

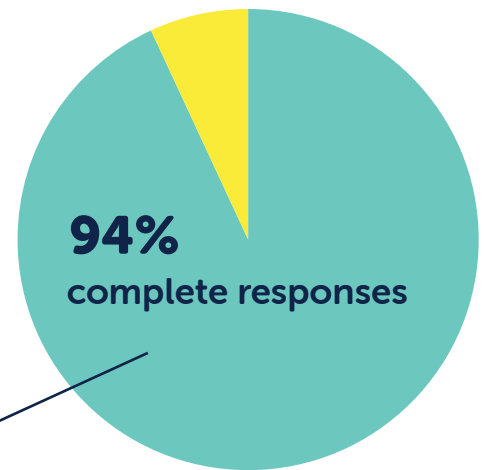
# Return to Campus Report Summary

## Overview

Goal: gain a more in depth understanding of how WUSA members experienced the return to campus in Fall 2021.

Available via Qualtrics from October 4 until October 18, 2021

A total of 1360 responses were recorded, 1289 of which were completed responses.



## Findings

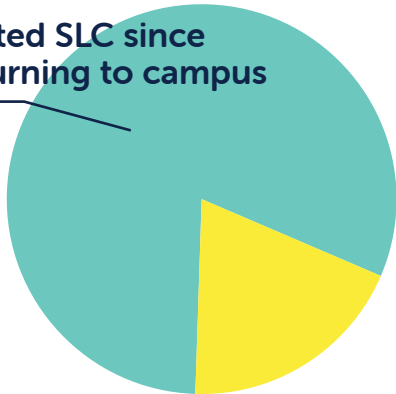
**International students** discussed the long travel and immigration process which has been made much more difficult due to COVID-related flight bans and travel restrictions.

Most International students were unaware of the support services in place at the University of Waterloo, such as those provided by the Student Success Office, that could assist them.

## WUSA Services and Student Life Centre

**79%**

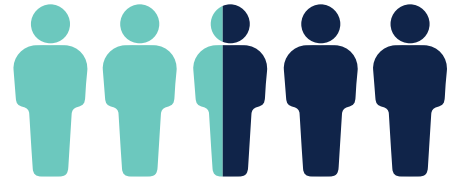
visited SLC since returning to campus



GRT UPass: Most popular WUSA service

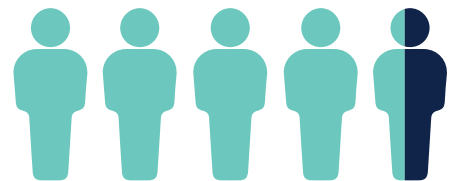
**44%**

of students have used it this term



**88%**

of students were either extremely satisfied or satisfied



### Top Concerns

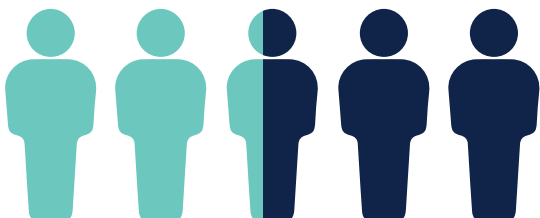
Lack of study areas and food options in the SLC

Many students felt that GRT UPass was important since it allows for accessible transportation around the city .

## WUSA Student-Run Services

For each WUSA Student-Run Service, **less than 20%** of students were aware that in-person operations had expanded in the fall.

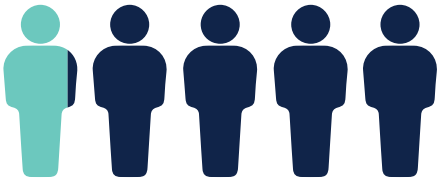
**47%** of students said they are more likely to access a service now that they are aware of in-person operations.



## University Services

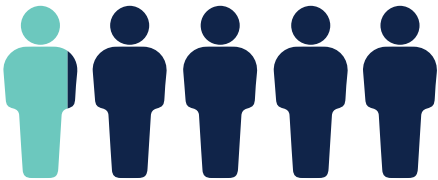
Food Service Outlets received the lowest rating compared to other University Services.

**19%** of students said they were somewhat or extremely dissatisfied



**Top Concerns**  
More food options for those with dietary restrictions (i.e., gluten-free, vegan) and increased hours on evenings and weekends

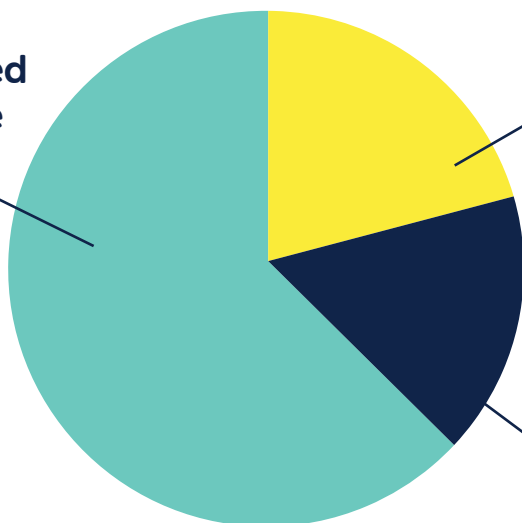
**18%** of students said they were somewhat or extremely dissatisfied with Athletics.



**Top Concerns**  
Difficulty securing a timeslot for PAC and cumbersome process to show proof of vaccination

## Campus Safety & Wellness

**63%** of students supported the vaccine mandate



**21%** of students were against the vaccine mandate

**16%** of students did not have an explicit opinion

Overall, students have differing opinions regarding to what extent COVID-19 restrictions, including the vaccine mandate, should exist on campus. One thing that has been made clear is that if there are restrictions, they need to be enforced and less cumbersome to follow and stay up to date on.

Many students asked for more information on how the vaccine mandate is enforced and what the consequences are.

**Top Concerns**  
Negative impact of safety measures on campus experience and increased transmission through large class sizes

## Overall Student Experience on Campus

Ability to socialize with friends was the most common reason why students enjoyed being back on campus .

**Only 1.74%**  
of students stated they did not enjoy being back on campus

**Top Concerns**  
Availability of study space and importance of hybrid course option



## Student Concerns for Winter 2022

- Housing availability and cost
- COVID transmission through in-person lectures
- Compulsory in-person classes encouraging sick students to attend
- The need for more social events and campus tours

# Recommendations

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Both WUSA and the University of Waterloo should consider the following:

## International Students

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- Raise more awareness about available supports and services by communicating to both incoming and current international students
- Create a guide or list of all documents required at Canadian Immigration



## Study Spaces

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- Revisit public health guidelines and whether any current processes could be reduced or additional space could be added to increase on-campus options for study and social gatherings
- Increase the number of floors, study rooms and group study spaces open in the campus libraries
- Increase the hours of operation for campus buildings and libraries both on weekdays and on the weekend



## Dining Spaces

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- Consider re-visiting their protocols for having designated dining areas or increase the hours of operation of these areas



## Access to PAC

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- Update protocols for the PAC to align with other commercial gyms in Ontario
- Integrate students' vaccination status to their WatCard



## Housing

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- Allow for flexibility in the manner of course delivery for the winter and allow students to take their courses remotely if they are unable to secure housing in Waterloo for the Winter term



## Social Events and Tours

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- Make a clear effort to enhance the social aspect on campus
- Provide small tours or students who are on campus for the first time



## WUSA Services

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- Continue to advocate for the GRT UPass as a WUSA Service
- Increase awareness of WUSA Student-Run Services and their increased in-person operations

