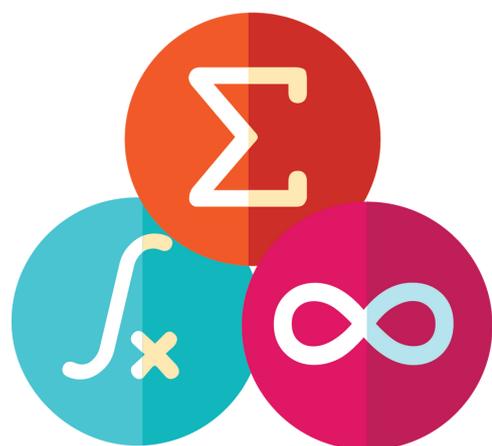


# WELCOME PACKAGE 2021



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# About Us

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## Our Club

The Actuarial and Statistical Undergraduate Association (ASUA) strives to provide academic workshops/support, professional development opportunities, and a social community for students in the Department of Actuarial and Statistical Sciences (DSAS). We welcome and encourage all students interested in Actuarial Science, Statistical Science, Data Science and Financial Modelling to join our club!



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## Our Mission

Our mission is to provide a social community for undergraduate students in the DSAS and to help pave the way for a great academic experience and professional career. ASUA aims to introduce relevant career paths through panel events, networking opportunities, and various seminars to further enhance the technical skills in workplace settings. We strive to create an unforgettable, safe, and inclusive undergraduate experience and community for DSAS students.



# Our Team



## Jenna Nanne, President

I joined ASUA in my first year at Western as a Director of Events, and I've never been so glad that I pushed myself to step outside of my comfort zone! ASUA has led me to so many of my best friends, encouraged me to build my career skills and helped me academically. I know taking that step outside your comfort zone can be hard, but the welcoming community at ASUA would be so happy to meet you!



## Alex Brown, VP Finance

I joined ASUA during my second year at Western. Joining the club was an amazing way to meet people in your major and learn more about what the different departments had to offer, and was one of the main reasons I decided to become an actuary. I liked that the club wasn't only academically orientated but also put a lot of emphasis on the social aspects of University.



## Nisha Bhargava, VP Events

I joined ASUA in my first year because I was looking to meet new people in similar programs and I am so grateful that I did! ASUA has been a huge part of my undergrad experience. Through the club I have met so many amazing people and made many valuable connections that I truly believe I will carry with me even post graduation.



## Roxy Shafiee, VP Communications

ASUA has brought an incredible community into my life and has also taught me so much academically and professionally. This year, I hope to provide a welcoming environment to all DSAS students and to encourage everyone to get involved. I truly believe the ASUA community is one where genuine friendships and long-lasting memories are made, and I hope to provide nothing less through my role this year.



## Teja Ashtok, SSC Department Representative

Joining ASUA in my second year as a Department Representative has allowed me to foster a sense of community through meeting like minded students at Western! I really believe that the community and the support system each student has is what defines their experience at Western, and I want to make sure each student feels advocated and cared for by ASUA and the Science Students' Council (SSC)!

# Our Initiatives

## 1 Reel Wellness Advice

Weekly 30-second Instagram Reels (also posted on our Facebook story) showcasing a relevant Western opportunity or ASUA event, with resources that provide preparation or additional material(s) to enhance one's knowledge. Resources cover career education, mental health support, academic workshops, and much more. Click [here](#) for a list of all 14 from the '20-21 academic year!

## 2 The ASUA Times

Bi-weekly articles on current news related to the Actuarial Sciences, Statistical Sciences, Data Science or Financial Modelling industries. Learn about how relevant fields under the DSAS are impacting current economies and the world we live in today. Articles are released on our Instagram and/or Facebook stories and you can access the list of articles [here](#).

## 3 The ASUA Newsletter

Monthly newsletter sent out to the ASUA Mailing List that covers important dates and upcoming events, such as scholarship/application deadlines, employer info session dates, ASUA events, important DSAS dates and opportunities, etc.

## 4 Instagram Takeovers

Instagram Takeovers with students working full-time currently on the Science Internship Program. Students will talk about their current position and company of employment, discuss their roles and responsibilities, run a Q&A session, and much more! Stay tuned for more info on who our Instagram Takeovers will be and for which companies...

