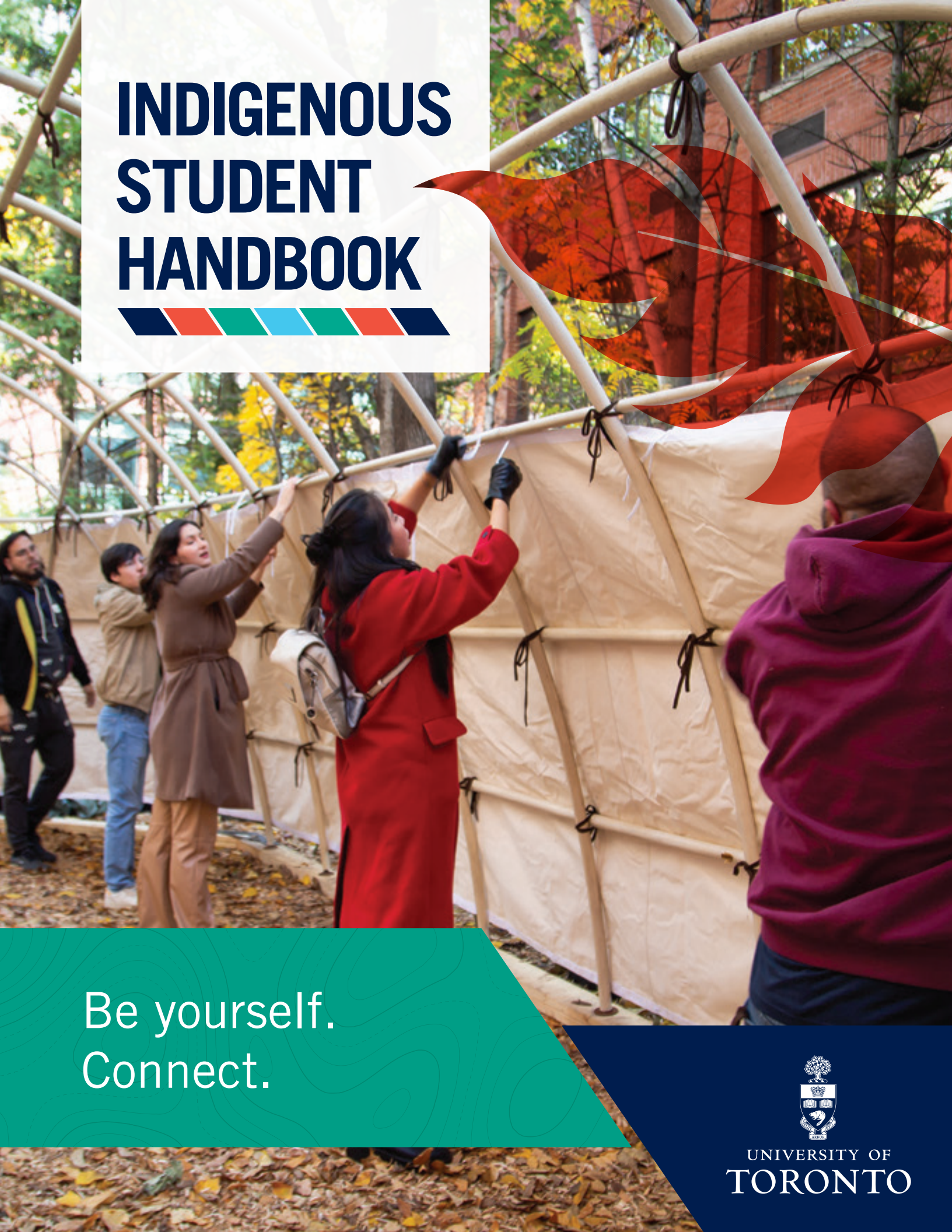


INDIGENOUS STUDENT HANDBOOK



Be yourself.
Connect.



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

AHNIIN, BOOZHOO! BIINDIGEN! (WELCOME, COME ON IN!)



