



PSI Reference Guide

2023-2024

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PI PERIMETER
INSTITUTE

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ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide is a living document with helpful information on what you should expect when coming to Perimeter and to the Waterloo Region. It also provides guidelines on what is expected of you, with lots of information and resources that you may find helpful.

NOTE: This guide will be updated with information throughout the year. You will receive email notification when there are significant updates or new sections to review.

WELCOME TO PERIMETER SCHOLARS INTERNATIONAL



Vision Statement: To create the world's foremost centre for foundational theoretical physics, uniting public and private partners, and the world's best scientific minds, in a shared enterprise to achieve breakthroughs that will transform our future.

Welcome to Perimeter Scholars International (PSI), your one-year master's level course designed to bring you to the cutting edge of theoretical physics in an intense, interactive learning environment. You will be taught by Perimeter Academic Fellows, teaching staff and some of the world's top physicists. We expect you to be fully integrated into the unique international culture and dynamic atmosphere of a leading research institute, [Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics](#), while earning your master's degree from the University of Waterloo.

Although you will predominantly be spending your days at Perimeter Institute, you will also be a registered graduate student at the University of Waterloo (UW) with all of the [privileges and services](#) that come with that status.

Classes start in September, and, within 10 months, successful graduates of PSI will receive both a master's degree in physics from the University of Waterloo and a Perimeter Scholars International Certificate from Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics.

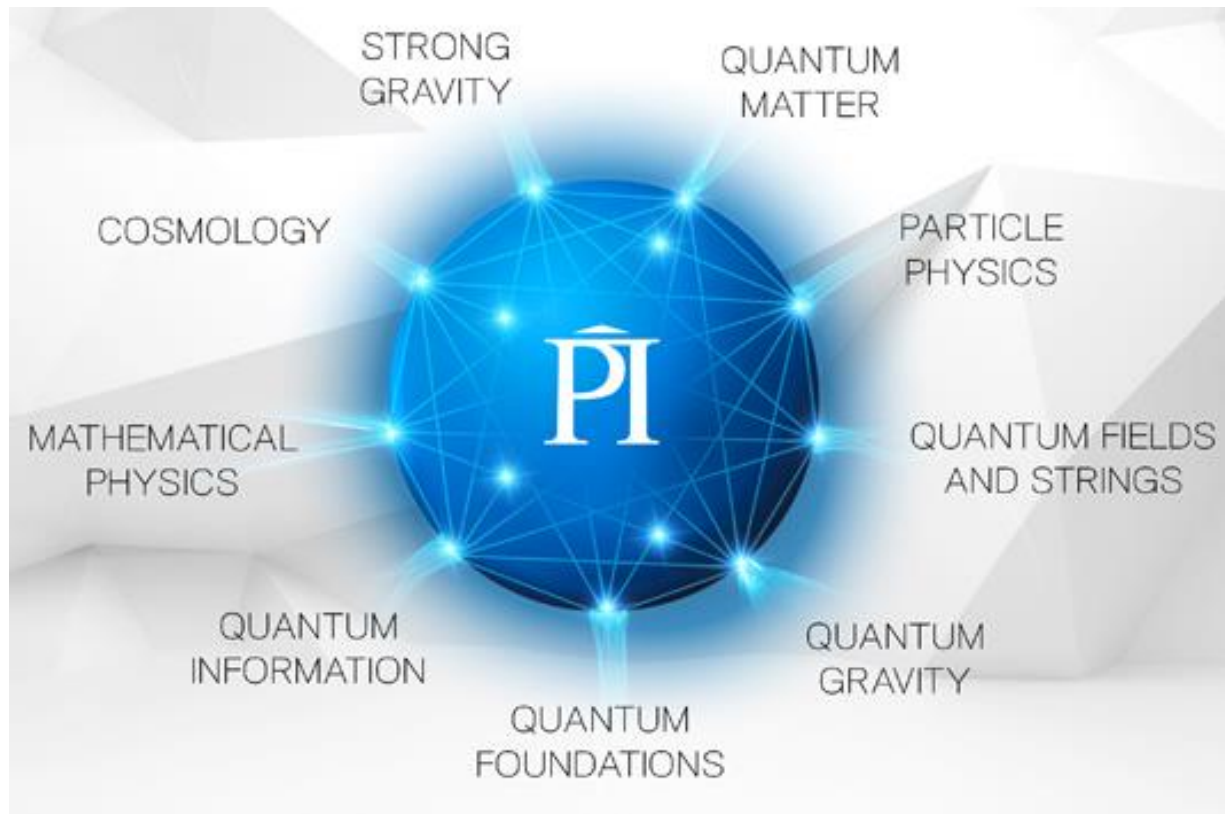
Perimeter is committed to its triple mandate of research, training and outreach, its vision and commitment to reconciliation, as well as equity, diversity, and inclusion. You can find more information on each of these subjects on our website:

[Perimeter's Vision and Mission](#)

[Land Acknowledgement](#)

[Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion](#)

Research at Perimeter



Students come to PSI for a variety of reasons. Some are attracted by the possibility of continuing on to a PhD with a Perimeter faculty member. Many students who apply have decided that they want to do theoretical physics but do not yet know enough to commit to a specific sub-area, such as string theory, particle physics, quantum gravity, cosmology, quantum foundations, quantum information, mathematical physics, strong gravity, or quantum matter. Studying a broad range of theoretical physics subjects with a diverse group of highly motivated students is a great way to discover what is right for you.

Visit Perimeter's website to learn more about each [research area](#), the [faculty](#), and our [research centres and initiatives](#) that accelerate progress in strategically chosen, promising research areas.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

Below is the listing for our administrative and academic staff. Everyone is committed to helping you have a successful year at Perimeter. Feel free to contact anyone if you need assistance or have questions:

Administration

Maïté Dupuis	Director, Lecturer, Teaching Faculty Research Area: Quantum Gravity
Dan Wohns	Assistant Director, Academic Staff Research Area: Cosmology
Angela Hovdestad	Program Manager, PSI, PSI Start, PSI Bridge, PhD
Tania Framst	Associate Director
Sunny Tsang	Head of Admissions Program and PI Experience
Haley Girard	Summer Intern
Amanda Ferneyhough	Program Manager, Visiting Researcher Programs & Library Services
Philip Sheppard	Travel, Housing and Programs Coordinator

Academic Staff/Lecturer/Teaching Faculty

Bindiya Arora	Research Area: Mathematical Physics
Ghazal Geshnizjani	Research Area: Cosmology
Lauren Hayward	Research Area: Quantum Matter
Mohamed Hibat Allah	Research Area: Quantum Matter/Machine Learning
Aldo Riello	Research Area: Quantum Gravity
Giuseppe Sellaroli	Research Area: Mathematical Physics
Gang Xu	Research Area: Cosmology

Visa and Immigration Support

Sheri Keffer	Senior Immigration & Human Resources Consultant
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IMPORTANT DATES

This is a brief outline of important dates as of May 2023, to give you a brief overview of what to expect. Some dates are still subject to change, so do not make any travel plans based on these dates (i.e., during winter break). A detailed **Important Dates** document will be available online soon and will be updated as the year progresses.

Activity	Date	Details
Travel Bookings	July	Travel bookings with Angela & Phil
UW Enrolment and Admin	Early August	Angela will be in touch regarding key deadlines and actions you need to take as a UW student.
Online Events	August	Optional online events to meet each other and program staff
Arrival in Waterloo	Sept 1	Students arrive at Residence
Labour Day Holiday	Sept 4	Public holiday - most banks and businesses closed; PI closed.
Classes begin	Sept 5	Here we go! Orientation and first day of classes at PI
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	Sept 30	National Day of Remembrance
Thanksgiving Day Holiday	Oct 9	Public Holiday
Deadline for Essay Agreement	Dec 8	Deadline to hand in your essay agreement
Winter Break (TBC)	Dec 23-Jan 7	Perimeter closed for winter break (no services)
Family Day Holiday	Feb 19	Public Holiday
Winter School	Mid-February	Held on-site
Good Friday	Mar 29	Public Holiday
Victoria Day	May 20	Public Holiday
Essay Defence Week	June 10-14	Essay defences will be scheduled during this week
Celebration Ceremony	June 21	PSI Program conclusion and celebration
Travel Dates	June 22-30	Return travel