# Connect With Us

## Why should YOU become an ASUA member?

- Access to all exclusive networking opportunities, academic workshops and social events
- Be a part of our official mailing list for immediate updates on relevant opportunities and upcoming events
- Receive a financial reimbursement for the cost of the upcoming ANÉA-ASNA conference next year
- Have access to a personalized Coaching Actuaries discount code for only paid ASUA members.
- Join a welcoming and supportive community of undergraduate students under the DSAS
- ... and much more! USC Club Membership opens next Monday!



# Events & Upcoming Opportunities

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## Department Sweaters

As the school year starts, the ASUA team will be looking to design and sell new department sweaters. More information will be shared via the club's social media, but get ready to show off your department spirit!

## SOA Exam Reimbursements

We are reimbursing three students' SOA exams: IFM, LTAM, STAM, and/or SRM are eligible. The reimbursements will be given to randomly selected students throughout the semester who enter their information and have earned a passing grade on any of the above exams. More information will be shared at a later date.

## ASUA is Hiring!

**Deadline** for executive applications is Sunday, Sept. 26th @12:00pm. Click [here](#) for the application link.

We are hiring for the following...

Representative Positions:

- First Year Rep
- Second Year Rep
- International Rep
- Data Science Rep

Commissioner Positions:

- Academic
- Health & Wellness

Director Positions:

- Academic Events
- Social Events
- Communications
- Case Competition

# Scholarships

There are many scholarships offered for students in our department! Most scholarship deadlines are **September 30th, 2021**.

## TD Women in Data Analytics Undergraduate Bursary

- Four (any year) female students
- HSP Data sci or Double Major with Data sci
- Based on financial need, \$5000 one year

## V.M. Josh Memorial Scholarship

- HSP Statistics or Double Major with Stats
- At least 80% average with demonstrated financial need
- \$750 one year

## Morneau Shepell Continuing Career Scholarship in Actuarial Science

- One 2nd year student
- HSP Act sci or Double Major with Act sci
- \$3000/year + two summer internships

## Manulife Financial Scholarships in Actuarial Sciences

- One 3rd year student
- HSP Act sci or Double Major with Act sci
- \$5200 one year, 80% min. average

## RBC Scholarship in Data Science

- Seven 2nd year students
- Comp sci/Act sci/Stats program interested in data science career
- \$12500 for two years + internship(s)

...and more! For more information regarding the following scholarship applications and for a more extensive list of the available scholarships within the department, click [here](#).

# Scholarship Testimonials



## Gloria Spehar

Canada Life Two Year  
Continuing Scholarship

I am so grateful to be the recipient of the Canada Life Two Year Continuing Scholarship, it has positively affected my life in more ways than one. I applied for the scholarship in my second year. I was interested in obtaining a work term with Canada Life, as well as the scholarship sum.

I wanted to create a relationship with the company, as it was one that I was looking at for a post-grad full-time position. When it comes time to interview, it is important to show the interviewers that you are a dedicated and hardworking student who is passionate about pursuing Actuarial Science as a career. It is also helpful to have good relationships with the professors in the department.

This scholarship gave me the motivation in third year to continue to push myself and achieve the necessary average to obtain the second portion of the scholarship. As a result of this, I was consistently working toward something in third year and never gave myself the opportunity to lose focus, as there was a reward waiting for me on the other side. I believe that everyone who is eligible should apply to this scholarship. It gives you an entry into the actuarial profession, pushes you to perform your best in your studies, and will open up many doors for you in the future. I have no regrets and am very thankful!

# Scholarship Testimonials

## Aevery Tam

### Morneau Shepell Career Continuing Scholarship

I obtained the Morneau Shepell Career Continuing Scholarship that contained \$3000 continuing for two years, as well as two summer co-op terms at Lifeworks! What makes this scholarship stand out is that you are able to take away valuable knowledge and skills needed to succeed in the actuarial science field. If you're interested in a DSAS scholarship, don't be afraid to apply because you literally have nothing to lose. The worst thing that can happen is not getting the scholarship. On the other hand, the best thing that can happen is getting the scholarship that comes with financial help, career opportunities, networking, and so much more! The interview process for me was really intimidating at first, but I was confident about my capabilities, my experiences, and my own self. My passion and leadership experiences for mental health, giving back to my community, as well as being well rounded were what rewarded me the scholarship. This is why I think demonstrating leadership in things that one values and is passionate about, makes a student stand out because it shows their dedication, their initiative, and their leadership skills. So be confident, be passionate, and be yourself!



# Our Semester Plans

ASUA has many exciting events planned this year for our members! Here are just some that we plan to run during first semester...

