



GradCast is the official podcast and radio show of the Society of Graduate Students at Western University. We are a team of graduate students interviewing graduate students. We produce 30-minute episodes highlighting the research happening at our university. An advanced degree is not required to enjoy listening to GradCast! Our episodes promote education by providing scientific communication that is understandable and interesting to people who might not otherwise hear it – our episodes are broadcast on the radio (Radio Western, 94.9FM, **Figure 1**) to our London community. We also publish on podcasting platforms including Spotify, Google Podcasts and Podbean (@gradcastradio), where we have surpassed 6,000 listeners in Canada (51% of total downloads), over 2,000 in the United States (21%), and many more in other countries including India, Germany, and the UK (**Figure 2**). In the current societal moment where research communication to the public is increasingly important, we aim to bridge the gap between the scientific community and the general population.

I joined the GradCast committee in June 2021 as an interview host, trained to become a producer, and was elected Managing Editor and chair of the editorial board in May 2022 and again in May 2023. During this time, I have been directly involved with the production of 40 episodes and was responsible for overseeing 56 (and counting). As chair, I manage a board of 10 people, and, of those, recruited and trained 6 new members.

During my time on GradCast, we have interviewed 26 biologists (examples in **Figure 3**). Carly Muir, PhD, spoke on her research on the effects of climate change on salmon migration ([The Heart Will Go On to Spawn](#), episode 338). PhD candidate Brynne Duffy talked about her research in metabolism and oxygen using hibernating ground squirrels ([Hibernation: Time to Seek Shelter](#), episode 350). PhD candidate Soren Coulson spoke about his research in mitochondrial physiology in migrating songbirds ([A Bird Watcher's Paradise](#), episode 357). MSc student Peter Baker talked about his work on the effects of thiamine deficiency on heart function in lake trout ([Something's Fishy in Lake Ontario](#), episode 390). GradCast is interdisciplinary, we also interview graduate students from diverse departments on our campus including history, media studies, neuroscience, Earth science, kinesiology, French, and more.

Gradcast is well-received by the community. We engage with our listeners on social media, where we have received positive feedback. For some examples, @nelliekamkar wrote “I love this podcast!! The guest was very articulate and easy to understand!!!”, and @cfrantow commented “Nice

episode, learned a lot!”. On [Chartable](#), a website that measures podcast statistics and rankings, GradCast has a 5-star rating (mean of 10 reviews).

Through GradCast, I have found a venue to express my passion for spreading science awareness and a community that shares it. Moreover, interviewing guests has improved my scientific communication by teaching me to ask questions and think more deeply on topics with which I was not previously familiar. Producing episodes taught me both software skills and how to effectively communicate information to non-academics: how to bridge the gap between the data, the researcher, and the listener. As managing editor, I learned how to provide leadership to a committee comprised of my peers. These skills will serve me in the future as a professional biologist when I start my own research program, when mentoring trainees, and reviewing other’s work.

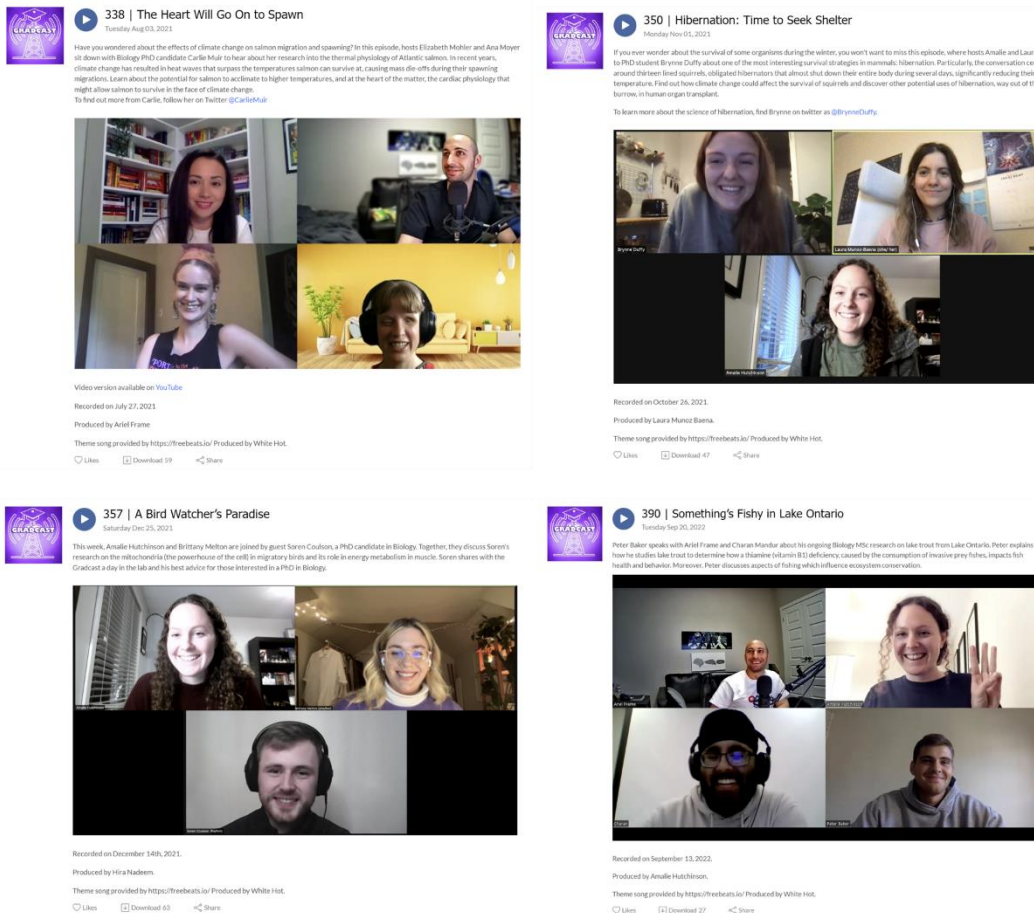
Overall, I hope that our goal of positively impacting our community, city, and beyond has been reached by the work we do at GradCast as we continue to produce more informative, interesting, and fun episodes.



