In Focus: Candice Lys, a Public Health PhD student, inspired the creation of a sexual health education program which received the Arctic Inspiration Prize – worth $1 million. Read more about Candice.

Important Dates

• February 3
  Last day to update personal information for March convocation in absentia

• February 9-23
  Nomination period for Graduate Education Council election

• February 16
  Family Day - University closed

• February 23
  Deadline to drop full year or winter session graduate courses without academic penalty

need-to-know

Graduating in absentia? March 2015

Your name appears on your diploma, exactly as it is recorded on ROSI. Is your student record up to date? Accents or special characters can be corrected on line using the Name-On-Diploma-June form and submit it to the Office of Convocation by February 3.

An addition or deletion of a first or middle name or a change of surname is done at the SGS Student Services counter. Photo ID is required.

The deadline for a name change for students graduating in absentia (March 2015) is February 3.

Nominations for student representation on Graduate Education Council (GEC)

Seven seats are currently available for graduate student representatives on the Graduate Education Council (GEC): two seats from Division I (Humanities), three seats from Division II (Social Sciences), and two seats from Division III (Physical Sciences). The nomination period begins on February 9 and will end at 5:00pm on February 23. Nomination forms will be available on line. Visit GFC Elections for more information.

Course drop deadline: February 23

The deadline to drop full-year or January-session courses without academic penalty is February 23. After the deadline, late-drop requests are normally only considered in cases of valid, documented, health or other serious personal circumstances adversely affecting your ability to complete the coursework. Use the Course Add/Drop form. Late drops need approval from the graduate unit offering the course, your home unit and the School of Graduate Studies.

Undergraduate and 500-level courses have their own deadlines to drop without academic penalty. Consult your home unit if in doubt. Withdrawal from courses without academic penalty does not necessarily result in a refund. Check the appropriate refund schedule for details.
Click here to download important 2015 Sessional Dates.

Keeping your graduate career on track

For information on maintaining good academic standing, supervision, program extensions, leaves of absence and much more visit the SGS website: Managing Your Program.

Recognize your supervisor!

Do you know a great graduate supervisor who has made a difference in their students’ development as a researcher and in pursuing future academic or professional careers? The JI Berry Smith Doctoral Supervision Award recognizes outstanding performance in the multiple roles associated with doctoral supervision.

If there is a supervisor you would like to nominate contact your home graduate unit about the selection process and local deadlines or click here to learn how to nominate your supervisor and view past winners.

money matters

Travel and Conference Grants

SGS Travel Grant funding supports research travel (undertaken between May 2015 and April 2016) that is necessary to the final stages of your PhD program. Full-time PhD students registered in the Humanities and Social Sciences are eligible to apply online directly to SGS. The application period opens February 17 and closes March 6.

SGS Winter 2015 Conference Grant applications will be accessible online from March 16-27. Conference Grants provide financial support to successful full time doctoral stream students to assist in presenting their research at an academic conference occurring between March 1 and September 30.

Master's Tuition Fee Bursary (MTFB)

Master's Tuition Fee Bursary (MTFB) support is available to master’s students registered full-time in either course-based or research-based programs who are beyond the program length required for their degree, but who still have a small amount of work outstanding due to unanticipated factors that are beyond their control. Apply AFTER you have completed all program requirements and prior to the MTFB sessional deadline of April 17 for winter 2015. Learn more about your eligibility.

Mitacs Globalink Funding for international research

Mitacs Globalink has funding opportunities to support student research projects outside of Canada. Visit Mitacs Funding opportunities for more information.

SSHRC Impact Awards (Talent)
Do you hold a SSHRC award? Are you doing great things because of it?

The SSHRC Talent Award recognizes outstanding achievement by an individual who, on April 30, 2015, holds a SSHRC doctoral or postdoctoral fellowship or scholarship (including, but not limited to, a Canada Graduate Scholarship, Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship or Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship).