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## Annual General Meeting

Come out to hear even more about what we have planned for this year! This is also a great opportunity for those interested in applying for an executive position.

You will get the chance to speak with the core executive members who you may be working closely with.

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## Speed Dating: Beginning of the Year Social

A great opportunity for those looking to get to know the people in their year/program better! This event will be run in a "speed dating" format where you will be partnered with someone and then every couple of minutes you will switch partners. This will give you the chance to meet so many new people who you can reach out to when you want a study buddy or miss class and need notes, etc.

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## Q&A Session with Past Interns

If you are looking for a summer internship or to apply for the Science Internship program this will be an event you don't want to miss. Students who are just finishing their 16-month Science Internship program as well as those who just finished their summer internship placements will be available to answer all of your questions about applications, interviews, job descriptions, the industry, etc.

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# Our Semester Plans

Continued...

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## Mock Interviews

This is another great opportunity for those looking for a summer internship or to apply for the Science Internship program. Come out to improve your interview skills and gain valuable feedback so you are ready for all your future interviews!

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## Professor Meet and Greet

We know that sometimes it can be daunting to speak with professors after class or in office hours. This is a great event to get better acquainted with professors in the department!



## Mentorship Program: Meet Your Mentor

Sign up as a mentee if you are a first or second-year student looking for guidance from an upper-year! This is an amazing opportunity for those looking for guidance on courses, internships, resources for success in your field, etc. This is also a great opportunity for upper years looking to gain valuable leadership experience, share personal insights and tips, etc. This event will be the kickoff for the Mentorship Program where you will get to officially meet your mentee/mentor!

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## LinkedIn & Resume Workshop

Sharpen your networking skills just in time for internship networking sessions and ASNA! COVID permitting we will also be providing free LinkedIn headshots for all of our members.



# Professor Outreach



Cristian Bravo Roman  
Associate Professor

If you could tell your first year-undergraduate-self something, what would it be?

To make the best out of their time at Uni and explore everything the university life has to offer. Do not be afraid to take/audit that odd course that picks your interest,

participate in that club that you thought may be cool or talk to the people you found interesting. This was the only time in your life where you were be surrounded by such a diverse group of people, all doing different activities that interest them, so you have the opportunity to find what makes you a complete and integral person.

What are some words of advice for finding your path?

Do your best so you can have your options open, and talk to as many people as you can to understand what their lives look like. When I was just starting my studies I had no idea what it was to be a professional in my area, and I had a vague idea that I wanted “a career in industry”. Later down the path I realized that specific life path was not what I wanted, and that here in academia was where my path truly led. As I had done a good career I could redirect my path to what I liked without any problems but I do wish I would have made that choice a bit earlier. In all of these steps I had great mentors who supported me (even now!) and helped me understand what my professional life would look like, how to work to make the best of it, and what paths I had available. If you let yourself learn from other people you will grow so much, and make much better decisions.

# Professor Outreach

Continued...

Cristian Bravo Roman  
Associate Professor



What are some words of advice for students under the DSAS department?

Talk to us! DSAS is a very diverse department, with theoretical and applied statisticians and data scientists working in Stats, Actuarial Sciences and Financial Modelling. We are all here to help you make the best out of your career. Do not feel hesitant to reach to any of us if you want to chat about something, we

are usually an open and receptive bunch. This will also help you steer your career early on!

What do you think is most special about the Data Science program at Western?

That we are truly multidisciplinary. The data science program has been recently redesigned from the ground up with input from the whole university and it is being steered by a committee with members from many different departments and from all walks of life. This means you will have the opportunity to explore what makes data science such an interesting career choice: that it can be applied in any field that collects significant amounts of data. Do you want to learn how to make the best of financial data? We have many people (myself included) doing that. What about biology or medical data? That too. Social sciences? Yep. Mathematics? You bet! And not only we have the people, but these people are working together to bring you a unique learning experience. Soon we will have the new program website up where you will be able to see all your options in detail.

# Professor Outreach



Kyle Leistner  
Lecturer

If you could tell your first year-undergraduate-self something, what would it be?

I would tell myself how important it is to remain focused. This does not necessarily mean studying 24-7 or constantly asking instructors for additional practice work. It means that when you sit down to study or when you're in a lecture, commit your attention to this single activity. In today's world, the number of potential distractions is legion. From social media, commercial-free streaming, every piece of music at your fingertips, it's easy to say "I just have it in the background to relax."

