Graduating in November?
The Office of Convocation has a handy 
Graduation Checklist to keep you on track for November graduation. As of October 13 you can book your gown and hood, request guest tickets and RSVP your attendance at the Office of Convocation website. Unable to attend? The Office of Convocation offers diploma delivery service.

Fees paid up? Please note that in order to receive a diploma, order transcripts, or receive a letter certifying completion, all your fees must be paid in full.

Submission deadline: All degree requirements must be met by October 2, including degree recommendation (for Master’s students) and submission of a final approved thesis for all doctoral and doctoral stream master’s students. See Producing Your Thesis for details.

Change of status or international fees exemption
If your immigration status changes in the fall session or if you qualify for an international fees exemption, you have until October 31 to apply for an adjustment to domestic fees for the fall session. To qualify, you must present evidence of your status change or eligibility for exemption from international fees at the SGS student information desk at 63 St. George Street.

Course drop deadline

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In Focus
Tara Gralnick, one of the inaugural cohort of students in the new UTSC Psychological Clinical Science Master’s program, is a recipient of a prestigious Women’s Health Scholars Award to support her research.

Important Dates
• October 9
Fall deadline to apply for SGS Conference Grant
• October 12
Thanksgiving Day, University closed
• October 20
OGS application available online
• October 31
Deadline to request exemption from international fees for fall session
• November 2
Final date to drop fall session courses without academic penalty
• November 2
Students registered in Fall-Winter: Last date for payment of Winter session minimum required
The deadline to drop a fall session course without academic penalty is **November 2**. Late drop requests (after the deadline) are normally only considered for documented health or other serious personal circumstances and will need approval of the graduate unit offering the course, your home unit and the School of Graduate Studies. Use the [Course Add/Drop form](#) for late drop requests.

Undergraduate courses and 500-level courses have their own deadlines to drop without academic penalty. Consult your home unit if in doubt.

Withdrawal from courses or programs without academic penalty does not necessarily result in a refund. See [Student Fees](#) for the applicable refund schedule, if any.

**Supervision: It's a shared relationship**

Good supervision is a foundation of graduate education, a responsibility shared by the student, supervisor and the graduate unit. SGS has [guidelines for Graduate Supervision](#) as well as [advice](#) for maintaining a good supervisory relationship and what to do if problems arise.

**ACORN/ROSI**

The University's [Accessible Campus Online Resource Network (ACORN)](https://www.utoronto.ca) was launched in June. For students, ACORN will replace the existing [Student Web Service (ROSI)](https://www.utoronto.ca). Students can use ACORN or ROSI to enroll in courses, check fees and finances and do other records and registration tasks such as making updates to address and contact information. The University will be transitioning solely to ACORN in the near future. In the meantime, you are free to use either system. Any change made to one system will be reflected on the other one. The purpose of ACORN is to provide a more convenient, personalized and guided experience for students using U of T’s online services. For handy ACORN video tutorials and screenshots, visit the [How-To page](https://www.utoronto.ca).

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### Got Feedback?

Help us make the GradSchool e-News better meet your needs. Send us an e-mail at: graduate.information@utoronto.ca

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### SGS Student Services

63 St. George Street

**Regular hours of operation:**

Monday to Friday 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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Monday to Friday 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
SGS Financial  
Counselling service  

Don't let financial problems get out of control. The School of Graduate Studies Financial Counsellor can assist by providing information and direction on various financial aid programs such as student loans, grants, and other resources that may be available to graduate students. Assistance is also available to help with various aspects of financial management including planning a budget and debt load management. Financial counselling sessions are confidential and are available in person or by phone. For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact the Graduate Awards Office (GAO) at 416-946-0808 or graduate.awards@utoronto.ca.  

OSAP application reminder: funding & awards  

Please remember to declare your graduate funding and awards on your OSAP application, including any funding provided to you or applied against your tuition. Please note, starting the 2015-16 academic year the SGS Graduate Awards Office will be reporting both OGS and QEII-GSST awards directly to the Ministry on the students behalf, accordingly OGS/QEII-GSST recipients should exclude these amounts from their OSAP application.  

OSAP payment procedures for fall  

OSAP loans/grants are issued via direct deposit! Provided you have qualified for OSAP and have a valid Master Student Financial Assistance Agreement (MSFAA), the University will be able to confirm your enrolment and OSAP will deposit your funds directly into your bank account when classes begin. If you’re a first-time applicant, have taken a two-year break in study or have established residency in another participating province/territory, you must have submitted your MSFAA to a designated Canada Post outlet to be eligible for direct deposit.  

