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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

gradschool e-news
december 2014

**In Focus: Lauren DiVito**

is a Biomedical Communications Master's student whose illustrations grace the pages of a "best-selling" internationally available eBook published by the Smithsonian Science Education Centre. She's currently working on a new interactive project with the Royal Ontario Museum. [More on Lauren.](#)

Important Dates• **December 22**

Winter Break - University Closed. Consult your grad unit for last day of classes before Winter Break

• **January 5**

University reopens. Most formal graduate courses begin the week of January 5

• **January 7**

Winter Welcome for new incoming students

• **January 9**

Winter session registration

welcome

Congratulations on your admission to the University of Toronto and welcome to the U of T community. Three resources available on the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) website that you will find useful are: [First Steps](#); [Information for New Students](#) and the [Essential Graduate Guide](#) handbook.

Discover graduate student life at the University of Toronto:

Winter Welcome 2015

January 7, from 1:00pm-3:00pm

Main Activity Hall, [Multi-Faith Centre](#)

Winter Welcome 2015 will connect incoming graduate students to support services and opportunities for engagement and learning outside the classroom. Knowledgeable staff and students will answer your questions and will take you on a tour of locations on the St. George Campus that offer services, resources and programs available to graduate students. Light refreshments will be served. Please [register here](#).

**need to know****Your student ID: TCard & 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**

deadline. After January 9 late fee charges are applied

• January 15

Doctoral thesis submission deadline to avoid winter session fees

• January 19

Final date to add winter session courses

• January 23

Master's degree recommendation to avoid winter session fees.

• January 23

Thesis submission and/or degree recommendation deadline for March Convocation (in absentia)

• February 1

Deadline to change immigration status or claim exemption from international student fees for January session



SGS Student Services

63 St. George Street

Regular hours of operation:

Monday to Friday
9:30am to 4:00pm

Got Feedback?

Help us make the GradSchool e-

All official communication from the University is sent only to your UTmail+ account. Your UTmail+ account is automatically created when you activate your UTORid. You should then [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. Check your enrolment activity on the SWS. There are instructions for first time users. Most graduate classes start the week of **January 5**.

Important session dates

Knowing Sessional Dates, such as the course drop deadline, is important. Not knowing a course drop deadline for example can complicate your life. The [2014-2015 Sessional Dates](#) are available on the SGS website. You can also download Sessional Dates directly to your electronic calendar in [iCal](#) format which is compatible with Microsoft Outlook, Google Calendar, Apple iCal and others.

money matters

Registration without payment (fee deferral)

The winter session registration deadline is **January 9**, after which late fees are applied. You are not registered until you make a fees payment. If you have received funding from one of the sources below you may register without payment (i.e. interest charges are waived on balance owing pending receipt of funding) on the [Student Web Service/ROSI](#), provided the funding exceeds the minimum payment to register specified on your 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, to register without payment, you must complete the appropriate [form](#). Contact your home unit graduate administrator for more information.

Award activation & payment

Payments are issued in three equal instalments at the beginning of each session. Winter (January) and Summer (May) award instalments will be posted to your fees account and automatically put towards tuition. Any remaining funds will be refunded to you. Set up direct deposit by entering your banking information under



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

the Personal Information tab on ROSI to receive award payments securely and quickly within only a few business days. Mailed cheques may take weeks to reach you. See the [Managing Your Award](#) page of the SGS website for further details.

OSAP payment procedures

[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 are 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.

UTM/UTSC campus affiliation & 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:

- 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.
- 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 to request a change of campus affiliation is the **January 9** winter registration deadline. Retroactive changes are not allowed. For more information contact your graduate unit or the appropriate graduate affairs office:

- UTM: Visit the [Office of Vice Dean Graduate](#) website.
- UTSC: (416) 287-7047

GSU Health Insurance

The Graduate Students' Union provides [Health and Dental Insurance](#) benefits not covered by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) or international student's mandatory [University Health Insurance Plan](#) (UHIP). All grads are covered by the Dental Plan; however, only full-time grads are covered by the Health Plan. If you already have equivalent insurance, you have until **January 23** if you wish to [opt out](#) of the GSU plan. Note: you must opt out annually, at the start of the term in which you first registered.

OGS updates!

U of T [OGS applications](#) for the 2015-16 academic year are now available. Please note that [graduate unit deadlines](#) for OGS applications do vary. OGS (Ontario Graduate Scholarship program) recognizes academic excellence at the master's and doctoral levels in all disciplines of academic study. The value of the OGS is \$5,000 per session. Thus, awardees may receive \$10,000 for two consecutive sessions or \$15,000 for three consecutive sessions. Contact your graduate unit if you have questions on how to apply.

SGS Travel & Conference grants

The SGS **Travel Grant Program** supports PhD students in Humanities or Social Science for whom research travel (e.g., fieldwork, consultation of specialists and of primary or secondary sources etc.) to sites either within or outside Canada is required in order to complete their dissertation. The 2015 online application for the [SGS Research Travel Grant](#) will open to students in mid-February and close in early March.

