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Laurier Off-Campus University Students



Welcome To Laurier, Welcome To LOCUS!

Since you will be living off-campus for your first year as a Laurier student, we would like to invite and encourage you to become a part of the LOCUS program (Laurier Off-Campus University Students).

As the LOCUS Coordinator for the coming year, I would like to introduce myself and welcome you to Laurier; my name is Devon Van Duinen. I'm a History graduate student at Laurier and this is my third year with the LOCUS program. I'm hoping my future holds a PhD and teaching at a University level. It is my job this year to work with the LOCUS staff and to meet the needs of every off campus first year student this year.

Maybe living off-campus in your first year was what you had expected and always planned for. On the other hand, maybe it wasn't exactly what you had hoped for. Regardless, LOCUS is here to make that choice even more rewarding and allow you to really enjoy your experience in first year. By living off campus, you are joining approximately 500-600 other first year students, and this is where LOCUS becomes important.

LOCUS offers students the chance to get involved and stay connected to the Laurier campus.

Upon joining LOCUS, you will be assigned a community of peers who are also living off campus and are headed by a senior student, or an 'Off-Campus Advisor' (OCA). Your OCA is responsible for getting you all of the information that you need during O-Week and throughout the year, and also for planning a monthly event for you and your community. Your OCA is your link to the campus, the community, and LOCUS events such as our first year Formal, a sports trip to Toronto, snow-tubing, and other events around the Kitchener-Waterloo community. LOCUS, however, focuses on more than just social events; we also provide academic support through midterm and final exam study sessions, helpful information seminars throughout the year, and much more.

To ensure that we address every aspect of student life here at Laurier, we have three committees within LOCUS whose sole job is to program events and activities for each of you. Those committees are: Student Balance,

Administration and Marketing, and House Council. Some of these committees also provide leadership opportunities for you to enjoy. Make sure to ask about them during Orientation Week!

This year, there is an opportunity for you to **register for LOCUS early** and skip out on one of the many line-ups that the first day brings. This way you will have more time to explore the campus and chat with your Off-Campus Advisor! Registering early is easy. All you need to do is complete the registration form provided in this package and mail your cheque or money order of \$85.00 payable to Wilfrid Laurier University to the following address:

**LOCUS c/o Residential Services
Wilfrid Laurier University
75 University Ave. W.
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
N2L 3C5**

Please see our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section in this package for more information on what the \$85 registration fee provides you with throughout the year. If you do not register early, you must register on the first



Please contact the LOCUS Coordinator

pire7670@mylaurier.ca

And check us out on Facebook! Search **WLU LOCUS** for more information

day of Orientation Week (Sept. 5th). Here you will be registering at the **Concourse** in the **Fred Nichols Campus Centre (FNCC)** between the hours of **11:00am and 2:30pm**. Please remember both your registration form and \$85 fee! Members of the LOCUS staff, including myself, will be there to greet you and assign you to a community, after which you will have an opportunity to meet both your OCA and your fellow community members at our **LOCUS Information Tent** (located outside of MacDonald House residence at Mid-Campus Drive).

At 3:00pm on September 5^h, LOCUS will host its first general meeting in the Turret (top floor of the Fred Nichols Campus Centre where you will officially meet the rest of your community and your LOCUS Off-Campus Advisor and listen to a quick presentation that will hopefully answer all of your LOCUS questions. After the meeting you will socialize with your community and then kick off O-Week 2011!

We are extremely excited to meet you and to welcome you to LOCUS 2011-2012! Throughout the summer, all members of the LOCUS staff team have been thinking of ways to make this the best year for LOCUS yet. It's our goal to get you to love Laurier the same way that we do!

When you have any questions about LOCUS, or WLU in general, please don't hesitate to contact us at locus@wlu.ca.

Sincerely,

Scott Pires
LOCUS Coordinator 2011-2012
pire7670@mylaurier.ca



LOCUS Contacts

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How Does LOCUS Compare to Living in Residence?

LOCUS strives to provide everything to a student living off-campus that a student in residence would experience, with one exception— the physical space! Instead, LOCUS students live wherever they please. Off-Campus Advisors fill a similar role to a residence Don, in that they provide support, encouragement and programming for the first-year students in their community.

LOCUS students are surrounded by a community of peers to socialize with at events and develop meaningful friendships with. Just as a residence student lives on a floor with other first-year students, a LOCUS student meets many other students at LOCUS events and when they attend events with their OCA.

