

## IMPORTANT DATES

**December 4** – Engineering Grad Students Holiday Party at Sky Park (must register)

**December 6** – Last Day of Classes

**December 9-21** - Final exam period

**December 4** – FGSR Grad Students Night

**December 24 - January 1** - Campus Closed for Holiday Break

## CONTACT US

Main Office: [engg.grad@uregina.ca](mailto:engg.grad@uregina.ca)

Gina: [gina.macpherson@uregina.ca](mailto:gina.macpherson@uregina.ca)

Wendy: [wendy.tower@uregina.ca](mailto:wendy.tower@uregina.ca)

Book an advising appointment:

<https://www.uregina.ca/engineering/students/advising.html>

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### **GTA/TA Positions – Application closed**

The applications for GTA/TA positions are now closed. Thank you everyone who applied for a GTA/TA position. Offers will be made in early January. Please ensure that your study permit and registration are current for the term.

### **Are you completing the requirements of your degree in December 2024?**

If yes, please book an appointment to get your photo taken so you will be included in the composite!

To book a graduation photo session with Camera One or to find out more details about when and where you can have your photo taken, please sign up on-line at [www.cameraone.ca](http://www.cameraone.ca), email [raig@cameraone.ca](mailto:raig@cameraone.ca) or call (306) 533-3347.

Completion of classes	Deadline for Application	Convocation Ceremony
December	November 30	Spring
April	January 31	Spring
Spring/Summer session	July 31	Fall

### **December Grad Night!**

Wrap-up the fall semester at FGSR's Grad Night.

Did you know that graduate students who take the time to be involved in their university community are more likely to complete their degrees?

**When: December 4<sup>th</sup> Where: Lazy Owl  
Free Nachos for Grad Students!**

Why did the gingerbread man go to the doctor?

A: He felt crumbly!



## CONFERENCE

**CSCE Winnipeg Conference, Fairmont Hotel in Winnipeg, Manitoba May 28-30, 2025**

**Call for abstracts! The extended deadline is December 4<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday). Submit your 300-word abstract today!**

We are pleased to announce that the upcoming Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (CSCE) annual conference will take place in Winnipeg in May 2025. Our conference theme is "Empowering communities through sustainable and resilient engineering solutions". The City of Winnipeg, Manitoba, is well known as "the cultural cradle of Canada", and the home to a very diverse population, the world-class Canadian Museum for Human Rights, the world's most comprehensive Arctic species exhibit, the Forks, the historical Exchange District, the French-flavored St. Boniface and many other attractions. The Fairmont Hotel is in the heart of downtown Winnipeg, in easy walking distance from these attractions. A variety of activities are being planned to entertain conference delegates and their guest family and friends.

The Environmental Specialty (ENV) will focus on the environmental and public health needs of civil engineering and its importance in improving the quality of life for people and providing reliable infrastructure for societal benefits. It will explore research and technological advances concerning innovative approaches, assessment, and sustainable management/remediation of environmental impacts to water, air, and soil and the unique challenges faced in addressing the effects of climate change on infrastructure. Please click here for more information: <https://www.csce2025winnipeg.ca/technical-program/environmental-specialty>

We look forward to seeing you at CSCE Winnipeg 2025! If you have any questions regarding the CSCE Environmental Engineering Specialty conference, please contact Dr. Kelvin Tsun Wai Ng ([kelvin.ng@uregina.ca](mailto:kelvin.ng@uregina.ca)).

This is not added to your transcripts.

## SAFETY MOMENT

We are happy to announce that Muhammad Uzair has been selected as the grad student representative for the Local Safety Committee. Welcome, Uzair! His role is to hear your concerns and bring them to the committee for review. He will also represent the interests of grad students in all discussions.

THANK YOU SO MUCH to everyone else who volunteered. We were thrilled to see so much safety engagement, training, education, and experience among so many qualified students. Many of you have excellent job-related and volunteer experience. We will absolutely keep you in mind if future volunteer or employment opportunities arise.

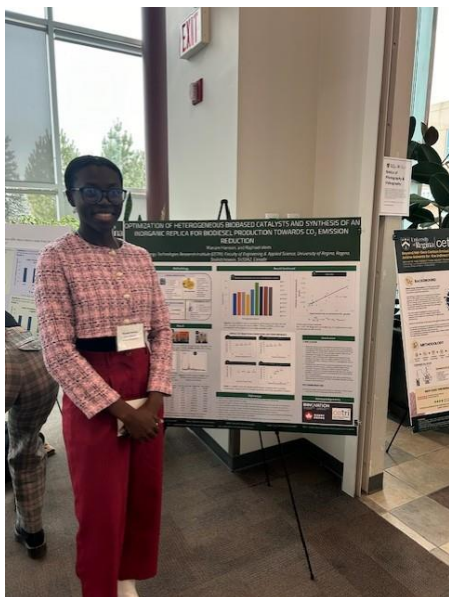
Uzair's next meeting with the committee will be on January 23. If you have any safety concerns, issues, or suggestions that the committee should discuss, please send them along to Uzair before January 20. You can reach him through the committee email address, [Engg.Safety@uregina.ca](mailto:Engg.Safety@uregina.ca).