The SGS **Conference Grant Program** is also offered during the winter 2015 session; the online application will open in mid-March and close at the end of March. A [Conference Grant](#) provides modest financial support to eligible students who will be actively presenting their research at an academic conference. Keep posted to the [SGS News](#) page or [ULife Opportunities](#) in March for more information.

Funding opportunities

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.

support for international students

New to Canada?

The [Centre for International Experience \(CIE\)](#) provides a host of services to help incoming international students transition to Toronto, to Canada and to the University. You can find the [Next Steps Checklist](#), access valuable advice on coming to Canada, get advice and find resources for Citizenship and Immigration Canada [permit and visa processes](#), and much more (note: The international Immigration Student Advisor can only help with questions about Temporary Resident Status, for example Study Permit, Student Work Permit and Visa).



UHIP card available online when you arrive

The University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP) is a mandatory health plan for international students, intended to ensure that you have basic health care coverage while studying in Ontario. As an international student you are automatically enrolled in UHIP and the cost is included on your student account. It is very important that you obtain your [UHIP card](#) upon arrival, before any possible medical emergency. Students can register online. Spouses/partners can visit UHIP to complete their registration. Please visit the CIE's [UHIP webpage](#) for more information.

English communication help

The Centre for International Experience offers an [English Communication Program](#) to help multilingual international students develop communication skills in English, gain insight into Canadian culture and life at the University of Toronto (U

of T), and share cross-cultural experiences. Registration opens **December 1**, and classes run **January 26 to April 10**.

International transition advisors support you

SGS has partnered with Centre for International Experience to bring [international transition advisors](#) to graduate student locations, including Architecture, Engineering, OISE, SGS, Grad Room & Grad House, Chestnut Street Residence, and soon, the Sidney Smith Lobby. Students can meet with an advisor to discuss adjusting to Canadian life, how to find resources for academic success; refer to resources on CIC documentation, and more. Your advisors' contact information, their drop-in hours (Monday through Friday) and locations are available online.

events

National Day of Remembrance & Action on Violence Against Women



This year is the 25th anniversary of the Montreal Massacre, and we will once again take time to remember, not only the women who died tragically at Ecole Polytechnique, but all women who are [victims and survivors of gender-based violence](#). Ceremony will be held **December 4** at 12:00pm, Commemorative Benches, Hart House Circle. Opening remarks from President Meric Gertler.

Grad Escapes: Family Skate

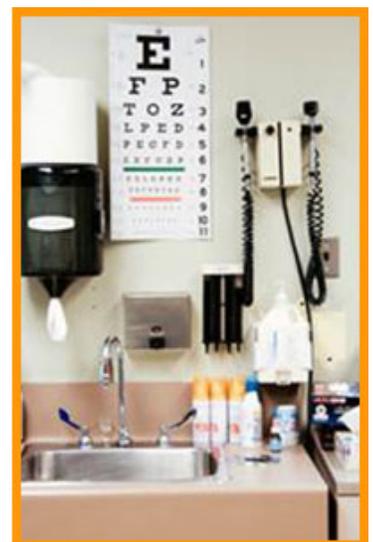
Experience thesis avoidance with style! Forget your thesis for a night and escape join [Grad Escapes](#) for [Family Skate](#) at Nathan Phillip's Square on **December 6** from 2:00pm-4:00pm. Registration required via [bookit](#).

supports & resources

Your health is important to us

Are you coming to Toronto for the first time? U of T's health services suggest you 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 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 & Wellness](#)
- Mississauga [Health and Counselling Centre](#)
- Scarborough [Health and Wellness Centre](#)



Student Life

Life at the University of Toronto is an experience like no other and the more energy you invest, the greater will be your experience. [Student Life](#) connects life to learning. Our student body is the most culturally-diverse university community in Canada and the 800+ student clubs equally reflect the diverse interests and passions of our students. Participate in student activities. Attend workshops to develop and apply leadership skills. Get a job on campus and, more than anything, find what is meaningful to you and explore it.

Graduate Professional Skills (GPS)

Want to learn a few new skills? The Graduate Professional Skills (GPS) Program strengthens skills for success within and beyond academe. Enroll in the GPS Program by visiting our [website](#) and following the instructions under Getting Started. Enrolling in the GPS program means that you will get valuable program updates about enriching opportunities specifically designed for graduate students.

Need research support? Ask a librarian

Looking for in-depth research support for your thesis or dissertation? Book a one-on-one research consultation with a librarian who will show you some time-saving tips and search strategies for finding quality primary and secondary sources to support your studies. Visit the [Research Consultations](#) page to submit a request.

English Language & Writing Support: January courses

Online registration for January courses offered by the School of Graduate Studies' Office of [English Language and Writing Support](#) will open on **January 5** at 10:00am. ELWS courses are free, non-credit, and available exclusively to U of T graduate students. Courses fill quickly, so register on January 5th to avoid disappointment. ELWS also offers free single-session workshops and one-on-one writing consultations.

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