welcome

Congratulations on your acceptance to the University of Toronto and welcome to the U of T community. The Information for New Students page of the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) website has some great resources, such as the Essential Graduate Guide handbook to guide you through your first steps as a new graduate student at U of T.

Graduate Orientation 2014: September 2

New students are invited to Graduate Orientation 2014 on September 2. Please join us at the Medical Sciences Building for an information fair, a panel discussion and a campus tour.

The orientation Welcome Panel will be repeated three times through the day: 10:00am-12:00pm (noon); 2:00pm-4:00pm; and 5:00pm-6:00pm in the JJR Macleod Auditorium, to accommodate all incoming graduate students.

An Information Fair takes place in the Lobby of Medical Sciences from 12:00pm -5:00pm where you can learn about the services and resources that the University offers graduate students and have your questions answered by knowledgeable representatives from the university.

Campus Tours will depart at 12:00pm and 4:00pm from the Medical Sciences J JR Macleod Auditorium. Let us introduce you to important graduate student spaces, places and services on the St. George Campus. Space is limited on the campus tours.

Visit the Events page of the SGS website to confirm your attendance and reserve your spot for a tour.

need-to-know

Registration fee deadline: August 29

Registration fees are to be paid by August 29. You are not registered until you have paid tuition and incidental fees, or have made an appropriate fee deferral (see below). After August 29, fees payments may be subject to late charges. Fall
Your tuition invoice has been electronically posted to your account on the Student Web Service (SWS). Login to ROSI and follow the instructions for First Time Users. The information required to login is in your offer of admission letter.

**Your TCard and UTORid**

Your TCard is your student photo identification card, library card, and key to various student activities and services. You must pick up your TCard in person at the Robarts Library (St. George), the TCard Office (Mississauga), or the UTSC Library TCard Office (Scarborough) then follow the instructions on how to Activate Your UTORID.

**UTmail+ Account**

Your UTmail+ account is crucial. All official communication from the University is sent to your UTmail+ account. Your UTmail+ account is automatically created when you activate your UTORid however you do need to configure your account for your mobile/tablet or computer operating system.

**Course enrolment**

Contact your graduate unit for instructions about course enrolment. Most graduate units permit students to enroll in courses using the Student Web Service (SWS). Some grad units require students to fill out an enrolment form listing their courses. Some automatically add required courses to your record of academic activity. It is your responsibility to ensure that course enrolment is accurate on the SWS. Take a few minutes to double check your enrolment on the SWS. Most graduate classes start the week of September 8 this year.

**Important Sessional dates: 2014-2015**

Not knowing a course drop deadline or other important sessional deadline can complicate your life. The 2014-2015 Important Sessional dates are available on the SGS website. Book mark the page for easy reference.

**money matters**

**Award information sessions**

Information sessions are held in September by the SGS Graduate Awards Office for students interested in applying for Federal and Provincial scholarships/fellowships (e.g. NSERC, SSHRC, OGS). Sessions will be provided at all three campuses and are highly recommended for anyone interested in applying for funding from these programs. Visit the SGS Events page for dates and details.
Registration without payment (fee deferral)

You may register without payment (i.e. a fee deferral pending receipt of funding) on the Student Web Service/ROSI if you have received one of the following sources of funding, provided the funding exceeds the Minimum Payment to Register amount on your Student Web Services (ROSI) invoice:

- OSAP or other provincial loan;
- U.S. government loan; or
- University funding package (major award, research stipend or teaching stipend).

If you are receiving a major award, research stipend or teaching assistantship that is not part of a funding package, or if you are registering after the deadline, you must complete a Register Without Payment form to apply to register without making the minimum payment. Contact your home unit graduate administrator for more information.

Award activation and payment

Holding a major award? If you hold a major federal or provincial award (SSHRC/NSERC/CIHR/OGS), remember to submit the necessary forms required to activate payment of your award. Payments are issued in three equal instalments at the beginning of each session. September award payments (for both internal and external awards) are refunded directly to you. Fees are not deducted from your September award instalment (unless you have arrears). May and January award instalments will be posted to your fees account and automatically put towards tuition and/or any outstanding charges. Any remaining funds will be refunded to you. Please refer to the SGS website for additional information about payments and managing your award. Inquire with your graduate unit about how to request to register without payment.

OSAP and student loan applications

The 2014-2015 OSAP application is now available. If you have not done so already, we encourage you to apply as soon as possible. Out-of-province Canadian students must apply for student loans through their home province and apply for UTAPS (University of Toronto Assistance Program) separately. For more information on financial aid visit the U of T Financial Aid website.

OSAP payment procedures for September

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 registration 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.