Studying and learning is not meant to be a passive activity - it takes work and effort. Think of your favourite athlete, musician, or artist; they will likely tell you that success comes from hard work, commitment, and focus. The positive in this is that, when you commit to focusing while you learn, it takes less time! It may also allow you to learn about things that you previously had no interest in. If physical fitness keeps your body healthy, focus keeps your mind healthy.

# Professor Outreach



Continued...

**Kyle Leistner**  
**Lecturer**

What do you think is most special about the Financial Modelling program at Western?

I think what is most special are the people that deliver the content (although I must admit, that I am a little bias!). The instructors that teach the program have a wide range of experience in the areas of teaching, research, and industry that help deliver content in a meaningful way, that links the abstract to application.

What are some words of advice for finding your path?

You don't have to have your entire life figured before you're 20 years old. I'm reminded of Jim Collins's book *Good to Great*, and in particular a chapter called "Hedgehog", where he emphasizes a concept for success when doing a particular activity as a function of three parameters: ability, economic return, and passion. Finding a balance of these three measurements is difficult and will take time, probably beyond your years at university. When figuring out what you really want to do in the long term, it's helpful to use this as a guide.

# Module Info & Relevant Opportunities

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Interested in gaining experience in your module-related field or opportunities to enhance your technical skills for workplace settings?

Checkout these relevant opportunities you can pursue per module! These are great opportunities to learn about relevant fields or gain some form of non-work experience before entering the workforce!

## For Data Science

### Western AI

By joining as a general member, you can be a part of a community of students with similar interests regarding Artificial Intelligence, technology, innovation, and much more. Click [here](#) to visit their website.

### Read Books!

Checkout the [article](#) The Hackernoon Developer's Essential Reading List to learn more about different books that can be seen as "inspiring" for an aspiring coder/data scientist.

### SheHacks

Take part in Canada's largest female Hackathon in Canada for ALL skill levels! This hackathon encourages women from all majors, coding skills, and backgrounds to participate regardless of any experience at all.

### Start Projects

Gain some valuable experience by taking the initiative to build your own data science-related projects. Checkout this [article](#) called How to Start a Data Science Project When You Are a Beginner for inspiration and assistance.

### Hackathons

Take part in as many hackathons as you can! Subscribe to Hackathons in Ontario [here](#) to stay updated on all upcoming hackathons this year!

# Module Info & Relevant Opportunities

## For Actuarial Science

### ANEA-ASNA

The Actuarial Students' National Association held in January is a great place to network with different companies in the industry. ASNA also offers seminars held by different employers and guests of different industries across the discipline.

### Case Competitions

Keep an eye out for actuarial based case competitions such as Munich Re Cup and the ASNA Case Competition (deadline to apply is September 28th).

### SOA Podcasts

The SOA offers a unique podcast containing interviews with keynote speakers and presenters from SOA events, group discussion panels, discussions about current research, and deeper looks into issues that affect the actuarial profession. Click [here](#) for more info!

### Coaching Actuaries

Ready to start studying for an SOA exam? This is a great online study resource with manuals and practice exams.



# Module Info & Relevant Opportunities

## For Statistical Science

Federal Student Work Experience Program

Statistics Canada's FSWEP allows for students to submit an application at any point in the year for various Statistics related fields. Click [here](#) for more info.

Research Affiliate Program

Gain experience in research and enhance your leadership skills as an undergraduate student! For more information, click [here](#).

Stats + Stories

Checkout this podcast that covers a wide range of Statistics topics and its relation to economics, health, sports, and much more!

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## For Financial Modelling

The Financial Modelling Podcast

Looks at how financial models impact companies and deals, how they are used to understand complex transactions and their role in the global economy. For more info click [here](#)!

CFI: Financial Modelling for Beginners

A beginners guide to financial modelling with many useful resources such as courses, Excel shortcuts, etc. For more info click [here](#).

FinMo Case Competition

Registration is now open for the 2021 competition. FinMo cases are designed to solve real life business problems. For more info click [here](#)

# Module Testimonials

Ali Rodeo

Data Science

Computer Science is what started it for me, and stats filled in the void for what was remaining. Data Science provided that common ground I was looking for between Computer Science, Statistics and Business acumen. Choosing a career in Data Science has many advantages but what really brought me into the field is the growth and specialization opportunities it offers. Whether it be finance, healthcare, transportation or oil and gas, you name it! They all need a data scientist!