The SSHRC Talent Award is given to an individual who maintains academic excellence, has a talent for research and knowledge mobilization and has demonstrated clear potential to be a future leader within and/or outside the academic sector. SSHRC offers one Talent Award annually. Learn more about the Talent Award and how to apply.

news

U of T students support frontline ebola workers

Working with Save the Children, a global NGO dedicated to children’s rights, three first-year epidemiology students in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health successfully facilitated the delivery of masks, gloves, disinfectant and other much needed Ebola protective supplies to Njala University in Bo, Sierra Leone.

Dalla Lana School of Public Health experts are among the leading authorities on the disease. Master of Science in Biomedical Communications student Priya Panchal-Banerjee researched, conceptualized, wrote, and illustrated a work showing how the virus evades the immune system, and the damage the virus inflicts on tissues.

Three Minute Thesis Competition

So you think you've got a thesis? Then sign-up for U of T's Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) competition! Registration for the divisional heats will open in mid-February on a first-come, first-served basis. The 3MT® is a university-wide competition for doctoral students. You will have just 3 minutes and one power-point slide to present your research in an engaging, accessible and compelling way to a panel of non-specialist judges. U of T's own Daiva Nielsen was the winner at the 2014 Ontario 3MT® competition. So, are you up for the challenge?

Learn more:
- Registration opens for Divisional Heats opens mid-February
- Divisional Heats: week of March 23
- UofT Final: April 8
- Ontario 3MT®: April 23 at University of Western Ontario

Autism Research Training (ART)

The Autism Research Training (ART) program is a partnership of 17 Canadian universities to recruit and train outstanding doctoral students and researchers from multiple disciplines in the field of autism. Competition for available spaces is rigorous; financial support is provided; and the reward of advancing research in this field is enormous. The deadline to apply for admission to the 2015 ART
program is March 6. Interested? Application and further instructions are available online.

# Discover #joyatUofT

It's time to find joy, so shake off your winter woes by exploring the delights of February at U of T. Whatever brings you joy, tweet it, Instagram it, and include the hashtag joyatuoft! By letting U of T know how you discover joy you can let everyone discover it too (no one likes a joy hog!).

Tips to get you started:

- Get active and get that heart pumping
- Be social – spend time with friends who you enjoy being with
- Stay organized – nothing ruins joy like losing something important!
- See the silver lining of every situation
- Eat healthy and avoid junky food, which will make your body joyful

And most important, share the joy!

# Indigenous Education Week 2015

Indigenous Education Week is an annual week-long series of events that highlights the contribution of Indigenous knowledges to education. All events are free and open to all students and the public. First Nations House. Please check out the complete schedule of events and join the conversation on twitter #IEW2015.

# Grad Talks: What if you didn't? And other questions to ask when you're exhausted

Do you find yourself trying to do things fast, sometimes without knowing why? In this session on February 5 from 4:00pm-5:00pm, Grad Room, investigate the dizzying addictive speed at which you sometimes operate. Registration required, pizza will be served!

# Tenant Counselling Clinic

Learn about your rights as a tenant on February 26 from 2:00pm-3:00pm, Cumberland Room, meet face-to-face with a counsellor from the Federation of Metro Tenants Associations and gain:

- Skills to advocate for yourself on tenant-related issues;
- Help with problem solving and negotiating with landlords; and
- Knowledge of campus and community resources available to you.
Camp U of T: Hiring now!

Camp U of T hires more than 100 students every summer as Instructors and Assistant Instructors in a variety of sports, leadership and mini-university programs. Qualified students from across U of T are encouraged to apply by February 8.

ELWS: February/March courses

Online registration for February/March courses offered by the Office of English Language and Writing Support (ELWS) will open on February 9 at 10:00am. ELWS courses are free, non-credit, and available exclusively to U of T graduate students. Courses fill quickly, so register on February 9 to avoid disappointment. ELWS also offers free single-session workshops and one-on-one writing consultations.

Graduate Professional Skills (GPS)

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