My name is Michael White, I'm the Director of First Nations House – Indigenous Student Services, and a member of the M'Chigeeng First Nation. FNH-ISS is a place on the St. George campus to connect, to be ourselves with other Indigenous peoples. While situated on the St. George campus, we provide services and support for all U of T students. We have existed for over 30 years and have been a nexus for Indigenous excellence. Here you have access to specialized staff and services to assist you in your academic and social experience at the University of Toronto. **Come visit us soon!**

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

U of T is dedicated in its efforts to be a place deserving of Indigenous community members. As part of its commitment to achieve this, the University released its response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Final Report, **Wecheehetowin: Answering the Call**. The Office of Indigenous Initiatives was also established to support and guide the U of T community as it continues to work towards reconciliation. Efforts are directed towards listening, coordinating, advising, and collaborating with academic and non-academic communities in addressing the Final Report's Calls to Action. Learn more at indigenous.utoronto.ca.

First Nations House
U of T St. George



FINDING SUCCESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

The University of Toronto is committed to fostering, strengthening, and enriching new and existing initiatives that support our current and future Indigenous students in reaching your full potential. By providing culturally relevant services to Indigenous students—and opportunities to connect with each other—we are supporting your academic success, personal growth and leadership development. We also offer learning opportunities for all students to engage with the Indigenous communities at U of T and beyond.

Indigenous Student Initiatives

Student-run clubs and organizations are an important part of the U of T experience for many students. Follow your passions and join one of our many student groups like a film appreciation club, debating society, sports team, and more. U of T offers many opportunities to get involved, and Indigenous students are among our most dynamic leaders.

Be sure to check out the Indigenous Students Association and the Indigenous Studies Students Union which provide spaces for relaxation, work, socialization as well as organize events and programs to engage students with Indigenous knowledges and activities. The Waawaakte Northern Lights Initiative and the Indigenous Outreach Program offer opportunities for cultural exchange and dialogue. Drop in to our Indigenous Book Club which fosters collaboration, sharing, inquiry, and respect through the discovery of Indigenous authors and themes.

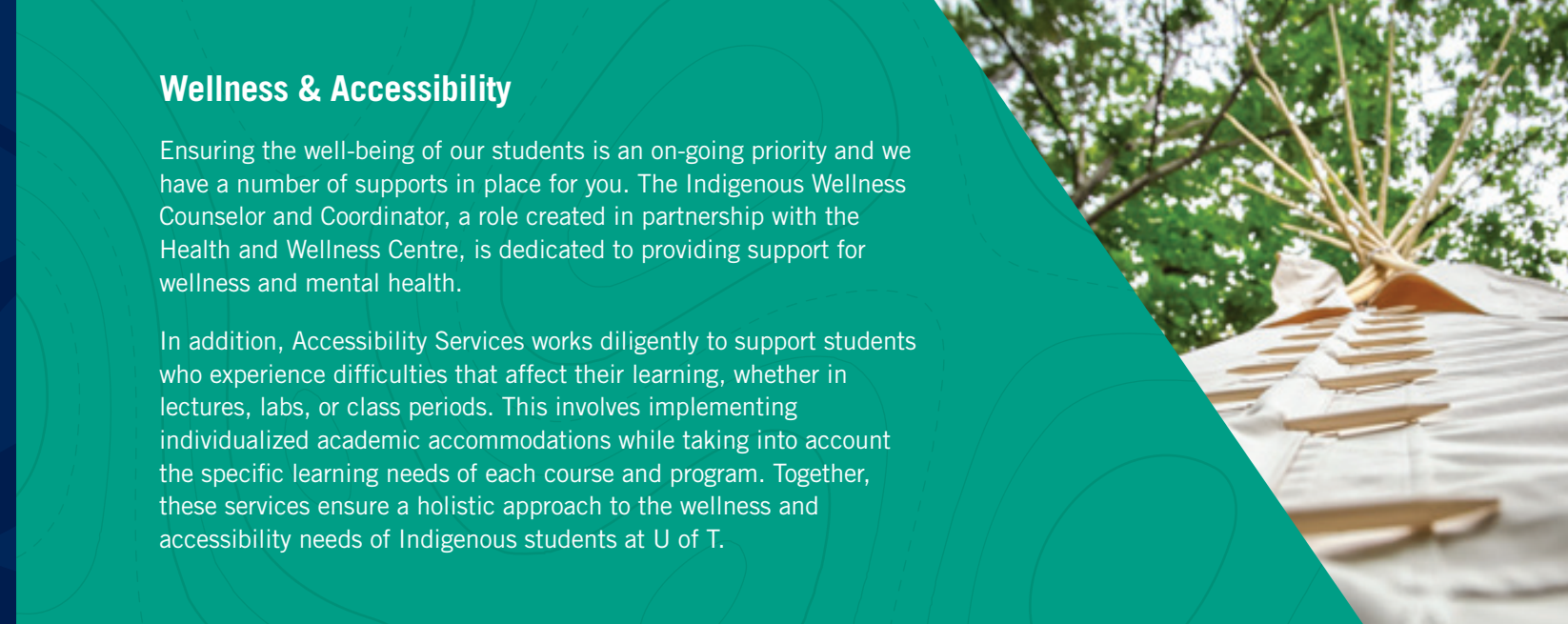
Various mentorship programs provide opportunities to shadow Indigenous staff or faculty and connect with upper-year students for valuable advice. Regular socials and events, including Tea and Talk with Elder(s), Indigiqueer NightOut! LGBTQ2S+ Social, Land-Based Teachings, Powwow Power Hour, and the Indigenous Graduation Ceremony, collectively contribute to a supportive and enriching environment for Indigenous students at U of T. These initiatives also play a crucial role in broadening the cultural horizons of the entire U of T community.