The best thing about the Data Science community is getting the best of both worlds and being a part of the Computer Science and the Actuarial/Statistical community. Clubs like ASUA, Western AI and Western Founders Network have helped bring like minded people together. If I could tell my first-year self one thing today on how to do better in school, it would be to get to know people in your program and courses. School can be hard, and your friends will help you get through it. I've spent hours debugging code and not being able to understand concepts, however my friends explained them to me in minutes. Group study during the year or before exams have never hurt anyone. Attend as many Hackathons and seminars as you can. Don't have a team or lack coding skills? Still go for it! You will meet tech savvy people and learn brilliant ideas. Recruiters will help you understand the job market better and what you need to focus on to land your dream job.

ASUA has been the backbone of this great mathematical community here at Western. It has helped students in similar programs really bond together. These people have become family now and have helped me transition into university through social and academic circle expansion. Being a part of the club has allowed me to actively and passively participate in events that revolved around my academic and social career.

# Module Testimonials



Kareena Yagambrun  
Statistical Science

When I was applying to western, I was still not 100% sure of what career I wanted to pursue. I knew that I liked maths and sciences, so Statistics seemed like the perfect option for me since it would give me a broad range of career choices in these fields after university. Data is all around us and every company needs to make important decisions based on that data. What I love the most about this program is that you can take your skills and passion for data and combine it with something else that interests you. For example, you could pursue a career in epidemiology if you are passionate about healthcare or work at a tech or insurance company—it all depends on what really interests you!

I would encourage my first-year self to get to know more people in the program. I have not met many students specifically in Statistics, but all the Data Science, Actuarial and Financial Modelling students have the same statistics courses together. It is helpful to have others alongside you as you go through this journey. Some courses can be very challenging, and you might think that you are the only one struggling. In most cases, all students are feeling the same way and it helps to work in groups to figure things out together and support each other.

It's through ASUA that I was able to meet other people in the program. Huge classes can be intimidating and most of the time students are just rushing from one class to another so you don't get the chance to talk to people. Participating in ASUA activities is a great way to make friends and form bonds with people who share the same interests as you.

# Module Testimonials



Shawna Van Eyk  
Actuarial Science

My experience in the Western University Actuarial Science program has been everything I expected plus more. If you love math and have a passion for solving problems, then you have chosen the right program. There is a wide range of useful courses such as Financial Modelling, Regression, Probability and Short/Long Term Actuarial Mathematics. Their varied course selection provides a foundation of skills and knowledge you will need when joining the actuarial workforce. Joining the ASUA community has also played a significant role in my success.

Joining the ASUA community has played a significant role in my success within the actuarial program. They will help you understand the SOA/CAS exam process, inform you of important events such as ASNA and company networking sessions and occasionally they organize social events that allow students a much-needed break. Do not be afraid to ask your professors questions and work with your peers to understand concepts. Remember, they want you to succeed just as much as you do!



Oleksii Kocheriev  
Financial Modelling

I was interested in an undergraduate degree that would combine my passions for mathematics, programming, economics and finance. The combination of courses as a part of the Financial Modelling program at Western appealed to me and I decided to give it a try in my first year - I have never regretted my choice. If I could tell my first-year self something, it would be that I am on the correct path and to stress less about grades. That said, I would advise not to be scared of getting lower grades by more difficult, but interesting courses.

Receiving a lower average is worth it if you enjoy the course content and gain valuable skills throughout the studying. However, even more important than the education aspect are the people. This program will help you meet people with common interests and develop life lasting connections and friendships. Joining ASUA is something you should definitely do in your first year. The events hosted by ASUA are amazing both for meeting peers, learning more about the industry and learning valuable skills.

# Ivey Business School

Interested in pursuing a dual degree with Ivey and a DSAS module? Here are some tips!

Take the necessary prerequisites for the desired DSAS module & take 1.0 credit in Category B in your FIRST year!

In your **SECOND** year:

- Take all prerequisite courses for DSAS module
- Actuarial Science students will need to defer SS2864 due to the BUS2257 requirement
- If you don't plan on doing a dual degree and are only concerned with getting into Ivey, some students decide to take only 2.0 credits of the required module courses in second year to make the workload much more manageable. Of course, once this decision is made it is hard to make up these credits if you later decide to do a dual degree once in Ivey.



# Ivey Business School

Continued...

