

# F.A.Q. - Frequently Asked Questions

Laurier Crash Course – Graduate School Kick-Off | October 10, 2024

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## Pre-arrival Check-in

**Here's what everyone's saying and feeling about starting their graduate studies in January.**

- I'm stressed about starting my program.
- I'm trying to get as much info as possible ahead of time.
- I don't want to miss anything.
- I'm nervous about an online program.
- I'm nervous about managing school and working full-time.
- I'm excited to start my program in January.
- I'm looking forward to being an RSW!
- Happy to know I'm not behind with not completing the checklists.
- I'm wondering if graduate school will be somewhat similar to my undergrad experience.

## Housing

**I'm looking for off-campus housing. Where can I get support?**

The Off-Campus Housing team can provide you with resources and support to find housing. Visit the [Off-Campus Housing website](#) for information on your rights as a tenant, important things to know before you sign a lease, and their contact information.

## International Student Support

**I'm an international student. Where can I get support?**

Visit the [International Student Support](#) website for details on the supports they offer, important information regarding medical insurance and immigration, and events for international students.

## Funding and Scholarships

**I'm looking for information on scholarships, bursaries, and payment plans.**

You can watch the Funding Your Graduate Studies video on the Incoming Graduate Student website under [Laurier Crash Course](#) to get a general idea of what is available.

You can find information and details on [scholarships and bursaries](#), [money management supports](#), and [payment plans for graduate students](#) on the website.

You can connect with Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies for inquiries regarding [Graduate Funding and Awards](#).

You can find details the General Student Profile, application deadlines, and how the process works on their [website](#). If you have questions you can connect with [Service Laurier](#) for support.

## Laurier Essentials

### What is the OneCard and how do I get one?

You can visit the [OneCard website](#) for details on what you can use the OneCard for, why you need one, how to submit your picture, and how to pick it up.

	Kitchener-Waterloo	Brantford
Gyms/Athletics	Athletic Complex	LBYMCA
Transit <i>*for full-time students</i>	Grand River Transit (GRT)	Brantford Transit
Campus Access	Buildings and rooms specific to your program and student status.	Buildings and rooms specific to your program and student status.
Library	Signing out of Library materials.	Signing out of Library materials (housed at the Brantford Public Library).
Student ID	Variety of student discounts on and off campus!	Variety of student discounts on and off campus!

### Does Laurier have a bookstore?

Yes, Laurier’s bookstore is called The Hawk Shop. You can order your books and have them shipped or pick them up. This is also the place where you can get all your Laurier merch! You can find all the details on the [Hawk Shop website](#).

### What is MyLearningSpace?

MyLearningSpace is Laurier’s learning management system. You’ll find your course information, syllabi, and other course details and deliverables there. You can visit the [MyLearningSpace guide](#) on the website for steps on how to log in and navigate MyLS.

### What is LORIS?

LORIS (Laurier Online Registration and Information System) is the tool you use to register for courses, see your grades, check your student status, see your tuition invoices, and several other things. Please familiarize yourself with LORIS and visit the [LORIS Guide](#) on the website if you have trouble logging in or have questions about its uses.

### What is the SAFEHawk App?

The SAFEHawk app is a mobile safety application you can download onto your phone. The app pushes notifications on your phone to alert you of urgent and important information to keep you safe on campus. You can find more information on the app and how to get it on the [website](#).

### **Where can I get MS Office 265 for FREE?**

As a Laurier student you can get MS Office 365 for free! Visit the [Laurier website](#) for information on how to download and get your full version for free.

## **Graduate Student Supports**

### **What is Graduate Student Orientation (GSO) and when is it?**

Graduate Student Orientation information will be posted on the [Incoming Graduate Student](#) website around a month before the beginning of the term. GSO is an opportunity for you to meet your fellow peers, make connections, and learn about graduate studies and the supports available to you. While it is not mandatory, it is highly recommended.

### **What is Writing Services?**

Writing Services can support your writing projects from the very beginning. Not sure if your writing is on par for your program? Not sure how to start an assignment? Writing Services can help you figure it out. You can find details on workshops, booking appointments, and the supports they provide on the [Writing Services website](#).

### **How does Laurier support students with disabilities (or suspected disabilities)?**

You can register with our Accessible Learning department that supports students with disabilities (or suspected disabilities). You can find out how to register and the supports available on the [Accessible Learning](#) website.

### **How is the library more than just books?**

The library is more than just the stacks. Through the library, you can access online journals, support from liaison librarians, interlibrary loans, and excellent study spaces.

The liaison librarians are very helpful in finding journals and other sources that are most relevant for your program/field.

Through the OMNI search system, you can also access resources from partnering Ontario university libraries.

You can find all the details and supports the library has to offer on their [website](#) for graduate specific supports.

## **Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies**

### **Will we be able to register for courses we are interested in but are not in our major/program requirement?**

Depends on your program... You may be able to register for courses outside your major/program, often as electives or with special permission. Availability can vary based

on seat limits and prerequisites, so it's best to check your program's guidelines and consult an advisor.

**Do you know much about taking breaks in the program for the fully online part-time programs?**

Graduate students can request and apply for breaks in their program of study. You can visit the [FGPS website](#) for information and details on the types of leaves and how you can apply for them.

**Midterms?**

Is it typical to have midterms in a course-based master's program?

In course-based master's programs, midterms might be included, though some programs may instead prioritize assessments like projects, presentations, or papers, depending on the field and specific course structure.