Maintain interest-free status with OSAP

Registered students (with outstanding OSAP loans) not receiving OSAP in
the 2014-15 academic year, have until September 30 to complete and validate a Schedule 2 form in order to maintain interest-free status with your previous loan(s). Payments are expected to commence six months after the end of your registration in full-time studies. Please be aware that SGS can only validate your status while you are still registered. Visit the OSAP website for more information.

Award opportunities listing

Learn more about graduate awards, scholarships and research opportunities available to all U of T students through Ulife. The Graduate Awards Office posts awards opportunities to help current and potential students find funding opportunities. The database is updated as award competitions open. Check the database periodically for new opportunities.

Travel supplements for CGS award-holders

The Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements program provides financial support to active CGS award recipients for research study abroad. Eligible recipients may receive up to $6,000 for travel and accommodation to eligible foreign universities or research institutions. Further details on eligibility, value and application processes for CIHR, NSERC, and SSHRC can be found on the respective agencies' websites. Applications are due to SGS in September and May of each year. See the SGS website for upcoming dates.

UTM/UTSC campus affiliation and course union fees

Campus affiliation (St. George, UTM, UTSC) and the corresponding level of campus service fees for Athletics, Hart House, Health Service and other student services are automatically assigned, based on your program of study. You may apply to change your campus affiliation if the following criteria apply to you:

- Your supervisor is a member of the graduate faculty who is on the academic staff of the campus to which you wish to transfer affiliation; or
- You spend the majority of your academic time on the campus to which you wish to transfer affiliation.

Any student who would like to direct their course union fees to the UTM/UTSC departmental course unions may also do so by completing the change of campus affiliation form. The deadline for requesting a change of campus affiliation is September 12. Retroactive changes are not allowed. For more information contact your graduate unit or the appropriate graduate affairs office:

UTSC: Visit UTSC Graduate Services

UTM: Visit the Office of Vice Dean Graduate website

events

Orientation for students with family responsibilities
The Family Care Office Orientation 2014 for students with family responsibilities will be **September 4** from 11:00am-1:00pm in the Multi-Faith Centre, 569 Spadina Avenue, Main Activity Hall. Learn about the services and resources available to student parents on campus. Get advice from student mentors. Start creating your support networks by making new friends and meeting University staff. **Register here.**

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**international student resources**

**New to Canada?**

The Centre for International Experience (CIE) provides services to help incoming international students transition to Toronto, to Canada and to the University.

**Centre for International Experience**

**International Student Resource Centre at Mississauga**

**International Student Centre at Scarborough**

Here are a few resources that may be helpful in preparation for your arrival:

- A [Next Steps Checklist](#) for inbound International Students
- [Pre-arrival guides](#) to orient students to some of the aspects of coming to Canada and U of T
- [Student Advising](#) on Study Permits, Entry Visas, Inviting spouses and children, and related legal status documents and questions, Mr. Aziz El Mejdouby is available as the legally qualified International Immigration Student Advisor
- [International Transition Advisors](#) are available throughout the summer at Student Family Housing (Tuesdays), OISE (Tuesdays), Grad Room and Grad House (Wednesdays), and at SGS, 63 St. George (Fridays). These advisors are all available throughout the summer by appointment as well.
- [iConnect International Mentorship Program](#) accepts both graduate and undergraduate students, supporting them in their transition to U of T and enhancing intercultural competencies
Your health is important to us

U of T's health services suggest first time students bring your immunization records and medical certificates with you. These documents are not required for registration, but your immunization and medical certificates will ensure that we can provide the highest level of health care while you are here, should you need it. U of T's health services provide confidential, student-centred health care, including comprehensive medical care, travel education, immunization, counselling, and referrals.

St. George Health Service
Mississauga Health and Counselling Centre
Scarborough Health and Wellness Centre

English Language Writing and Support (ELWS)

The Office of English Language and Writing Support (ELWS) offers free instruction in academic writing and speaking to both native and non-native speakers of English who are registered in a U of T graduate program. Our offerings include non-credit courses, single session workshops, “boot camp” writing intensives, individual writing consultations, and an online listing of resources. September courses and workshops will be posted by mid-to-late August. Online registration is required for our courses. The ELWS Writing Centre will reopen in mid-August. Please visit the ELWS website for more details.

Support for TAs

The Teaching Assistants' Training Program (TATP) provides job training, certificate programs and workshops, including its annual TA DAY on August 27. It is an all-day event, from 9:00am–5:00pm at the Bahen Centre, 40 St. George Street. Registration opens mid-August. New and returning teaching assistants will learn effective teaching strategies; identify key resources to support teaching and learning, and meet award-winning faculty members and fellow TAs from across the University. It is a free event and open to TAs from all three campuses.