## In your THIRD year

- Core HBA1 courses (schedule is predetermined by Ivey, meaning students do not have a choice in their course selection)
- Courses include: Finance, Accounting and Financial Fundamentals, Strategy, Operations, Marketing, etc. (7.5 credits = 10 courses)

## In your FOURTH year

- 5.0 credits from Ivey
- 1.0 credit Ivey Field Project
- 0.5 credit Managerial Accounting & Control
- 0.5 credit Global Macroeconomics for Managers
- 0.5 credit in Corporations & Society
- 2.5 elective credits

Remaining required module courses from DSAS

Note: Many students take an Ivey intersession course in the summer between 3rd and 4th year to lighten the course load in fourth and fifth year.



# Dual Degree Testimonials



## Jennifer Huang Actuarial Science & Ivey

I did a dual degree with Actuarial Science and at 10.5 required Honours Specialization courses, the course load is massive in second year and beyond. Once I combined it with the HBA course load as well, I was not able to take any elective course after first year. So my advice for first year students is to take all the interesting university elective courses you want to take for fun while you can, because you won't have the luxury of taking them later. Also, make sure you fulfill all the breadth/essay requirements in first and second year. Don't be like me and drop the ball on that, then have to take a random 1.0 essay course (and pay extra for it) during the summer after third year to make up for it.

Ivey provides DSAS students with core knowledge about how businesses operate, how to understand/analyze financial statements, as well as crucial soft skills such as presenting and articulating your ideas effectively. Often times, you are expected to just learn this stuff on the job, so having this as part of your university background makes you more attractive as a candidate for employers.

# Dual Degree Testimonials



Continued...

## Jennifer Huang Actuarial Science & Ivey

For example, I currently work in an actuarial consulting role, and I definitely felt that the dual degree helped differentiate me

from others during the recruitment process. The most challenging aspect was the course load in fourth and fifth year. I had to take an average of 6 courses per semester in my final years. In my opinion, the hardest actuarial/stats courses tend to be third year level classes and balancing that with Ivey courses/recruitment/life can be tough. I recommend taking an Ivey intercession course at the end of HBA1, which was what I did to try and soften the load.

I think any professional roles that have a quantitative/analytical focus are a great fit for those pursuing Ivey under a DSAS degree. What's great is that many DSAS related jobs will be tied to the financial services sector (for example, insurance companies) which will place value on business knowledge in addition to the baseline stats/actuarial/math competencies. Likewise, almost all roles facilitated through Ivey will place value on the quantitative skills developed on the DSAS side.

# Dual Degree Testimonials

## Lauren Galasso Financial Modelling & Ivey

Take all required module courses in second year so that you don't need to overload in upper years to catch up. If you have AEO, don't only take the 2.0 required because you are worried about not maintaining an 80 – this will cause more problems in the future. Try to meet people in the program who are also doing a DSAS related and Ivey dual degree.



Having people to study with and compare notes with can really aid in your success. When applying to summer or full time opportunities in business, having the dual degree will really make you stand out and likely get you an interview over someone who is only completing their Ivey degree. Many employers look for this, and value STEM students especially. Completing the dual can open many doors in consulting, finance, and data science.

In years 4 and 5, the workload can be intense and requires a lot of effort to do well. Many students will have to overload (take more than 5 courses a semester), which can be difficult especially when many are module courses. This can be hard when your Ivey peers have a much lighter workload and have more time to focus on the social aspect of school; hence, why it is so important to surround yourself with other dual students who will be working hard along with you. The dual degree will set you apart no matter what kind of role you are applying for. However, the most beneficial roles for a DSAS related dual degree student are in consulting and finance, where data analysis and manipulation is a key part of entry level opportunities.

# Dual Degree Testimonials



Daniel Petrov  
Actuarial Science & Ivey

I think a great way to stand out is to begin pursuing actuarial exams early on. Of course, you don't have to write them one after another but having one exam done going into recruiting goes a long way in the actuarial field.

The actuarial field typically focuses on hard skills while business degrees place a lot more emphasis on soft skills. This way the degrees are complementary, and you can really see that when you work in either of the fields.

The workload can get hectic at times. There is a fair amount of overloading once you are finished with HBA1. On top of that, SOA exams can add to the stress. Proper time management is definitely a key skill to have should you pursue the dual degree.

Quantitative-heavy roles in finance would be a perfect fit for dual degrees. You can get a great exposure to those roles through recruiting at Ivey and a lot of material covered in these positions overlaps with SOA exams, setting you apart from competition.