LOCUS is integrated with Residence Life, and because of that, is included in all residential activities. Some of these include: The first-year formal, intramural sports & activities, house council and many other Student Leadership Positions (SLPs).

Both offer phenomenal first-year experiences and many memories to be made!



LOCUS Office

Located in MacDonald
House Residence

What to Expect on Move-In Day?

On your first day here, you can expect to be greeted with A LOT of excitement. You will see people dressed in every coloured shirt you can think of — each representing a different group on campus that you will learn about. You may begin to wonder what has possessed all of these students to act they way they do, with so much enthusiasm, but as the day and the rest of O-Week progress, you will find yourself right there with them. These fellow students will show you how great and welcoming Laurier really is.

As a LOCUS student, you obviously will not be moving into a residence building on campus, so you have more free time to visit the LOCUS tent (located outside of MacDonald House Residence at mid-campus) and to start to get to know your Off-Campus Advisor!

When you arrive on campus, head to the Athletic Complex to register for LOCUS. By pre-registering, you will move through the registration process more quickly so you can get to enjoying your first day at Laurier!



SOME TIPS FOR YOUR FIRST DAY OF ORIENTATION WEEK!

1. Before you can register for O-Week, you **MUST** be assigned to a LOCUS community. So when you arrive at the Athletic Complex (AC) to register, make sure to stop at the LOCUS Registration table first and then head over to the O-Week tables!
2. The campus is **FULL** of volunteers who are there to help you find where you need to be! Don't hesitate to ask anyone in a brightly colored t-shirt for some directions!
3. The LOCUS tent (please see the attached map for location) will be open all day (and for the rest of O-Week as well), so please come and visit us on that first day. Our OCAs will be more than happy to give a tour, help you register at the AC or get your OneCard!

What Should I Bring On the First Day of O-Week?

- 1) **An open mind and lots of enthusiasm.**
- 2) **Your \$85 for registration**
- 3) **Sunscreen/ hat if it's a sunny week!**
- 4) **Your campus map so you can navigate your way around**
- 5) **A little cash if you hope to grab a bite to eat on campus**

What Can I Expect on Sept. 5th?

At the first LOCUS meeting of the 2011-2012 school year, you can expect a lot of excitement. This is the first time that ALL LOCUS students and staff are together in ONE room.

You will get the chance to sit with your OCA and the rest of your new LOCUS community. Then you will see a presentation about the LOCUS program and what it can do for you in your first year. You will also be introduced to the program Coordinator and Executive members.

Then you will head off with your OCA and start to get to know your community before the opening ceremonies begin for O-Week.

Jason's LOCUS Experience

"When I started university, I was extremely worried my experience would not be as I wanted it to be because I was an off-campus student. I was envious of those in residence because of the stories I heard – the parties, the friendships, the bond-building processes included with living in residence and so on. I really wanted to share the same experience; however, having a place to stay in town during my first year other than residence trumped spending the money for residence.

When I was picking up my orientation-week package at the beginning of O-Week, as I was asked if I wanted to shell over the money for LOCUS, I was hesitant. My reasoning, at the time, was I did not really understand what LOCUS was about and did not think it was worth the money, since I thought I could make my own friends and do activities on my own time. I did, although reluctantly, fork over the money. I would tell

anyone and everyone, it was the best money I could have spent during my first week at Laurier. LOCUS gave me, hands down, the best and most memorable friends and experience I could have ever asked for as a student living off campus.

LOCUS SIX, as our group was called, will forever have a special place in my heart. Although I was never exactly close with anyone in my group at the beginning, as well as I really didn't get involved with them until the start of second semester, they are hands-down some of my favourite friends I could have ever asked for in my first year. My LOCUS OCA, as well, was always there for me no matter what, which was completely amazing (to say the least). At the time, she was a senior-year history major with a ton-load of her own work to do; she always took the time to give me advice in person concerning academic situations and other topics. She never asked for anything back

– it seems this is how everyone involved with LOCUS is. No matter where life takes anyone from LOCUS SIX 2008/2009, I believe all of us will be completely compassionate and loyal to each other – we will always be there for everyone. The times I spent with my LOCUS group were without a doubt the best times of my life - the friendships I made, I will always cherish. My LOCUS group helped me get through the toughest year of my life and for the rest of my life, I will always be grateful for being accepted and appreciated for the person I am and what I am trying to be.