A note about “Terms” - we follow the academic term structure of the University of Waterloo:

- Fall 2023 Term - September-December
- Winter 2024 Term - January - April
- Spring 2024 Term - May - June (PSI concludes June 30; UW term concludes August 31)

PSI GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

As a PSI student, you are an important member of the PI community of researchers - a community that includes PhD students, undergraduate interns, postdoctoral fellows, faculty members, affiliates, visitors and special guests. We expect you to engage in the following behaviors to ensure your success and the success of your peers:

- **Learn.** You are here to develop your skills and knowledge - take advantage of the resources and opportunities available to you! You are expected to attend and actively participate in all lectures, tutorials, and meetings. Additionally, colloquia are held on Wednesday afternoons and cover a broad range of topics. You are encouraged to attend and students are given the opportunity to ask the first questions.
- **Contribute to creating an inclusive environment.** At Perimeter, we value diversity and strive to create an environment where everyone feels welcomed, respected, and supported. Be open-minded, respectful, and considerate of others' opinions and beliefs.
- **Communicate.** Communication is essential for your success as a student and as a member of the community. Be clear and prompt in your communication with your peers, instructors, research advisors, and other staff and researchers.
 - For example, if you plan to miss a tutorial to attend a seminar, you must let the Academic Staff in charge know in advance and obtain their approval.
 - All homework must be completed and submitted **on time**. If you need support meeting the deadlines, communicate with the academic staff member, teaching assistant, or your staff mentor in advance of the deadline. Late homework assignments and missed deadlines create challenges for academic staff members, teaching assistants and administrators that affect all students. Meeting deadlines throughout the year will ensure that you have sufficient time to work on your essay, and that all students are collaborating on the same homework at the same time.

PROGRAM AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Upon completion of the PSI program, students may receive a PSI certificate from Perimeter Institute and a master's degree from the University of Waterloo.

To earn the PSI certificate students must:

- Pass 7 core courses, including 5 core courses with interviews. These courses must include:
 - Classical Physics with an interview
 - Quantum Theory with an interview
 - Quantum Field Theory I with an interview
 - Relativity with or without an interview
 - Quantum Field Theory II with or without an interview
 - Statistical Physics with or without an interview
 - Either Numerical Methods or Mathematical Physics with or without an interviewStudents are permitted to take additional interviews. Completing the interview in specific core courses will be prerequisites for specific elective courses.
- Pass 5 additional courses. These additional courses may be PSI elective courses, an eighth PSI core course, or other courses approved in advance by the Academic Programs Assistant Director.
- Participate in the Winter School.
- Pass the essay and defence.
- Participate in scientific communication training.
- Follow academic integrity requirements (including completing the University of Waterloo Graduate Academic Integrity Module)

NOTE: Completing the PSI certificate requirement automatically earns you the University of Waterloo's master's degree.

To earn **ONLY** the University of Waterloo [master's degree](#) students must:

- Pass 7 half-credit courses.
 - PSI Core courses are half-credit courses.
 - PSI Elective courses are quarter-credit courses.
- Complete a research paper. The paper must be approved by two faculty or academic staff.
- Complete the Graduate Academic Integrity Module

Some students choose to complete only the master's degree requirements. You should discuss your plans with your academic staff mentor or the Academic Programs Assistant Director if you are considering this possibility.

CURRICULUM

Courses

All courses are graded as Pass or Fail. As above, students are required to take at least 12 courses for the PSI certificate. You are expected to attend all lectures and tutorials for the courses you take.

Core Topics

Courses on foundational subjects, including classical physics, quantum theory, general relativity, quantum field theory I and II, statistical physics, numerical methods, and mathematical physics. All the core courses are offered with end-of-course interviews. Students are required to take **seven core courses for the PSI certificate**:

- **Block 1:** Classical Physics and Quantum Theory. Both courses are required. Students must take both interviews.
- **Block 2:** Relativity and Quantum Field Theory I. Both courses are required. Students must take the QFT I interview.
- **Block 3:** Statistical Physics and Quantum Field Theory II. Both courses are required.
- **Block 4:** Mathematical Physics and Numerical Methods. One course is required.