OSAP repayment webinars
The National Student Loans Service Centre continues to provide GoTo Webinars on OSAP and other Canadian government student loan repayment. The October and November sessions are available now for students to sign up.

**UTAPS GRANTS: Financial aid for students**

UTAPS is a financial aid program for full time students who are Canadian citizens, permanent residents or protected persons (recognized convention refugees) and are eligible for need-based government student assistance or funding from a First Nations band. OSAP recipients need not apply as you are automatically considered based on your OSAP needs assessment. Out of province students however must apply and provide a copy of their provincial/territorial Notice of Assessment. UTAPS applications are submitted on-line. The deadline is November 30, 2015.

**Better starts here!**

In September, the new Health & Wellness Centre began offering University of Toronto students on the St. George campus a single point of entry for access to all services previously offered through Health Services and Counselling and Psychological Services (CAPS). Feedback from students over the years and best clinical practices has prompted rethinking the way health and mental health services are provided.

U of T’s health services provide confidential, student-centred health care, including comprehensive medical care, travel education, immunization, counselling, and referrals:

- [Health & Counselling Centre](#) (Mississauga)
- [Health & Wellness Centre](#) (Scarborough)
- [Health & Wellness Centre](#) (St. George)
Elections information
There is a Federal (Canada wide) election on October 19. Elections Canada has all the information you need about voting:

- Are you [registered to vote](#)?
- Do you know [where to vote](#)?
- Confused about [ID requirements](#)?
- [Need a job](#)? Election Canada is hiring

awards

**Graduate Award opportunities on Ulife**
Learn more about graduate awards, scholarships and research opportunities available to all U of T students through [Ulife](#).
Check the database regularly for new internal and external [award opportunities](#), the database is updated as competitions are launched.

**Master’s Tuition Fee Bursary (MTFB)**
Master’s students who must register beyond their degree program length to complete a modest amount of work (e.g. FOE or 0.5 course only) due to unanticipated factors beyond their control, may be eligible for an SGS Master’s Tuition Fee Bursary (MTFB). MTF bursaries are available for the fall and winter sessions but applications should only be submitted once all program requirements have been completed. Check the [MTFB webpage](#) to see if you’re eligible and application deadlines.

**SGS Award payments**
SGS award payments are normally provided in three equal installments and issued during the first weeks of the Fall, Winter and Spring sessions. Fall payments are generally issued directly to you and fees are not deducted from your installment unless you have
arrears. Winter and Spring award installments, however, are automatically posted to your fees account and are first applied to tuition and/or any outstanding charges. Any remaining funds will be refunded to you. Please refer to the SGS website for additional information about activating and managing your award.

**SGS Conference Grant: Apply now!**
The Fall 2015 SGS Conference Grant program provides funding for full-time doctoral-stream students to present their research at an academic conference that takes place between September 1, 2015 and March 31, 2016. Apply now! The grant application closes October 9 at 4 p.m.

**Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) application**
Graduate students applying for an Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) to hold at U of T in the 2016-2017 academic year, must apply online before your home unit’s published deadline. The U of T online OGS application goes live October 20.

**Pierre Elliot Trudeau Foundation Doctoral Scholarships**
Trudeau Foundation Scholarships are available to first or second year social sciences and humanities doctoral students pursuing research of compelling present-day concerns. Valued at $40,000/year and renewable for up to three years, Trudeau Foundation scholarships target students who are expected to become leading national and international figures. View the SGS External Awards webpage for more information on how to apply and a look at recent U of T winners. Applications are typically due to your graduate unit in October – ask your graduate administrator for details.

**Canada Graduate Scholarship Master’s Program (CGS M) – NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR**
The CGS M competition is now accepting applications for NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR scholarships. Apply early and enter your referee information ASAP! The application deadline is December 1. Information about the Doctoral level NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR scholarships is available on the SGS Federal Awards webpage.
Grad Escapes: TIFF
Bell Lightbox Tour and Social
October 6, 4-5:30 p.m.
Tickets: FREE, available via bookit.studentlife.utoronto.ca. Limit: 2 per person
Take a guided tour of TIFF Bell Lightbox and learn all about TIFF’s curatorial, community-based, and educational initiatives. Included is a behind-the-scenes visit of the Film Reference Library, which houses the world's largest resource of English-language Canadian film and film-related materials, as well as a wide range of local, national, and international film resources. Following this, you will have the opportunity to visit In Love with the Stars, an art exhibition in the CIBC Canadian Film Gallery. Optional: Join the group for a social following the tour.

