

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' COUNCIL  
**2025-2026**  
**EXECUTIVE ROADMAP**



# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As an organization created to empower and support our students throughout their educational experience, it is particularly important to acknowledge and recognize the power of education as a tool for healing and reconciliation. The USC always seeks to empower students on our campus to voice their perspectives on the issues that matter most to them, but we must recognize that there is still immense work to be done, at the USC and across Western's campus. We must remain active in our process of learning and unlearning to ensure that we take responsibility for educating ourselves on the history of the lands that we are situated upon and their impacts on those that lived upon them first.

With this, we wish to acknowledge that Western University and our Affiliate Colleges are located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Attawandaron peoples, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum.

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# INTRODUCTION

Dear students,

We're proud to present the 2025-2026 USC Executive Roadmap, which outlines our priorities and goals for this academic year. The document is the culmination of numerous consultations with students, hours of deliberation and discussions, and key learnings from the organization's past challenges and successes. The Roadmap is one of the guiding documents we use to set the strategic direction for the USC to ensure we are fulfilling our mission to enhance the educational experience and quality of life for all undergrads at Western.

The Roadmap is divided into five distinct themes: Academics, Supports & Resources, Political Engagement, Community Building, and Student Experience. These areas of focus will inform many of our events, programming, and initiatives this year. The document highlights some of what we hope to accomplish, but it is by no means a complete list of the work we plan to do for you this year.

Our executive team is committed to creating an inclusive, engaging, and rewarding student experience for you at Western, and this document provides you with an opportunity to hold us accountable to this mission throughout the year, as well as provide feedback on how we can make the USC work for you.

As your student government, your megaphone to decision makers, your campus eatery, your guide to navigating campus life, your place to kick start your career, and your social calendar – the USC is entrenched and invested in your experience at Western. Above all else, we work for you and are deeply committed to being led by students, for students.

We're excited to get started and demonstrate students truly have the power to change the world.

Sincerely,

## **2025-2026 USC Executive Team**

Kathleena Henricus, USC President  
Omar Sayyed, VP University Affairs  
Jenna Ijam, VP External Affairs  
Rhegan Whelpley, VP Orientation & Programming  
Wade Masse, VP Student Services  
Saad Ahmad, VP Student Engagement





The background of the image is a photograph of a modern academic lounge or study area. It features several round, light-colored wooden tables arranged in a cluster. Each table is surrounded by white, modern-style chairs with black metal frames. The floor is a light-colored carpet. In the background, there is a dark grey wall and a wooden counter or bar area with stools. The ceiling has recessed lighting.

# ACADEMICS

*Helping make campus a safe, inclusive environment.*

# ACADEMICS

*Being a student unites all 36,000 of us on this campus. For at least four years, you're working hard to learn the skills and knowledge that will set you up for success after graduation. In that time, the USC is here for you making sure that you have the support you need to succeed.*

## **Undocumented Absences & Loopholes**

Advocate to create a universal and well-known definition of a “flexible deadline” for professors, academic advisors, and students to ensure fair and consistent application of the undocumented absences policy across faculties.

## **Upper Year Classes Grade Return**

Advocate alongside the Western Student Senators to ensure all students in first-entry undergraduate courses, where possible, receive at least 15% of their course grade by the withdrawal deadline.

## **Requiring a Digital Way to Submit Assignments**

Advocate alongside Western Student Senators to ensure that students have the option to submit their assignments through online learning platforms, where possible.

## **Accommodations for Make-Up Exams**

Work alongside the Western VP Academic Programs, University Registrar, and the Western Student Senators to create a new academic policy that ensures that no student is penalized for missing a lab, class, or any other marked course components because they are writing a scheduled make-up exam.

## **Faculty of Ed. Opportunities for Alternative Field Experiences**

Connect the Education Students' Council with SHAD Western to ensure more students in Teacher College have the option to participate in paid “Alternative Field Experiences” that benefit them and the larger community.

## **Spaces on Campus**

Advocate to Western Administration to not book events in convertible, multi-use spaces during exam periods; continue conversations about reopening the Brescia Library; work with Western to add storage spaces for communally-shared religious items in or near all multi-faith rooms and ensure adequate care is taken to maintain them; collaborate with students to create a mural near Concrete Beach.

## **Protecting Students from Unreliable AI Detection Softwares**

Work with the Senate and Western's Chief AI Officer to advocate for stricter guidelines around AI detection software until a reliable one is available that professors can use, which will help reduce false academic misconduct claims against students.