To pass a core course each student must:

- Pass the interview or alternative end-of-course evaluation. To pass the interview, a student must demonstrate understanding of basic concepts and calculations for that course. The interviews in some of the core courses are prerequisites for some elective courses. More details regarding the interviews and alternative end-of-course evaluations will be provided by the Academic Staff member in charge of each course. Students are required to take at least **five interviews** for the PSI certificate.
- Attend and participate in tutorials.
 - If you plan to miss a tutorial, **you must let the Academic Staff member in charge know in advance and obtain their approval.**
 - If you need to miss a tutorial due to illness or an emergency, let the Academic Staff member know as soon as you are able.
 - You are encouraged to attend seminars in your field of research. If you are planning to miss a tutorial because of a seminar, **please discuss beforehand with the Academic Staff member in charge.**
 - You will be required to make up missed tutorials. Making up the work may involve submitting written solutions to the tutorial or passing a mini-interview.
- Complete the homework assignments for the course.
 - In cases where a student needs additional time to finish an assignment, arrangements must be made with the Academic Staff in charge before the deadline.

- If your submitted homework assignment contains errors or omissions, you will be given feedback and an opportunity to resubmit the assignment. Assignments may be submitted up to three times.
- You are encouraged to collaborate with your peers. Academic integrity requires that your homework assignments reflect your own understanding of the material, and that you cite any references or sources (including your classmates!).

More details about the course requirements will be provided by the Academic Staff member in charge of each course.

Electives

These are courses discussing applications to real-world phenomena (such as particle physics, cosmology, gravitational physics, quantum gravity and quantum matter) or in-depth courses on specialized, cutting-edge fields.

To pass an elective course, each student must attend and participate in the tutorials and complete all homework assignments for the course. Elective courses do not have interviews.

The elective courses will be offered in blocks 4, 5, and 6 (January - May). More details on these courses will be provided at a later date.

Winter School

This weeklong, hands-on group research project will get you working directly with researchers at the Institute. The Winter School will be on-site with seasonal activities organized around Waterloo in the afternoons. The list of projects and supervisors will be communicated by December. The school concludes with a short conference to present project results and practice your scientific communication skills.

Essay

- **The objective** of the PSI essay and defence is to demonstrate an understanding of a problem in theoretical physics at the level of a research paper in the corresponding field. Essays are done under the supervision of a PI faculty member or another approved supervisor.
- Some project options will be posted online, but you are encouraged to approach researchers regarding research projects (after the program begins in September).
- The essay may or may not include original research.
- PSI essay supervisors are typically PI Faculty, PI Associate Faculty, PI Academic Staff, or faculty from neighboring universities such as Waterloo, Guelph or McMaster. Often, PSI students will work with PI post-docs on their PSI essays but in that case a Perimeter Faculty member is required to co-supervise the essay. Students may also work with faculty who have no formal links to PI. However, in all cases it is expected that the PSI Essay Supervisor be present in-person or via video-link during the student's final essay presentation in June.
- The essay must be 30 pages or fewer (not including front matter, acknowledgements, references, and appendices). In cases where a student includes additional technical

details in appendices or content beyond 30 pages, the examiners will not be required to read this material.

- The essay should use the PSI Overleaf template, which will be emailed to you.
- Presentations will consist of a 20-minute presentation and a 20-minute question and answer period.

The essay will be presented and publicly defended in June. It will be assessed by a committee that includes your essay supervisor, an academic staff and external examiner. The examination committee will determine a standing for the essay and defence from the following categories:

1. Unconditionally accepted: the essay and defence both meet the objective. In this case, the student is not required to submit a revised version of the essay (although the student may still choose to submit revisions).
 2. Conditionally accepted: the committee determines that the student must satisfy a set of conditions to meet the objective.
 3. Not accepted for the PSI certificate: the essay and/or defence do not meet the objective. In this case, faculty members from the University of Waterloo will determine whether the essay meets the research paper requirements for the coursework master's degree.
- You will receive feedback from the committee of examiners after the defence.
 - Essays must be submitted to your essay supervisor to be read and reviewed prior to the hand-in date.
 - You will submit your essay in PDF format and via Overleaf.