## CONGRATULATIONS!!

The Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science would like to congratulate:

**Mariam Hanson** for winning 1<sup>st</sup> Place at the Master's Poster Competition in the Graduate Student Research Showcase!



**Research Title** - Optimization of Heterogeneous Biobased Catalysts and Synthesis of an Inorganic Replica for Biodiesel Production Towards CO<sub>2</sub> Emission Reduction

**Abstract** - Biodiesel has a net zero carbon emission potential, and this research focused on optimizing biodiesel production using waste resources to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. 2022 saw a 1% increment in CO<sub>2</sub> release due to a 1.8% rise in fossil fuel energy consumption. Waste cooking oil (WCO) and ethanol were utilized as raw materials, and waste materials such as eggshells, cow bones, fish scales, and banana peels were investigated and optimized for catalyst development. A high-performing, inorganic catalyst replica (banana peel calcined at 900°C) was synthesized to overcome challenges like low availability and calcination yields of 10% in biobased catalysts. Key variables like reaction time, temperature, catalyst concentration, and ethanol-to-oil ratio were optimized, achieving a maximum biodiesel yield of 94%. Catalysts and biodiesels were characterized and a kinetic model using the best catalyst was developed.

**Samuel Nii-Adjei Adjetey** for winning People's Choice Award at the Master's Lightning Talk in the Graduate Student Research Showcase.



**Research Title** – Beyond Net Zero Carbon Emissions in Industrial Processes Through Catalyst-Aided Amine Solvents for the Indirect Co-Combustion of Natural Gas and Biomass

**Abstract** - In a circular economy, research has demonstrated that indirect co-combustion of natural gas and biomass advances net-zero emissions, energy sustainability, and climate change mitigation. This research by Samuel Adjetey explores the use of heterogeneous superbase catalysts consisting primarily of metal oxides or carbon-based materials, to enhance carbon capture processes in a lab-scale semi-batch process. By investigating the impact of active sites, reaction mechanisms, catalyst supports, additives, and preparation methods influence CO<sub>2</sub> removal efficiency, this study proves that catalyst-aided carbon capture can not only achieve but surpass net-zero emissions, offering a pathway to negative carbon solutions in the energy and power space.



## GRAD DEFENSE

### Thesis submission deadlines:

Fall term PhD thesis submission deadline: February 3, 2025

Fall term Master's thesis submission deadline: February 14, 2025

For more information about thesis submission and defense email: [grad.defense@uregina.ca](mailto:grad.defense@uregina.ca)

### Convocation deadlines:

2025 Spring (June 2025) Convocation application deadline: January 31, 2025.

For more information about applying to graduate email: [grad.defense@uregina.ca](mailto:grad.defense@uregina.ca)

### Write UR Thesis (aka "Shut Up and Write")

Final date for Fall: December 5, 2024, 9:30 am to 12:00 noon

Meet virtually with fellow graduate students for a series of weekly writing sessions facilitated by the Grad Thesis Coordinator designed to help you make time to write your thesis.

To register: <https://uregina.libcal.com/event/3816230>

### Thesis Thursday Information Session "Am I Ready to Submit My Thesis for Defense in Winter 2025?"

Final date for Fall: December 5, 2024, 1:30 - 3:00 pm

Meet virtually with the Grad Thesis Coordinator for a mix of presentations (e.g. citations and references, research ethics, etc.) and "office hours" to ask questions about thesis format and how to submit and defend your thesis.

To register: <https://uregina.libcal.com/event/3816266>



## GRAD ENGAGEMENT

### THREE MINUTE THESIS

Want to showcase your research and maybe win some money? The Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) is an internationally recognized competition for thesis-based graduate students to present their work and its wider impact in three minutes or less, in an accessible and compelling way with only one static slide. The U of R winner will receive a \$1,500 prize and progresses to the Western Regional Final. For more details, visit [3MT at the UofR](#).

**Register to compete by Jan. 24**, plus compete in the first heat in February for a chance to win one of three \$100 gift cards. I am [registering](#) to be a 3MT Competitor!

Not sure yet? Join us at the **How to become a 3MT Competitor Information Session**

Friday Jan. 17

10-11:30 a.m. RIC 208

Learn how you can participate in the 3MT Competition. [Register here.](#)



**3MT**® THREE  
MINUTE  
THESIS  
FOUNDED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

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Information Session**

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**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/uofrengineering/>

**Linked In:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/uofrengineering>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/UofREngineering>

For those of you defending this month, **congratulations!!** We wish you success in your future endeavours!

Good luck on final exams and submitting final assignments!

We hope everyone has a restful break as we prepare to begin a new term and a new year.