Wellness & Accessibility

Ensuring the well-being of our students is an on-going priority and we have a number of supports in place for you. The Indigenous Wellness Counselor and Coordinator, a role created in partnership with the Health and Wellness Centre, is dedicated to providing support for wellness and mental health.

In addition, Accessibility Services works diligently to support students who experience difficulties that affect their learning, whether in lectures, labs, or class periods. This involves implementing individualized academic accommodations while taking into account the specific learning needs of each course and program. Together, these services ensure a holistic approach to the wellness and accessibility needs of Indigenous students at U of T.



2-SPIRIT LESBIAN GAY
BISEXUAL TRANS QUEER +
Positive Space
positivespace.utoronto.ca

Learning Skills & Academic Support

All students have access to a wide range of supports, like our Academic Success, Writing Centres, and Career Centres. U of T also offers additional resources to Indigenous students. First Nations House—Indigenous Student Services provides culturally supportive academic advising, personalized appointments, academic planning, and advocacy, and our Indigenous Learning Strategist offers workshops and sessions on essential skills.

Culturally relevant career supports are available through the Indigenous Career Educator, and the Resource Centre in First Nations House offers a wide range of Indigenous-related content and support for research. These services provide a comprehensive approach to the academic support and success of our Indigenous students. Students also have the opportunity to meet with Traditional Teachers for support, guidance and teachings.



OUR THREE CAMPUSES

University of Toronto Mississauga

The University of Toronto Mississauga campus is situated on 225 acres of protected greenbelt land along the Credit River. UTM offers a range of undergraduate and graduate programs that promote intellectual discovery, critical thinking, and creativity.

The Office of Indigenous Initiatives (OII) at U of T Mississauga works to support Indigenous students, staff, and faculty who study or work on campus, as well as invite future Indigenous students to a welcoming and inclusive community. OII promotes equity and inclusion of Indigenous people among staff, students, faculty, and throughout the campus.

utm.utoronto.ca



University of Toronto Scarborough

The University of Toronto Scarborough is situated in the eastern part of Toronto and nestled in the Highland Creek Valley. U of T Scarborough places a strong emphasis on inclusivity and experiential learning in all of the arts, business, and science programs offered on its campus.

Indigenous Initiatives at U of T Scarborough highlights and celebrates Indigenous ways of knowing by fostering campus and community partnerships and creating an atmosphere which welcomes respectful dialogues that disrupt common narratives. We are committed to incorporating Indigenous knowledge in the activities of the campus and its communities by working with Elders and Knowledge Keepers, curating events and facilitating workshops for the wider campus community.

utsc.utoronto.ca



Ma Moosh Ka Win Trail (Cree)
utsc.utoronto.ca/indigenous-place-making

University of Toronto St. George

The University of Toronto St. George campus is in the heart of downtown Toronto. It is home to a diverse community of students and faculty offering undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs across various fields of study.

First Nations House (FNH) is a dedicated space on the U of T St. George campus for Indigenous students at any of our three campuses. FNH is a culturally relevant hub that provides all students with opportunities to learn about Indigenous knowledges, traditional teachings, seek guidance from Elders, while also giving many students the chance to attend events, socialize, and access financial and academic supports.

future.utoronto.ca



Meet Our Community

Jessica Tabak (she, her, hers)

Community: Neyaashiinigiing – Chippewas of Nawash First Nation

Position at U of T: Special Projects Officer, Indigenous Initiatives

What I love most about my role is that I can co-create meaningful and tangible change by mobilizing reconciliation on campus.