# COMMUNITY BUILDING

*Strengthening our connections on campus*



# COMMUNITY BUILDING

*Choosing Western is about more than just the campus. You're choosing to be part of a community that will have a huge impact on your experience here. At the USC, we want to make sure that you always feel part of that community, and are helping us find new ways to make it better for everyone.*

## **USC Town Halls**

Institute open forum meetings where any student can speak, and work with the VP Student Engagement to engage Soph teams, clubs, Faculty Councils, and first-years to discuss the issues that matter to them.

## **Transparency**

Make students aware of our advocacy wins and impact; better inform students about USC supports & resources; ensure students are aware of any new fees and costs associated with their tuition; better advertise paid and volunteer opportunities at the USC and throughout campus; create a centralized USC web page where every faculty's student donation/opportunity/grants fund can be accessed, with clear instructions on how to apply.

## **Overhauling the USC Now App**

Over the course of the year, research ways to overhaul, redo, and rethink the USC Now app – turning it into something useful for collecting student feedback, managing club memberships, advertising events, connecting with soph teams, and more.

## **Soph Appreciation Day**

In early January, host a Soph Appreciation Day to show the USC's appreciation for Soph's hard work during OWeek, and their year-long commitment to support first-years.

## **Club Awards**

Host a Club Awards night to recognize the contributions and successes of our USC clubs, with winners being selected by clubs nominating their peers.

## **USC x MASC Day of Sport**

In late September, collaborate with the Mustang Athletics Student Council (MASC) to host a Day of Sport to support student-athletes and connect athletic/ fitness clubs to students on campus.



### **Reestablishing Relationships with Professional Schools**

Develop stronger relationships with Western Medicine, Education, Dentistry, and Law students and their councils by integrating professional student perspectives into USC planning; offer up the Mustang Lounge to their faculty councils during the summer to host class-selected awards and graduation ceremonies.

### **Sponsorship & Partnerships**

Develop an Ethical Partnership Code, designed through student and expert consultations, that will screen companies to determine if they align with USC values while supporting the student experience; partner with local fitness centres to establish discounts and free trials for students; partner with Odd Bunch to provide students with healthy, affordable grocery options.

### **Fostering Cross-Campus Student Leadership on Senate**

Work with the Western Student Senators, faculty and affiliate councils to raise the profile of these senate seats through a “Senate Educational” campaign.

### **Focus Groups for OUSA Papers**

Hold focus groups when OUSA papers are being developed to ensure that OUSA is representing Western students correctly.





A group of four people (three women and one man) are standing in front of a white bus. The bus has a destination sign that reads '1977 TO NATURAL SCIENCE' in yellow LED lights. The number '640' is visible on both sides of the bus. The people are dressed in professional-casual attire. The two women in the center are wearing black vests with a circular logo that says 'USC'. The man in the center is wearing a blue t-shirt under a black vest. The woman on the far left is wearing a maroon blazer, and the woman on the far right is wearing a light green blazer. All four are smiling at the camera.

# POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

*Being your megaphone to all levels of government*



# POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

*Being a student-led organization means advocating for students to all decision-makers – including the politicians who shape your university experience. From tuition and housing to transit and mental health, the policies created beyond campus walls have a real impact on student life. That's why the USC is committed to engaging with all levels of government, ensuring that student voices are at the table and that your priorities are impossible to ignore.*

## **USC Takes on Parliament**

Leverage the extensive network of USC Alumni working in federal politics to organize a USC lobby program in Ottawa to ensure Western students' perspectives are represented at the federal level.

## **Our London Too**

Ensure that the VP External Affairs will be an active participant in the municipal committees whose decisions impact students; build a partnership with the London Public Library so that more students can benefit from this municipal service (which includes instrument rentals, ebooks, park passes & more).

## **Housing**

Host a “Housing Rights Fair” with OUSA present to allow students to convey their concerns directly to the people who represent them; host a “Find a Roommate Mixer” with Western’s Off-Campus Housing Services present to speak to students and provide educational materials on their rights as tenants.

## **Addressing Gender Based and Sexual Violence (GBSV)**

Advocate for greater transparency and accountability in GBSV reporting, while ensuring trauma-informed, student-centered survivor support; organize a USC Take Back the Night in partnership with Take Back the Night, the White Ribbon Campaign (a movement started after the École Polytechnique Massacre aiming to involve men in a campaign to end violence against women), and the Moose Hide Campaign (an Indigenous-led movement that involves men and boys in the journey to end violence against women and children). Seek involvement from Western, the London community, students, and government officials.

