



Dear Internationally Trained Dentist DDS Class of 2026,

Congratulations! You have made it! It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Schulich Dentistry Community. Here you will develop yourself as a clinician, patient educator, and professional. You will make friendships to last a lifetime as you grow into strong members of this community. I commend you for all your hard work and dedication to get here.

Your dental school journey will challenge you in many ways. The University of Western Ontario's Dental Student Society, UWODSS, knows you are up to the task and will be alongside you on this journey, eager to help make your dental school experience the best it can be. However, no one will be a greater asset than your classmates, who know exactly what you are going through daily. With this in mind, I encourage you to participate in Orientation Week (O-Week), a fantastic way to get to know your classmates and begin making these friendships. Your colleagues in the domestic Class of 2026 are already well underway in planning exciting programming for O-Week and you will also have the opportunity to meet them and the upper years during this time.

Please take a moment to scroll through the UWODSS website (<https://www.uwodss.com>) to learn more about what it can offer you and how to get involved. You can also find us on Instagram (@UWODSS). Shortly after beginning your first term in September, you will elect a class president to be your representative on the UWODSS council. This classmate will represent your interests and advocate for them to the student body and faculty. If this is something that interests you, please give some thought as to what unique values you can bring to our council that would benefit your fellow classmates.

Your time at Schulich Dentistry will fly by, please make the most of it! If you have any questions or concerns, send me an email at jgillmo2@uwo.ca. I am looking forward to working with you to make your dental student experience the best it can possibly be!

Sincerely,

Jonathan Gillmore

Jonathan Gillmore

UWODSS President, DDS Class of 2024