No matter what anyone says or what life may throw at us – I will always try to encourage people to get involved with LOCUS during their time at Laurier."

-Jason
Student 2008-2009



TIPS FOR YOUR FIRST WEEK AT LAURIER!

- **Participate in O-Week!**
-The more you do, the more fun you'll have and the more connections you'll make.
- **Get your One-Card**
-Available at the One-Card office in the Fred Nichols Campus Centre (FNCC). This card is necessary for most identification on campus as well as for the convenience of food, etc.
- **Get your textbooks**
-Available at the Bookstore in the FNCC. Be prepared for line-ups, and give yourself plenty of time.
- **Check out the Athletic Complex**
-It's never too early to get into a good exercise routine to keep yourself healthy and minimize stress as your first year rolls on.
- **Check out the bus routes**
-A bus pass is included in Laurier's tuition, so plan to take advantage of the public transit at www.grt.ca
- **Double check your class schedule**
-Sometimes rooms are changed over the summer, so take a second glance so you don't end up sitting through the wrong class.

Are You Looking to Get Involved in Your First Year?

First Year Leadership Programs (FLYPs) in LOCUS:



House Council

- President
- VP: Communications
- VP: Finances
- Community Representatives (1 from each LOCUS community)
- SLP Representatives (also represent their own program outside of House Council)
 - Arts Laurier
 - Upgrade @ Laurier
 - Residence Athletic Council (RAC)
 - WLUSU Liaison Team

As you can see, there are LOTS of opportunities for you to become involved! For further details on each position and to find applications, please visit <http://www.mylaurier.ca/reslife/info/leadership.htm>.

HIRING for Student Leadership Positions in LOCUS will take place during the week of September 12th to 16th! Ask your OCA for more information!

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What does LOCUS stand for?

Laurier Off Campus University Students

WHERE DO STUDENTS IN LOCUS LIVE?

LOCUS students come from a wide variety of places! This is partly what makes living off-campus so wonderful and unique. Some students live with their families in the K-W community, some live with friends in a house close to the university, others live with complete strangers. Some LOCUS students are even commuters and travel to the campus from out-of-town locations.

WHY IS LOCUS SUCH A GREAT PROGRAM?

Answer the following:

Where is Health Services located on campus?

What is the deadline for dropping a call in the Fall Term without penalty?

Where is 1E1?

If you can't answer these questions, an Off-Campus Advisor (OCA) is just what you need. As senior students who have "been there, don't that," LOCUS OCAs will answer every question, and direct you to Laurier's many on-campus resources.

WHY WOULD I WANT TO JOIN LOCUS?

To be given a tremendous opportunity to connect with numerous other first-year students in the same living conditions. LOCUS provides you with a special link to the campus through your OCA, who will provide you with information and exciting opportunities.

HOW MUCH IS THE REGISTRATION FEE FOR LOCUS? IS IT A ONE-TIME FEE?

The registration fee is \$85.00 for the ENTIRE year! You will not be asked to register again for the winter term, the fee is a one-time fee in September.

WHAT IS THE REGISTRATION FEE FOR?

The fee goes towards building the LOCUS program during the year for you! Money will be divided up to programming communities to fund large-scale events. It will also be given to your OCA who will program smaller-scale events just for your community. Additionally, it will be put towards other programs in Residential Services to allow you opportunity to participate in many other first year events and activities.

HOW CAN I REGISTER EARLY?

You can mail the registration form attached to this package, along with a money order or cheque of \$80 payable to Wilfrid Laurier University to:

LOCUS c/o Residential Services
Wilfrid Laurier University
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
N2L 3C5

HOW DO I BENEFIT IF I REGISTER EARLY?

You can avoid standing in another line-up on September 6th and go straight to the LOCUS tent and meet your OCA! Then you will have the time to explore the campus or grab a bite to eat— instead of being rushed later!

WHAT IS AN OCA? WHAT WILL THEY DO?