## **Affordability**

Advocate for OSAP reforms, Federal Student Grants, and university funding increases in line with the government’s own Blue Ribbon Panel Report; Advocate for more opportunities for students to participate in paid work terms to help offset education costs.

### Transportation & Safety

Work with the City during their current service plan review process to ensure better transit service, especially for students during peak times and on placement; Ensure the North and West legs of LTC's BRT are built, as this impacts student access to reliable and frequent transit, in addition to increasing zoning capacity along the route, providing greater access to housing; Lobby for student discounts on VIA Rail; work with City traffic engineers to improve pedestrian safety in high-risk areas, in addition to advocating for better lighting, Code Blue Boxes, and security in areas frequented by students.

### Ethical Investing

Commit to having the organization's investment portfolio remain ethical long-term by making the USC a signatory of the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investing (UNPRI); work to action the Divestment Motion passed by Council last year by providing administration with student perspective on ethical investment.





# SUPPORTS & RESOURCES

*Uniting the student voice to call for a better educational experience*



# SUPPORTS & RESOURCES

*We can't stay true to our mission if we don't work to make sure that students feel welcomed, represented, and supported on this campus. Whether through the USC's own programs and services or advocacy to Western, we're working hard to provide you with what you need, when you need it.*

## **Weekly Nutrition Coach Clinic**

Implement a free, weekly drop-in nutrition coach clinic for students to receive nutritional advice and get connected to further resources. To work in addition to the services covered under PurpleCARE, like professional dietitian services.

## **Lab Coat Refurbishment Program**

Establish a lab coat recycling program where students can donate used lab coats, and the USC will clean, refurbish and provide them to new students for free. Modelled after McMaster's ReCoat initiative.

## **USC Food Support Services**

Increase awareness on how to use the USC Food Support Services and what it means to be eligible, by having more informational posters across campus; host "Stock the Bank", a team-based competition, where student groups can compete to win points by collecting non-perishable food items through community initiatives and food drives.

## **Transportation Options**

Extend the route of the USC's Grocery Shuttle to have stops at grocers like T&T, Indo-Asian Grocery and Spice, and Feliza African Grocery Store; partner with a safe and reliable Ontario intercity bus company to provide a trustworthy service to Pearson Airport during the Winter Break.

## **Naloxone Training Sessions**

Hold free Naloxone training sessions in the McKellar Theatre, open to everyone on campus. Naloxone Training is conducted through a 30-minute video, after which participants will be given a personal Naloxone kit they can keep.

## **Live Capacity Monitoring at the Rec Centre**

Incorporate live capacity monitoring at the Rec Centre onto the USC website by communicating occupancy data published by the Rec Centre through X (formerly known as Twitter) every half-hour.



### **Returning Eating Disorder Training for Sophs**

Bring back eating disorder training for orientation leaders by expanding the existing relationship with industry experts already at Western.

### **ASL Interpretation for Orientation and Major Programming**

Ensure there is an ASL interpreter for main stage programming at OWeek and other major USC events, where appropriate.

### **Club System Reform**

Work to exempt all cultural clubs from the restriction around external food from being served in UCC spaces; introduce a needs-based bursary that will cover the cost of club memberships for students in need; review the Charity Cap policy for clubs.

### **Professional Development**

Offer hiring-focused EDI & Anti-Bias training for all faculty council executives; Bring back funding for the Arts & Humanities Writer-in-Residence.

### **Accessibility to Mental Health Resources**

Advocate for better promotion and visibility of resources and initiatives to reduce stigma and improve the overall student experience through programming and social media initiatives in addition to World Mental Health Day; Work with the Mental Health Support Center to make it easier to book appointments and to improve hours so that they are more accessible for students.





