Undergraduates of Canadian research-intensive universities
Hello!

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Chair of Undergraduates of Canadian Research-Intensive Universities (UCRU)
Undergraduates of Canadian Research-Intensive Universities (UCRU) is an informal coalition of student associations whose mandate is to advocate to the Canadian federal government for an affordable, inclusive and high-calibre undergraduate university education with opportunities for increased access to undergraduate research.
UCRU at a glance

250 000+
Students represented

9 members
Smaller number of schools

5 leadership roles
1/2 of members will hold leadership roles

Founding members
A say in the creation of UCRU

UCRU
Spotlight: Our Values

Aspirational

UCRU will strive to develop policy that while being pragmatic, is driven by popular student opinions and for the benefit of students.

Evidence-based

UCRU ensures that its policy is supported by relevant research.

Collaborative

UCRU shall ensure that all of its members have mechanisms to discuss concerns in a critical and equitable manner.
UCRU strives to advocate only on policies that impact the undergraduate student experience.

UCRU strives to judge policies of political parties on their own merits, rather than who puts them forward.

UCRU strives to include an Indigenization lens and a broader equitable lens in the development of all its policies, and advocate for equitable treatment of all undergraduates.
Joining UCRU is simple.

Leaving UCRU is simple.
HOW ucru does advocacy

- Lobby Weeks
- Nationwide campaigns
- In-person meetings with politicians
- Research Briefs
- Relationships with staffers
- Letters to ministers
"Ucru Yearly timeline"

- **June**: New ucru board is composed
- **July**: Yearly priorities set
- **August**: Federal budget submission

*Throughout the year, UCRU also acts to meet the needs of students as the political climate changes.*

*In tandem to preparations for lobby week, UCRU may also send letters to ministers, meet with policy advisors, run campaigns, or speak to media.*
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Indigenous Students

Student Financial aid

International students

Undergraduate research

Covid-19 student supports

work-integrated learning

Ucru policy priorities
Ucru Areas of growth

- Lobbying outside of budget cycles
- Recruiting other u15 schools
- Formalization
- Online presence
WHAT IS THE DEBT FREE DEGREE CAMPAIGN?

A national campaign, led by the Undergraduates of Canadian Research-Intensive Universities and the University Students’ Council at Western University, aimed at increasing accessibility to affordable post-secondary education in Canada.

Click here to participate
UCRU members have worked all summer to ensure that each member agrees on our bylaws.

UCRU aims to be officially registered as a not-for-profit corporation by January.

Once the lawyers have reviewed the bylaws, each UCRU member will bring the bylaws to their council and officially ratify them to become member of UCRU.
So how much does this all cost?

UCRU does not currently charge a fee for its advocacy work but intends to work towards one in the future.
Benefits of a ucru fee

- Institutional memory
- Consistency in advocacy
- Full time staff assistance
- Equal opportunity for input between schools
Do you have any questions?

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