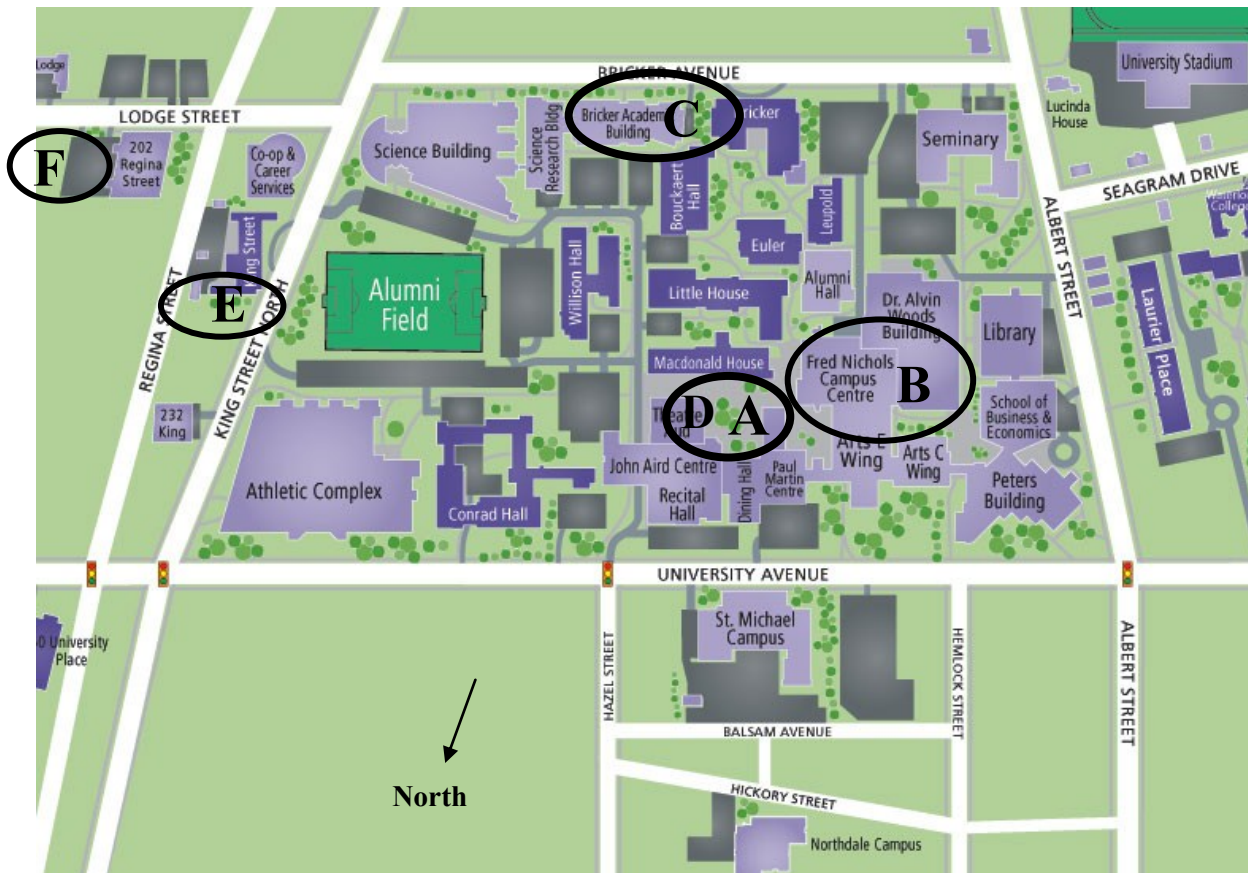
OCA stands for **Off-Campus Advisor**. This is a senior student who also lives off-campus, and will be working with you and the rest of your community to connect you to the Laurier campus. This individual will plan social events for you, assist you with locating resources around campus, and be a mentor and friend to you!

HOW WILL I MEET MY OFF-CAMPUS ADVISOR?

On September 6th, after you have completed your registration in the Athletic Complex, you can make your way to the LOCUS tent located outside of MacDonald House Residence and meet your OCA! You will also have the chance to sit with your OCA in the main LOCUS meeting at 3:00 PM on September 6th.

Wilfrid Laurier University Campus Map

Some Locations You Might Find Helpful!



For Your First Day:

A—LOCUS INFORMATION TENT: Located across from Macdonald House Residence

B—Fred Nichols Campus Centre (FNCC): Location for LOCUS registration from 11-2:30pm (if you did not pre-register)

C— Bricker Academic Room 201 (BA201): Location of first LOCUS meeting at 3pm

Other Locations You May Need to Know:

D—LOCUS Office: Located directly inside Macdonald House Residence

E—Residential Services/ Residence Life Office: Located on the main floor of King. St. Residence (left-hand side with a separate entrance)

F— 202 Regina Street: Location for financial-related interests (OSAP, awards, etc.)