# STUDENT EXPERIENCE

*Offering diverse programming for every type of student*





# STUDENT EXPERIENCE

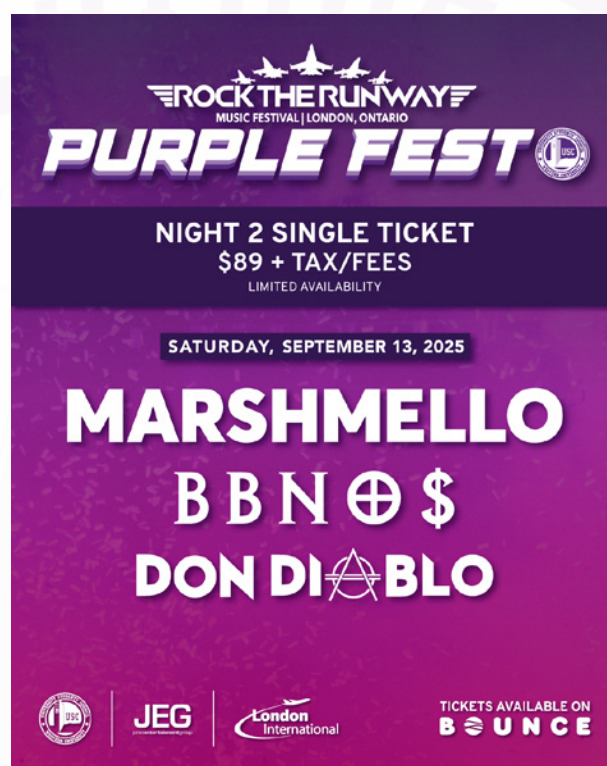
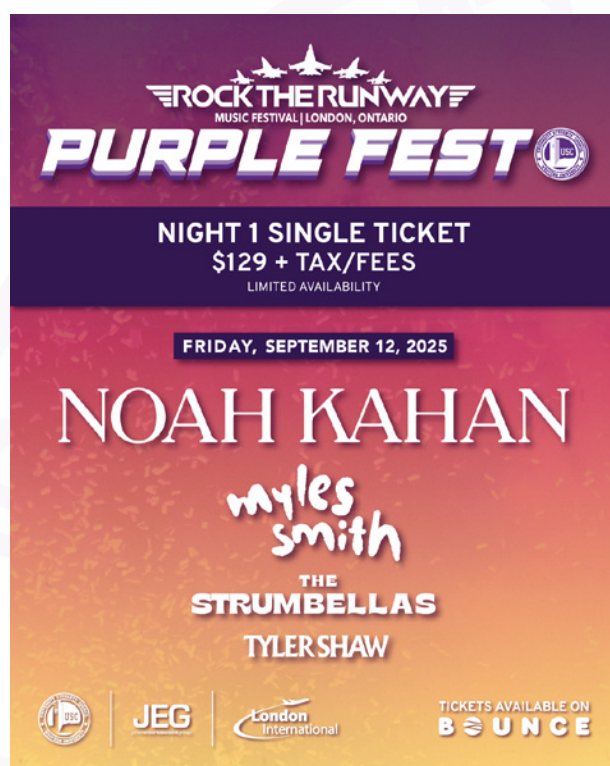
*Every year, first-year students start their time at Western with Orientation Week (OWeek). It's their introduction to their new friends, their classmates, and their campus life. While OWeek is a massive part of the student life equation, it's not the only thing the USC does to make sure you have an incredible student experience. From concerts to therapy dogs, trivia nights, to dance competitions, the USC is committed to hosting a wide-range of events, programming, and initiatives so that every student can be part of something that works for them. These are just a few of the things we have planned for you this year, so stay tuned for more!*

## Student Publications Fair

Invite all campus publications to participate in a Student Publications Fair in the UCC, where students can learn about the chance to publish their academic and creative works, and publications can improve outreach.

## PurpleFest at Rock the Runway

Evolving from the idea of a “multi-day musical festival,” the USC is partnering with Jones Entertainment Group and the London International Airport to host PurpleFest at Rock the Runway in September. It will be the biggest concert London has ever seen!



### **Western Stampede**

Host the Western Stampede festival in early October in honour of the Mustang (JW) featuring carnival games, apple cider, food trucks, live music, rodeo events, and other fall festivities.

### **USC Dance Competition**

Run a “USC Dance Cup”, a night where campus dance teams compete for the votes of the student body. The winning team(s) will receive prizes to support their teams’ development.

### **Beach Days to Grand Bend**

Introduce a weekly shuttle bus from Alumni Hall to Grand Bend in September so students can enjoy the beach during the warmer weather.

### **Esports Gaming Tournament**

Host an esports gaming tournament in the Mustang Lounge where students can form teams, compete, and enjoy a night of fun.

### **Build Day Showcase**

Host a “Build Day Showcase” in the Mustang Lounge, so engineering students can display their creations & get Western excited about innovation on campus.

### **Second Semester Clubs Week**

To support club financing & students looking to get involved in the second half of the year, hold a second-semester Clubs Week, giving clubs a chance to promote themselves before the membership deadline.







# CONNECT WITH US

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