# International Students

## International & Exchange Student Centre (IESC)

### Who are they?

The IESC works towards providing the most useful information, resources and services for International Students during their time at Western University! The International Student Advisors provide assistance on immigration, individual aid for personal and/or financial concerns, cultural adjustment, academic concerns, referrals to Student Health Services, Student Case Management, and much more!

International and Graduate Affairs Building, Second Floor

Hours: 9:00am-4:00pm, Mon-Fri

Phone: 519 - 661- 2111

Email: [iesc@uwo.ca](mailto:iesc@uwo.ca)

Website: <https://iesc.uwo.ca/>

Twitter: @IESCatWestern

Facebook:

[facebook.com/uwo.international](https://www.facebook.com/uwo.international)

Instagram: @westernuinternational



# International Students

## Programs & Services Provided by IESC...

Looking for Opportunities to Connect? Keep up-to-date on the IESC Events Calendar!

- English Conversation Program → Open to students of all English language competencies! Get matched with a group of students all at your level, and a student volunteer that will lead discussions and conversations. A great way to meet people and improve your English competency skills!
- Global Cafe → Come out and meet other International and Canadian students from all types of backgrounds on Zoom every Thursday from 3:00-5:00pm! Join the Global Cafe Facebook Group to stay updated on all events!
- Peer Guide Program → Be matched with a trained upper-year Western student who will connect you to Western resources, act as a guide and cultural interpreter as you transition into a new journey at Western, and most importantly - be a friend! Click [here](#) to sign up for a Peer Guide and for more info.
- ...and much more! Checkout the Programs & Services section on the IESC website for access to these resources and more!



# International Students

Continued...



## Looking for Academic Assistance?

- SmartStart: Learning → An array of (zero-credit) courses offered during the summer to assist with the academic transition expected in main campus courses.
- Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) Centre → Receive free academic assistance for your courses and with developing various learning strategies to reach your academic goals from a Learning Peer!
- Leadership and Mentorship Program → Get matched with an upper year Peer Mentor from your Faculty and/or Program of Study for academic and social support throughout the academic transition!
- ...and much more! Checkout the Academic Support section on the IESC website for access to these resources and more!

## Looking for Financial Assistance?

- Checkout the International Student Emergency Bursary Program, International Student Work Opportunities Program (ISWOP), Scholarships, Awards, and Scholarships from Western's Student Financial Services, and much more.

Details on the following financial aids can be found [here](#).



# International Students

Continued...



## Struggling With Essay-Credit Courses?

- Writing Support Centre: Online writing assistance through reviewing academic and/or professional writing, virtual appointments, online writing resources. Click [here](#) for more details.

## Health & Wellness Resources

- Talking About Life in Canada (TALK) → Weekly discussion groups (on Tuesdays) where you can meet other international students and share your experiences about living and studying in a new country and culture.
- International Student Advising and Counselling → Individual assistance and/or advising on concerns regarding academics, finances, cultural transition, cross-cultural communication, career matters and personal issues. Click [here](#) for more info.



- International Students and Wellness Website → Learn about how to manage seven important aspects of health and wellness in your life: physical, social/cultural, emotional, academic/career, spiritual, financial, and environmental. Click [here](#) to visit the website.

# DSAS International Student Testimonials



Daher Zidany

Adapting to Canada and meeting new people was difficult for me. As an international student going through homesickness and missing my family, you don't feel like you belong here. Being a part of ASUA in all four years of my undergrad has allowed me to meet a lot of people from our relatively small department. ASUA made me feel like I belong here, which made the process of transitioning in as an international student so much easier. If I could tell my first year self something, it would be to be open to meeting new people, because many are in the same boat as you. Use the events to your favor, attend the career fairs, network with people, learn more about your department and how you can tailor your career.

The most challenging part about being an international student for me was socializing, which includes networking and making friends. It was also later that I learnt the importance and necessity of knowing people from the same program. I highly recommend every DSAS student to get involved with ASUA as it has valuable resources like mentors to share tips on how to be prepared for SOA exams, how to enjoy your uni life but still do well in class, and how to find an internship and co-op. It was only through ASUA I got to know ASNA, where I met people who supported and guided me tremendously throughout my uni journey. Lastly, I wish all of you best of luck at Western, feel free to reach out to me if you want to connect or just talk and chill. Study hard, play hard and be smart.



Dawn Zhou

# Science Internship Program

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Interested in taking a year off after third year or upper to pursue a career-related paid job? Consider applying for the Science Internship Program!

