come from your current/past supervisor and another faculty member.

- Please follow up with your application and referee to be sure your references have been submitted.
Upon Western receiving your application, a confirmation e-mail will be forwarded to you providing you with information regarding your application profile at Western. This information is key to accessing your Western Personal Computer Account. Once you have activated your Computer Account you will be able to log into the Student Center, Western’s portal for student information.

As an applicant, the Western Student Center will allow you to:

- Update personal information (including contact information)
- Check your application status
- Explore the Western course catalog
- Accept an offer of admission
- Once the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies release the application to the Chemistry program, the Admissions Coordinator will review the application. If the application meets the requirements for the department (avg., core chemistry courses, etc.) it will be circulated among the faculty. This process can take 2-3 weeks. There is no need to select a supervisor before being accepted.

For an overview of activation and password requirements associated with your application, please visit Passwords and Access.
Student Finances

The Department of Chemistry at Western offers stipends that are competitive with other Canadian universities. Your dollar also goes further at Western: the cost of living is substantially lower in London than in other cities, and your tuition also includes a year-round bus pass valued at approximately $880.

Stipends vary according to whether you are a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant, or an international student, as outlined below.

Canadian Students or Landed Immigrants

- If you are a Canadian citizen or have been granted Canadian landed immigrant status, then you fall into this general category. To receive the indicated stipends, non-scholarship students perform two TA units, while scholarship students perform either one unit or no units (see Program Information for TA details). The tuition and fees include a year-round, London transit pass valued at $880.
- Outstanding domestic and international applicants for a graduate program in physical chemistry are eligible to receive a Christian Sivertz Scholarship worth $3500. The Graduate Admissions Coordinator of the Chemistry Department will select awardees based on grades and supporting information in their application file, and all physical chemistry applicants will be considered. The Sivertz Scholarship is in addition to all stipends listed below.

Non-scholarship students
We guarantee a highly competitive, minimum stipend of 22,500 for both M.Sc. and Ph.D. students. Students are required to perform two TA units.
### Stipends and Compensation 2014 - 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Scholarship:</th>
<th>Entrance Scholarship:</th>
<th>1 TA unit:</th>
<th>TA Bonus:</th>
<th>Total Compensation:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-scholarship Students</strong></td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$4,732</td>
<td>$1,490</td>
<td>$27,722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ontario Graduate Scholars (OGS)</strong></td>
<td>$17,500</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$4,732</td>
<td>$1,490</td>
<td>$29,222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NSERC CGS-M Scholars</strong></td>
<td>$21,000</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$4,732</td>
<td>$1,490</td>
<td>$29,222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NSERC PGS-D Scholars</strong></td>
<td>$21,000</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$4,732</td>
<td>$1,490</td>
<td>$29,222</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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1. Domestic Tuition: ~$8,000 per year (incl. gym, bus, health and dental)
2. Note: 1 TA unit is approximately 10 hours/week/term.
3. Amounts vary depending on total number of TA hours and between years as outlined in the Collective Agreement between UWO and PSAC.
Funding for International Students

- **International Students**
  - The amount of the yearly stipend is $22,500/year. Part of this money comes from research and part of it comes from TA'ing. The stipend provides a monthly salary of approx. $1875 before deductions. This money is paid to you at the end of each month, therefore it is important to make sure you have enough money to pay your tuition and living expenses for the first term when you begin your program as fees are due the first week of each term. All international students accepted into the program, that do not have an external scholarship, receive a tuition scholarship at the beginning of each term which is applied directly to their tuition account. This scholarship helps to reduce the amount of fees to a little more than a domestic student pays. Fee schedules can be viewed at [http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/student_finances/fees_refunds/index.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/student_finances/fees_refunds/index.html)
  - Another helpful site for international students [http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/int/](http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/int/)

Example: Current Yearly Stipend $22,500
Total stipend for term $7500. Below shows how much the fees were for international students. Subtract the "fees to be paid" from the "total term stipend" leaves $4367.38 for living expenses for the term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>International Fees</th>
<th>$6082.62 Due at the beginning of each term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Schol</td>
<td>$2950.00 Applied to your tuition account at the beginning of each term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees to be paid</td>
<td>$3132.62 Amount due at the beginning of term after tuition scholarship is applied</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Outstanding domestic and international applicants for a graduate program in physical chemistry are eligible to receive a Christian Sivertz Scholarship worth $3500. The Scholarship Committee of the Chemistry Department will select awardees based on grades and supporting information in their application file, and all physical chemistry applicants will be considered, there is no need to apply.
International students interested in pursuing graduate studies should be aware that external scholarship programs also exist:

- **The Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship Program**, for citizens of the Commonwealth
- **The Organization of American States (OAS) Fellowships Program**, for citizens of Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, the United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.
- **The Government of Canada Awards Program**, for citizens of Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, the Philippines, and Russia.

As one of Canada’s leading research institutions, we place great importance on helping you finance your education. While at Western, you will want to devote your full energy to the successful completion of your studies, so we want to ensure that stable funding is available to you.

Some funding is awarded to you upon entry into a program, some is based on recommendations from the program that is admitting you, and others you must apply for yourself, either to The University of Western Ontario or to an external funding agency.

There are two main types of funding available to graduate students:

- **Western Funding** - Provided directly by department, faculty or the University, these types of funding are distributed to students on a term by term basis.
- **External Funding** - Awarded by federal, provincial and private agencies, to students who apply for scholarships and awards in annual competitions to support graduate study the following academic year. Major scholarship competitions are run through the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.
The Application
There is a $100 application fee which can be paid by visa / mastercard. If you choose to pay by chq, your application will be reviewed in the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies once they receive the funds.

- Below is an overview of important passwords and applicable websites that are associated with your Western application.
- **The Application**
  - Access to the Western University Graduate Application requires one of two sets of credentials:
  - An active Western Student Identity (login, password)
  - An active Western Applicant Account created on the initial page of the application (login, password)
- **Western Access Code**
  - For applicants who do not hold a current Western Student Identity a Western Access Code will allow you to activate your Western identity.
  - To obtain your Western Access Code (e.g. 1234), please visit Western Access Code Retrieval. You will need:
    - Your Western ID (e.g. 250555555)
    - Your Application Number
    - Your date of birth
- **Western Identity**
  - Activating your Western Identity will give you access to the Student Center.
  - To activate your Western Identity, please visit Western Identity Manager. You will need:
    - Your Western ID (e.g. 250555555)
    - Your Access Code
- **Student Center**
  - Western's portal for student information, the Student Center will allow you to review your application status, update your contact information, and accept an offer of admission.
  - To access the Student Center, please visit Western Student Center. You will need:
    - Your Western ID (e.g. 250555555)
    - Your password, as created by you when activating your Western Identity
Some helpful websites...........

International Support Services
http://www.grad.uwo.ca/prospective_students/international/international_support.html

Preparing for Western
http://www.grad.uwo.ca/prospective_students/preparing/index.html

Student Life
http://www.grad.uwo.ca/prospective_students/student_life/index.html

Finances
http://www.grad.uwo.ca/prospective_students/finances/index.html