Publishing Winter School or PSI Essay Research

Some PSI students submit papers for publication based on their Winter School or PSI Essay research. If you publish a paper based on work you did at PI, you must include the following acknowledgement:

"Research at Perimeter Institute is supported in part by the Government of Canada through the Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development and by the Province of Ontario through the Ministry of Colleges and Universities."

ACADEMIC EVENTS

Colloquia

Colloquia are held on Wednesday afternoons and cover a broad range of topics. You are encouraged to attend. Students are given the opportunity to ask the first questions.

PSI Mentoring Program

ACADEMIC STAFF MENTORING:

Each PSI student will be paired with an Academic Staff member for private mentoring. Your mentor will contact you to set up regular meetings, where you are encouraged to discuss questions about the PSI program, plans for after PSI, and any personal concerns.

PHD BUDDY PROGRAM:

In addition to the Academic Staff mentor, you will be paired with a PhD student, who will be your "buddy" for the year. You can ask your buddy for help (regardless of whether it is physics related) and they will help you navigate this new, and sometimes intense, experience here at Perimeter. Buddies will be assigned after you arrive this fall.

Other Academic Programs Events

You will have the opportunity to attend several thematic events throughout the year. These events will give you the opportunity to meet former PSI students, to discuss PhD admissions and GRE or to talk about mental health issues. Access to scheduling details will be available in the shared Google calendar as they become available.

LIFE AT PSI (BEYOND PHYSICS)

Meals @ the Black Hole Bistro



Picture of Bistro 1

The PSI program includes 3 meals/day in our on-site Black Hole Bistro (excluding holidays and closures). Your dietary restrictions will be provided to the Bistro in advance, and the friendly staff is always available to answer any questions or concerns. Menu items are clearly indicated as Vegetarian, Vegan, Dairy Free and Gluten Free.

The following guidelines are in place now, subject to change:

Breakfast: 8:30AM-10AM

Lunch: 12PM-2PM

Dinner: 5PM-7PM

Snacks: Available all day (weekdays)

Bistro Rules:

- At each mealtime, You may order 1 meal to a maximum cost of \$18. Occasionally specialty items may exceed \$18, and if so, you will need to pay the difference with a 50% discount.
- Desserts are not included but you can order them at 50% off the menu price, paying when you place your order at the counter.
- The Bistro is licensed but alcohol must be purchased at your cost and consumed in moderation.
- The bistro accepts CAD money, debit and credit cards for any extra payments listed above.
- You may order free items from the snack counter throughout the day.
- You must be present when/after food is ordered and you cannot order for other students.
- You must place your order at least 15 minutes before the end of meal service and with ample time to receive and eat before classes or tutorials begin.
- Please avoid food modifications unless you have allergies or dietary restrictions.
- After arrival, you can find additional information on our PION intranet, including the daily menu and contact information for the bistro staff.

Living @ University of Waterloo Residence

Perimeter Institute will arrange group housing within walking distance of the Institute as part of your scholarship. Suites have private bedrooms (single bedroom with a door that locks), shared bathrooms (with a door that locks) and open living spaces shared with 2 other PSI students within the suite. Generally, PSI student apartments are on the same floor within a larger residence that includes additional university students.

You will need to bring your own toiletries, clothing and personal items but will be provided with kitchen equipment, dishes and cutlery, as well as linens, pillow and blanket (that will save room in your suitcase!). A detailed list of the items provided will be shared at a later date.

Scholarship and Banking @ PSI

As per the Program Manager's email during the acceptance process, the scholarship for this program is distributed on an 'as needed' basis. For example, if your flight is \$500 and your peer's is \$2500, you will not receive an extra payment of \$2000 - each student is supported *as needed*. The program covers your tuition, fees, food, accommodation and return travel including airport transfers between Toronto and Waterloo - and provides a living stipend to support weekend groceries and incidental expenses. You will not be asked to pay for any of the above expenses in advance.

At the beginning of each term, the Program Manager will meet with you to go over your personal scholarship for that term. The living stipend is paid in the first few weeks of each term for the full 4 month term (Spring Term payment covers 2 months only). The 2023-24 program budget is in the final stage of review, so we cannot confirm the exact living stipend rate, but it is expected to be approximately \$385 CAD per month.