There are SO many relevant jobs under the DSAS available for students! For more questions, concerns, and information regarding Career Services at Western Science, contact this email: [scicareers@uwo.ca](mailto:scicareers@uwo.ca)

## What is the Science Internship Program?

- Beginning in the fall of a third year DSAS module, students work with the Science Internship office in order to search for placements in desired fields.
- The program provides students with full time, paid, and career-related placements for 8-16 months, and all students are required to submit a technical report at time of completion.

## What preparation will you receive?

- LinkedIn Workshop - to help students prepare a professional looking profile used for networking, displaying your resume, applying for jobs, and updating posting updates for peers.
- Resume Workshop - one-on-one sessions to help improve your resume and cover letters.
- Mock Interviews - book one-on-one sessions to help prepare for interviews.

# Where could you work?

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## Internship Testimonial



Rishwanth Sunkara  
Data Science

I am currently doing a 16-month internship at Celestica Inc, which is a global electronics manufacturing services company in Toronto. I work under their Supply Chain department as a Commodity Management Analyst. The application process for me consisted of 3 stages. First, I had to submit a standard cover letter and resume. Once I got selected for the next round, I had a phone interview with an HR team member who conducted a short 20 minute evaluation. The final round consisted of a 45 minute video interview with my hiring manager.

My experience so far has been phenomenal and has exceeded any expectations I had. Since I work in the supply chain, I deal with all kinds of people on a daily basis. This has taught me the value in making meaningful relationships, both personal and transactional. It has also made me communicate effectively and to different audiences. Working on multiple projects everyday has taught me the importance of time management and organization. I highly recommend anyone considering doing an internship to just apply! It exposes you to so many things that a classroom could never. A long-term internship has given me the opportunity to familiarize myself with the company and take the time to engage with my colleagues and the work my team does that a 4-month internship could never.

# Internship Testimonial



## Laura Babbitt Actuarial Science

The Science Internship Program allowed me to experience working in the actuarial industry, while completing my undergraduate degree. My main goal throughout my internship was to take advantage of every opportunity that came my way, as I had no previous experience working in the actuarial field and was unsure of what industry would be the best fit for me. After attending many company networking sessions on campus, as well as the Western internship information sessions, I was presented the opportunity to split my 16-month internship across three different teams within two different industries. I began my internship as an actuarial intern at Canada Life, working in life insurance on the Actuarial Internal Audit team for four months. I then had the opportunity to experience the consulting line-of-business, working at Willis Towers Watson (WTW) for twelve months, where I rotated as an actuarial intern between the Health and Group Benefits team and the Retirement team.

Through my involvement on various teams, I was able to develop and expand a variety of skills, gain experience and knowledge about the actuarial industry, and foster relationships and connections with my colleagues. I partnered with consultants on real client assignments to help deliver results and solutions to their clients. The positive, collaborative, and innovative work environment at both Canada Life and WTW provided me with the support needed to be challenged in my everyday work, resulting in strong development of both technical and soft skills on the job.

# Internship Testimonial



Continued...

## Laura Babbitt Actuarial Science

I applied knowledge gained from my Western courses, as well as learned new concepts to be taught and built on in my final year of studies. As actuarial interns are supported in their exam success through the company provided study program, I also completed SOA exams and

FAP modules on the side through the encouragement of my colleagues. I feel significantly more confident now in my work and how I present myself as a person, due to my growth through this internship experience.

I have learned a tremendous amount about the actuarial workforce and the corporate world over the past 16 months, entirely due to my participation in the Science Internship Program at Western. There are many different career opportunities for an aspiring actuary, and the best way to find the work environment that most aligns with your strengths and interests is to experience it hands-on. The internship program has helped me to define my career direction – as ultimately, I have accepted a full-time actuarial analyst position with WTW, upon graduation.

The first-hand experience and knowledge on writing reports and presenting in the workplace, as well as developing time management skills to complete multiple tasks simultaneously to meet strict deadlines, will be greatly utilized throughout my final year at Western and future endeavours. I highly encourage all Western students to participate in the Internship Program, with an emphasis on taking the advantage to divide up your experience between a variety of roles, as it is a great introduction to the actuarial industry.

We're looking forward to meeting everyone this year!

Feel free to contact us at any point...

## ASUA Socials

Instagram: @asuauwo

Facebook: @asuauwo

Linkedin: @asuauwo

WeChat: @uwoasua

Email: [asua.club@westernusc.ca](mailto:asua.club@westernusc.ca)

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