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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. [Read more about 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 15**  
Doctoral thesis submission

## need-to-know

### Winter Break

The University is closed for winter break **December 22 to January 2** inclusive and reopens on **January 5**. Enjoy your well-earned time off. Most graduate courses and seminars resume the week of January 5. If in doubt, check with your home graduate unit.



### Doctoral thesis submission deadline to avoid January fees

Have you successfully completed your final oral examination? **January 15** is the final date for a doctoral candidate to submit a thesis in final, approved form to avoid paying tuition in the January session.

### Course enrolment deadline

The final date to add a winter session course is **January 19**. After the deadline you will need [written permission](#) of the course lecturer, your graduate coordinator and SGS approval.

### Master's degree recommendation to avoid Winter Session fees

If you finish your Master's degree requirements by **January 23** you do not have to register in the Winter Session or pay fees. Thesis students, please note that the submission of your final, corrected thesis to T-Space (post-defence, if applicable) is a degree requirement. Consult your graduate unit for degree completion deadlines, as most will set a date earlier in January than the SGS deadline.

### Convocation in absentia: March 2014

Students who complete all degree requirements by **January 23** are eligible to

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

- **February 3**

Deadline for name change on ROSI for March Convocation diplomas

graduate either in March or June. March Convocation is in absentia - there are no March Convocation ceremonies. The requirements to be eligible to graduate are explained on the [Graduation](#) page of the SGS website. 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.

## Is your student record up to date?

If you are planning to convocate in March, be aware that your name appears on your diploma, exactly as it is recorded on ROSI. To view your record, visit the ROSI website and select the "Graduation" option. **February 3** is the deadline to correct the information for March Convocation. Should you wish to change your name (this includes middle names) or gender, please contact SGS Student Services. Name/gender changes are processed at SGS Student Services, 63 St. George Street, first floor counter.

If you have accents in your name, download and complete the [Name on Diploma form](#) and return the form to the address provided. This form is only for accents.

## money matters

### Award payments by instalment

SGS award payments are normally made in three equal installments and issued during the first weeks of the Fall, Winter and Spring sessions. Winter and Spring award installments are first posted to your fees account and will automatically be 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](#). Set up direct deposit by entering your banking information under the Personal Information tab on ROSI to receive award payments securely and quickly within three to four business days. Mailed cheques may take weeks to reach you.



#### SGS Student Services

63 St. George Street

#### Regular hours of operation:

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

### OGS Updates!

The U of T [OGS Online Application](#) for the 2015-16 academic year is now available. Please note that each graduate unit sets their own [OGS application deadline](#). The Ontario Graduate Scholarship Program recognizes academic excellence in graduate studies 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 for the deadline and any additional application requirements.

### Travel and Conference Grants at SGS

The 2015 online application for the [SGS Research Travel Grant](#) will open to

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students in mid-February and close in early March. The SGS Research Travel Grant Program supports PhD students in the Humanities or Social Sciences 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 [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. The 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.

## Master's Tuition Fee Bursary

The [Master's Tuition Fee Bursary](#) is available for Master's students in both course-work and research programs who are beyond the program length required for their degree and still have a small amount of work outstanding, due to unanticipated delays beyond the students' control. Please note that students must submit their application prior to the deadline, but only once they have completed all outstanding degree requirements. The bursary, if awarded, is applied to the student's fees account and will reduce the cost of their final session tuition to that of part-time fees.

## 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](#).

### 3 Minute Thesis

The 3rd Annual U of T 3 Minute Thesis® Competition will be coming in March 2015! Watch for details about signing up and divisional heats.

The 3MT® competition is a University-wide competition for doctoral students. Participants have up to three minutes to present their doctoral research to a panel of non-specialist judges. The challenge is to present complex research

information in an engaging, accessible, and compelling way.

The finalist from the University of Toronto 3MT® competition will go on to compete in the Ontario Provincial Championship at University of Western Ontario. Last year, University of Toronto's representative [Daiva Nielsen](#) finished first place.

## supports & resources

### English Language and 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. For detailed information on ELWS's winter courses, workshops, and writing-centre appointments, please visit our [website](#). ELWS offerings are free, non-credit, and available exclusively to U of T graduate students. Courses fill quickly, so register on January 5 to avoid disappointment.

### Graduate Professional Skills (GPS)

Sign up for GPS offerings this winter by visiting our [webpage](#). You can also subscribe to our listserv by enrolling in the program on Blackboard. Follow the instructions under the [Getting Started](#) section.

### Thinking of studying or researching abroad?

The Centre for International Experience runs academic [exchange opportunities](#) to over 130 institutions world-wide. And yes, graduate students are eligible. If you are conducting research outside of Canada, your department will refer you to the [Safety Abroad Office](#) to ensure you receive the appropriate support and guidelines while you are away.

### English communication program

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