In the first week, we will assist you in setting up your Canadian bank account and will aim to make the first living stipend payment by the middle of September. It is recommended that you arrive in Canada with some Canadian currency or a credit/debit card that will work in Canada. You may find it helpful to have about \$150 CAD accessible when you arrive for food at the airport, initial groceries, unexpected expenses, and social activities with your new peers. If arriving with some funds available presents a hardship for you, please contact the Program Manager to discuss options for an advance on your living stipend via academicmanager@perimeterinstitute.ca.

@ PION for all the info you need

Once you arrive, you'll activate your PI email address and then once your device passes our security screening, you will have access to PI's network. This includes [PION](#) - your source for everything you need to know about Perimeter from installing a printer to fitness classes and from scientific event schedules to research group meeting details. You will also receive our weekly emails - PI This Week for general Institute news, and Scientific Events for a full rundown of upcoming talks, seminars and conferences.

Email @ PSI

You will be both a PSI Scholar and a UW MSc student. Be sure to stay in touch by checking your Perimeter Institute email account daily, and your UW email address at least once a week. You should also complete UW orientation and [grad ready](#) activities specifically designed to support your transition to graduate studies.

PERIMETER COMMUNITY



Perimeter Community Events

Bistro Community Night (Thursdays at 5 – 8 pm)

PI's extended community of friends and family comes out for Community Night every Thursday from 5-8pm. Your meal as a PSI student is covered - menu and prices for external guests are posted on PION every week.

Friday Social (Fridays at 4 pm)

Meet and socialize with staff and faculty at Perimeter Institute while snacking on food from the bistro. Friday socials are free and happen every week at 4pm.

Wellness Events

Perimeter Institute is dedicated to your health and wellbeing. Check your PI weekly for wellness events including strength training, yoga, meditation, and other various workshops. Be sure to read the Monday newsletter "This Week at PI" for event announcements!

Public Outreach Volunteer Opportunities

Several times each year, Perimeter hosts public events such as lectures and science days. Past public lecture speakers include Nobel Laureates, Fields Medal recipients, and some of the world's most renowned scientists, including Stephen Hawking, Leonard Susskind, Edward Witten, Janna Levin, Roger Penrose, Sara Seager, and many more.

PSI Students can volunteer to be part of informal "Ask a Scientist" events - audience members ask questions about physics prior to entering the theatre for the event. You can email outreach@perimeterinstitute.ca for information on upcoming events and opportunities.

HEALTH CARE



Confidential Counselling Through Homewood Health

Employee, Student and Family Assistance Program (ESFAP) is a free confidential and anonymous program which offers short-term counselling and support related to a wide variety of issues including but not limited to relationship issues, depression and anxiety, stress management, grief and bereavement, work and family balance, parenting, gambling, substance use and work-related problems. It can also support in areas of childcare and eldercare, career planning, financial and legal consultation. The EFAP is independently administered by Homewood Health. Homewood Health will not release to Perimeter Institute any information pertaining to who has accessed the program.

To access the EFAP through Homewood Health please use the following:

- 24-hour toll-free number - 1-800-663-1142
- If outside of Canada or the United States **(+001) 604-689-1717**.
- Non-urgent inquires - <https://homewoodhealth.com/corporate/contact-eap-efap>
- Homewood Health's Mobile App Live-Chat - <https://homeweb.ca/app>

In-House Therapists

Jamie Foley is a Registered Psychotherapist supporting clients with many different experiences, including anxiety, complicated loss and grief, depression, complex decision-making, ethical struggles, neurodiversity, parenting, meaning-making and spirituality. He uses Narrative Therapy, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Solution Focused Therapy and Person Centred Spiritual Care psychotherapy. Jamie works with individuals and families. [More about Jamie](#)

Shelly Pavlić, director of Midtown Counselling, is a Registered Social Worker and Psychotherapist, specializing in treating depression, anxiety, stress, attention deficits, and family issues. She uses Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), Mindfulness Therapy and other interventions specific to residents' strengths and needs. Shelly works with adults, children, youth and families. [More about Shelly](#)

How to Access Services

To book a private counselling session, reach out to Jamie Foley or Shelly Pavlić and indicate that you are a PI resident and indicate your preferred dates and times to meet. The counsellor will reach back out to you to book a time to connect.

