UNDERGRADUATES OF CANADIAN RESEARCH-INTENSIVE UNIVERSITIES
HELLO!

MACKENZY METCALFE (SHE/HER)

Vice-President of University Students' Council at Western University (USC)

Chair of Undergraduates of Canadian Research-Intensive Universities (UCRU)
HELLO!

KIRSTIN SMITH (SHE/HER)

Vice-President Advocacy at University of Manitoba Students’ Union (UMSU)

Vice-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

- 9 Members
  Smaller number of schools

- 250,000+
  Students represented

- Founding Members
  A say in the creation of UCRU

- 5 Leadership Roles
  1/2 of members will hold leadership roles
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

Relationships with Staffers

Research Briefs

Nationwide Campaigns

Letters to Ministers

In-Person Meetings with Politicians
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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UCRU Policy Priorities

Indigenous Students

Student Financial Aid

International Students

Undergraduate Research

COVID-19 Student Supports

Work-Integrated Learning
UCRU AREAS OF GROWTH

- Lobbying outside of budget cycles
- Recruiting other U15 schools
- Formalization
- Online presence
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.
UCRU does not currently charge a fee for its advocacy work but intends to work towards one in the future.
THANKS!

Do you have any questions?

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