**Figure 1:** Recording an episode in the studio at Radio Western located on Western Campus. Left to right: Producer Amalie Hutchinson (me), guest Shubhayan Chakrabarti, co-host Carly Charron, co-host Meghan Voll. Episode 407, [I Work, Therefore I Am](#). Photo by S. Walters, January 2023.



**Figure 2:** GradCast’s worldwide reach. Image reproduced from Podbean.



**Figure 3:** Four biologists from Western University recently interviewed on GradCast: Carly Muir, Brynne Duffy, Soren Coulson, and Peter Baker. Photos from our website, [gradcast.ca](http://gradcast.ca).

Amalie J. Hutchinson (née Saab), M.Sc.

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### Academic Achievements

- Ph.D. Student, Department of Biology, Western University, Staples and Guglielmo labs (expected graduation: April 2026)
  - *The Physiology of Torpor in Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds and Big Brown Bats*
    - NSERC Doctoral Research Scholarship (CGS-D, \$105,000) (2023-2026)
    - Queen Elizabeth II Ontario Graduate Research Scholarship (\$15,000) (2023)
    - Queen Elizabeth II Ontario Graduate Research Scholarship (\$15,000) (2022)
- Master of Science, Biology, Western University, Staples lab (2021)
  - *Hibernation is Super Complex: Dynamics of Electron Transport Chain Supercomplexes*
    - Paper: American Journal of Physiology (doi: 10.1152/ajpregu.00008.2022)
    - Featured in Outside JEB (doi.org/10.1242/jeb.243512)
    - Oral: The Society of Experimental Biology, Montpellier, FR (2022)
    - Plenary oral: International Hibernation Symposium, Groningen, NLD (2021)
    - Poster: Canadian Society of Zoologists meeting, St. Andrews, NB (2021)
      - Winner of the H.I. Battle Award for best student poster (\$500)
- Bachelor of Medical Science with honors specialization in biochemistry, Western University (2019)
  - *Biochemical Characterization of a Yeast DNA Repair Protein: The Shu Complex*
    - Oral: Biology Graduate Research Forum, UWO (2019)
    - Poster: Research Showcase of Biochemistry Students, UWO (2019)
  - *Discharge Destination from a Rehabilitation Unit after Acute Ischemic Stroke*
    - Paper: Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences (doi: 10.1017/cjn.2018.386)
    - Poster: Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation Congress, Victoria, BC (2017)
    - Oral: Grand Rounds, Grey Bruce Health Services (2017)
- Post-degree minor in Geography (Western University, 2023)

### Professional Experience and Leadership

- Managing Editor and chair of GradCast's editorial board: the official podcast and radio show of the Society of Graduate Students at UWO (2022-Present). Committee member, host, producer (2021-present)
- Society of Biology Graduate Students executive member (UWO): graduate education committee (2021-present), social committee (2020-2021)
- Graduate Teaching Assistant (UWO): Genetics 2581B (2021-2023), Biology for Science II 1002B (2020), Organismal Physiology 2601A (2019-2023)
  - Administrative (head) TA: Organismal Physiology 2601A (2021)
- Research student for Dr. Ali Rassouli MD, Otolaryngologist. Grey-Bruce Health Services (2018)
- Research student for Dr. G. Bryan Young MD, Neurologist. GBHS (2015-18)

### References

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