Grad Escapes: ROM Tour and Social
October 20, 4-5:30 p.m.
Tickets: FREE, available via bookit.studentlife.utoronto.ca. Limit: 2 per person
Take a guided general tour of the Royal Ontario Museum through their Explore the Museum program. Following the tour, join the group for a coffee or bite to eat near by (not covered) and share your experiences.
International Transition Advising

Monday through Friday, and most evenings during the week, graduate international students are invited to meet one-to-one with an international transition advisor. Locations include: Architecture, Engineering, OISE, SGS, Grad Room & Graduate House, Chestnut Residence, Student Family Housing, and the Sidney Smith Lobby.

UHIP: International student health insurance

The University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP) is a mandatory health insurance plan for all international students enrolled in an Ontario university ensuring that you have basic health care coverage while studying in the province.

As an international student or exchange student you are automatically enrolled in UHIP and the coverage charge appears in your student account on ACORN/ROSI. UHIP coverage may also be extended to your eligible dependent family member(s). Please visit UHIP’s website for more information on how to obtain your card.

supports & resources

ELWS: October workshops, courses & Writing Centre appointments

The Office of English Language and Writing Support will continue to offer several series of free workshops through
October, on various topics related to academic writing and speaking.
No registration is required for these single-session workshops.
Please check the workshop schedule for topics, locations and times.
Online registration for October ELWS courses starts October 6 at 10 a.m. Writing Centre appointments continue to be available for online booking.

Get what you need from library research
The University of Toronto Libraries offer services and collections to support your research. Take a library workshop on topics such as journal research and citation management to help you find and manage your research resources more efficiently and effectively.
Feel free to ask a librarian through our instant chat service from wherever you are. Consider booking a research consultation for some one-on-one time with a librarian.

Graduate Professional Skills (GPS)
GPS has a variety of offerings to strengthen your professional skills for success within and beyond the academe. Sign up for some of the GPS fall offerings and follow our newsletter.
For a full list of GPS offerings and to learn more about the program visit www.sgs.utoronto.ca/gps

MyGradSkills.ca
Ontario graduate students have a new way to enhance their professional skills. MyGradSkills.ca has online courses designed for you. Learn how to manage your research, plan lessons, become a mentor, improve your intercultural competency skills and much more.

Sexual and Gender Diversity Office
The Sexual & Gender Diversity Office (SGDO) provides innovative education, programming, resources and advocacy on sexual and gender diversity for students, staff and faculty across the University's three campuses. Learn more on line, email or call the Sexual and Gender Diversity Office at 416-946-5624.

upcoming events
Traditional Canadian Thanksgiving Dinner
October 8, 6 p.m.
Great Hall, Hart House
This traditional feast, prepared by Chef Marco Tucci will feature turkey with all the trimmings, a variety of local side dishes, vegetarian entrée plus a number of aboriginal dishes.
Get your tickets ($20+HST) early as this event always sells out.

Optimize Your Graduate Experience & Beyond
October 28, 5:30 - 9 p.m.
Music Room, Hart House
Learn effective strategies for dealing with issues relevant to graduate students and hear tips on planning for a career beyond academia. Sessions include:
• From PhD to Life: Rethinking success after graduate school, Jennifer Polk
• An Ounce of Prevention: Simple & Effective Ways to Manage Conflict during your Graduate Studies, Heather McGhee Peggs, Manager, Conflict Resolution Centre for Graduate Students
• Getting it Done: How to Run your Day so it won’t Run You, Euginia Tsao
• Transitioning from Graduate School to a Career Beyond Academia
The evening will finish with a social. Registration is required.

Hart House of Horrors Halloween Party
October 31, 8:30 p.m.
Quad, Main and Second Levels, Hart House
This Halloween, Hart House of Horrors is more macabre than ever. Prepare yourself for the most gruesome evening in Hart House history. Step into our House of Horrors, and prepare to see things that can’t be unseen:
• Find safety in numbers at a killer dance party with 1,200 other potential victims.
• Risk dissection in a mad scientist’s laboratory, or submit to a good old fashioned haunting.
• Quench your appetite in a human slaughterhouse where you and your classmates are on the menu.
• Test your limits as the host of Carnival Diablo swallows a healthy helping of razorblades, or plays a round of Russian Roulette.

Tickets ($15 general admission / $20 includes tickets to Carnival Diablo*) go on sale October 5 at 11 a.m. via www.uofttix.ca. Admission restricted to 19+ years. Valid Government-issued photo ID will be required at the door.