

Writing & Learning Services

Our mission is to support students, staff, and faculty in the development of academic skills, including written and oral communication skills, self-management, time and project management, and studying. We serve as leaders to the University of Guelph community and provide a wide range of services, including group-based, individual, and peer mentoring programs.

Areas of Expertise

Writing

- Developing familiarity with academic writing expectations
- Applying strategies for outlining and composing essays, theses, papers, and chapters
- Recognizing and addressing issues of clarity, cohesion, and style
- Improving skills for planning and developing larger academic writing projects
- Synthesizing sources to properly support ideas and observations

Studying and Time Management

- Learning through evidence-based strategies for exam preparation, note-taking, and reading
- Managing time, setting goals, and building strategies to enhance motivation and reduce procrastination
- Building academic resilience and coping with failure and stress

English Language Support

- Applying strategies to address academic speaking, reading, listening, and writing tasks with confidence

Presentations and Group Work

- Preparing and delivering academic presentations and thesis defenses
- Preparing and presenting academic posters
- Working effectively in groups

Services and Programs for Students

- [Appointments and consultations](#) offered by professional staff and student staff
- [Supported Learning Groups](#), peer-led weekly study groups for historically challenging courses.
- [Workshops and events](#), including Writing with AI, Academic Skills, English as an Additional Language Series, Writing in the Sciences, Thesis Writing Workshops, and [Dissertation Writing Retreat](#), a week-long writing program for graduate students completing theses
- The [Pearson Family Student-Athlete Mentor Program](#), a program to enhance the academic performance of student-athletes through peer mentoring
- 100+ [Writing resources](#) and [Studying resources](#) with handouts and videos to support students' academic performance

Services and Programs for Faculty and Staff

- [Consultations](#) for faculty, staff, postdoctoral researchers and visiting scholars working on writing projects
- Customized in-class instruction
 - Request a [writing instructional session](#)
 - Request an [instructional session on presentation skills, reading, note-taking or related topics](#)
- Customized [training session](#) for teaching assistants and student leaders
- Consultation services for the collaborative development of course activities, assignments, learning outcomes, and assessment tools
- [Faculty Writing Retreat](#), a five-day retreat for faculty, staff, and postdoctoral scholars working on scholarly writing projects

Writing and Learning Services Staff

Joannah O'Hatnick (Manager), Jason Dodd, Jodie Salter, Victoria Fritz, Sarah Gibbons, Heather Grierson, Kimm Khagram, Mary McCaffery, Adeiza Isiaka, Anne Marie Portelli, and more than 80 student staff

Learn more by visiting [Studying Resources](#) and [Writing Resources](#)

Contact us at learning@uoguelph.ca or writing@uoguelph.ca