Contact Jamie via email: jamie@midtowncounselling.ca

Contact Shelly via email or phone: info@midtowncounselling.ca and/or **(+001) 226-313-3333**.

There are no one-size-fits-all solutions to challenges people face, and what works for one person may not work for someone else. There are many options for therapy and counselling available to PI residents and our inhouse therapists can help connect you to people and resources that feel right for you.

University of Waterloo Counselling Services

As per the University of Waterloo website:

"Mental Health Services aim is to provide holistic programming and services to help you lead a healthy and balanced life. We strive to provide a secure, supportive environment for students of all orientations and backgrounds. We are here to help! Students suffering from problems with anxiety, depression, problems with sleep, attention, obsessions or compulsions, relationship difficulties, severe winter blues, etc., may make an appointment by phone or in person. Appointments are usually available within two days of initial contact with one of our medical doctors. All contacts are completely confidential."

519-888-4096

1-833-628-5589 (if out of province)

counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca

<https://uwaterloo.ca/campus-wellness/counselling-services>

Seminars and Workshops

In addition to counselling services, University of Waterloo also offers seminars and workshops. They help with improving mental health and *preventing* anxiety attacks, mental burnout, or depression relapse. All students can benefit from these seminars. Seminars tend to be 1 hour in length and workshops are 1.5-2 hours in duration and are held weekly for a total of 6 to 8 sessions. You can watch pre-recorded workshops and seminars or you can sign up online. For more information, visit <https://uwaterloo.ca/campus-wellness/counselling-services/seminars-and-workshops#Workshop>

If you are sick and going to be away

- Go see a [doctor](#) or call Homewood Health for mental health issues (see previous page).
- Notify the Academic Staff in charge of the courses you are taking that you will be away.
- Meet with the Academic Staff in charge of the course after you are better to discuss making up any missed work.

Vaccination Information and Medical Centres

Refer to COVID19 safety measures for up-to-date information:

[COVID Protocols and Having Visitors at Perimeter.](#)

Student Health Services

Health Services – University of Waterloo (located across from the Student Life Centre):

519 888 4096

<http://info.uwaterloo.ca/infoheal/home/index.html>

Walk-in Clinics

The Doctors Office: 519 725 1514

University Shops Plaza, 170 University Ave. W., Waterloo

Urgent Care Clinic: 519 748 2327

385 Fairway Road South, at Wilson Ave., Kitchener

Westmount Urgent Care Clinic: 519 745 2273

751 Victoria St. South, Kitchener

Hospitals

Grand River Hospital: 519 742 3611

835 King St. West, Kitchener

St. Mary's General Hospital: 519 744 3311

Queen's Boulevard, Kitchener

Emergencies: Call 911

Pharmacies

Shoppers Drug Mart - 519.884.1500 *Waterloo Town Square*

Shoppers Drug Mart (Open 24h) – 519.880.8083 *50 Weber St. N.*

INFORMATION ON THE REGION



Links for local activities:

Perimeter is located within UpTown Waterloo - home to grocery stores, shops, bookstores and cafes - and is on the edge of the scenic Waterloo Park.

[Restaurants and businesses within walking distance](#)

[Events in the Area](#)

[Things to do in Waterloo](#)

Local History

Waterloo was built on land that was part of a parcel of 675,000 acres (2,730 km²) assigned in 1784 to the Iroquois alliance that made up the League of Six Nations. Almost immediately—and with much controversy—the native groups began to sell some of the land. Between 1796 and 1798, 93,000 acres (380 km²) were sold through a Crown Grant to Richard Beasley, with the Six Nations Indians continuing to hold the mortgage on the lands.

The first wave of immigrants to the area was Mennonites from Pennsylvania. They bought deeds to land parcels from Beasley and began moving into the area in 1804. The following year, a group of 26 Mennonites pooled resources to purchase all of the unsold land from Beasley and discharge the mortgage held by the Six Nations Indians.

The Mennonites divided the land into smaller lots; two of the lots initially owned by Abraham Erb became the central core of Waterloo. Erb is considered the founder of Waterloo as it was his sawmill (1808) and grist mill (1816) which became focal points of the area.

In 1816, the new township was named after Waterloo, Belgium: the site of the Battle of Waterloo, which had ended the Napoleonic Wars in Europe. After that war, the area became a

popular destination for German immigrants. By the 1840s, German settlers had overtaken the Mennonites as the dominant segment of the population. Many Germans settled in the small hamlet to the southeast of Waterloo. In their honour, the village was named Berlin in 1833 (renamed to Kitchener in 1916). Berlin was chosen as the site of the seat for the County of Waterloo in 1853.

Waterloo was incorporated as a village in 1857 and became the Town of Waterloo in 1876 and the City of Waterloo in 1948.

Ontario Weather

Perimeter and your residence have heating in the cold weather months and air conditioning in the summer, as well as windows that open for fresh air.

Spring (March 20 to June 20)

Spring can be rainy - make sure you have an umbrella and raincoat to stay dry. Average daytime temperatures are above 0° in March and rise slowly through the rest of the season. The nights are cool.

Summer (June 21 to September 21)

July and August can be very hot and humid with daytime temperatures above 20°C and sometimes above 30°C. In the summer you should wear a hat and sunscreen to prevent sunburn, and you may want to use a fan in your bedroom.

Fall (September 22 to December 20)

The weather gets cooler, the days get shorter, and the leaves on many trees change colour. The early part of fall is rainy in Waterloo while in northern parts of Ontario it may start snowing in October. The temperature slowly drops during the fall - you'll need a jacket and an umbrella to stay warm and dry.

Winter (December 21 to March 19)

In winter, it is cold and snows often. The temperature in most of the province is often below 0°C, day and night. Temperatures can drop below -30°, so make sure you have the right clothing and dress in layers. A waterproof winter jacket and boots, as well as hats, mittens, and scarves are all Canadian winter clothing staples.

University of Waterloo



As noted at the start of this guide - you will be both a PSI Scholar and a UW MSc student. Be sure to stay in touch with UW, checking your UW email address at least once a week, and completing orientation and [grad ready](#) activities specifically designed to support your transition to graduate studies.

History

The University of Waterloo (commonly referred to as UW) is a public research university. The main campus is located on 400 hectares (990 acres) of land in Uptown Waterloo, adjacent to Perimeter Institute and Waterloo Park. The university offers a wide variety of academic programs, which is administered by six faculties and three affiliated university colleges. Waterloo is a member of the U15: a group of research-intensive universities in Canada.

The university traces its origins to July 1, 1957, as the Waterloo College Associate Faculties – a semi-autonomous entity of Waterloo College (which later evolved into the present-day Wilfrid Laurier University). The entity had formally separated from Waterloo College in 1959 and was incorporated as a university. The university was established in order to fill the need of a program to train engineers and technicians for Canada's growing postwar economy. Since then, the university had greatly expanded, adding a faculty of arts in 1960, and the College of Optometry of Ontario moving from Toronto in 1967. The university is co-educational with nearly 26,000 undergraduate and over 4,000 post-graduate students. Alumni and former students at the university can be found all across Canada and in 141 countries around the world. Waterloo's varsity teams, known as the Waterloo Warriors, compete in the Ontario University Athletics conference of the Canadian Interuniversity Sport.

University of Waterloo Academic Integrity

To create and promote a culture of academic integrity, the behavior of all members of the University of Waterloo is based on honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. All members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to hold to the highest standard of academic integrity in their studies, teaching, and research. The Office of Academic Integrity's website contains detailed information on the University of Waterloo policy for students and faculty. This site explains why AI is important and how students can avoid academic misconduct. It also identifies resources available on campus for students and faculty to help achieve academic integrity, both in and out of the classroom.

Academic policies, regulations, and procedures apply to all students in the Faculty of Science at the University of Waterloo. Failure to conform to policies, regulations and procedures may jeopardize or negate a student's opportunity to pursue and/or complete their course of study. The purpose of this page is to provide links to the official University of Waterloo Policies, Regulations and Procedures

Office of Academic Integrity's website: <http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>

Grievances Link: <https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>

QUESTIONS?

Hopefully this guide and the communication you have received from the Program Manager have answered most of your questions. If there is something you are unsure about, especially if it is something that worries you, please reach out to academicmanager@perimeterinstitute.ca. We will respond directly to you as well as consider updates to this document or our processes to answer your question for future students, too.