My advice for students is to lean on your community both internal and external to the university + always be kind to yourself while you navigate the ebbs and flows of university.

LEARN AND CONNECT

Build on your passions or discover a new academic pursuit.

Explore the University of Toronto's rich selection of undergraduate programs in arts, business, science, architectural & visual studies, engineering, kinesiology, music, and more! You can choose from more than 700 undergraduate program options to build a degree that is personalized to your interests. Through specialists, majors, minors, and certificates, you can be creative to build a uniquely personalized degree—one that is tailored to you.

future.utoronto.ca/academics

Indigenous Student Orientation & Graduation

First Nations House – Indigenous Student Services (FNH-ISS) organizes an orientation session and open house for new Indigenous students at the beginning of each academic year. FNH-ISS also honours graduating Indigenous students with a celebratory event that acknowledges students' successes with guest speakers, gifts, food and community.

fnh.utoronto.ca

Indigenous Academic Programs

Centre for Indigenous Studies

Indigenous Studies at the University of Toronto is an interdisciplinary undergraduate program within the Faculty of Arts & Science. The program is dedicated to understanding and supporting the priorities and aspirations of Indigenous peoples in Canada and throughout the world. The Faculty of Arts & Science offers Specialist, Major, and Minor program options in Indigenous Studies.

Faculty of Arts & Science Language Citation: Anishnaabemowin

Indigenous Studies participates in the Faculty of Arts & Science Language Citation Initiative for Anishnaabemowin. The study of the Anishinaabe language is a demanding but rewarding educational experience.

Indigenous Education Week

Each fall, FNH-ISS invites you to celebrate Indigenous identity, culture, research, community, knowledge education and much more at the University of Toronto, with a host of Indigenous guest speakers, facilitators, knowledge keepers, educators and community members.

uoft.me/indigenous-academic-programs

Indigenous Student
Graduation 2023

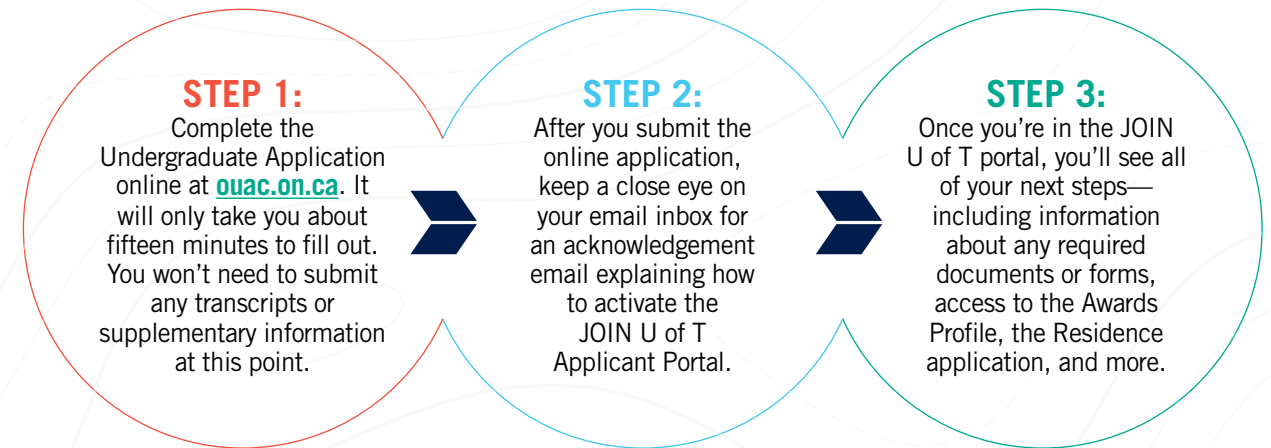




APPLYING TO U OF T



How to Apply



U of T Sponsored Application

The University of Toronto is committed to dismantling barriers to postsecondary education, and one way we're doing that is by waiving the application fee for Indigenous students through our Sponsored Application program. Contact the Indigenous Student Recruitment Team to learn more at indigenous.undergrad@utoronto.ca.

Pathways to U of T

While many students apply to university directly from high school, other students take alternate paths. Bridging, transition, and diploma-to-degree programs offered by U of T are designed to help those students who may not have followed a traditional path to post-secondary studies.

future.utoronto.ca/apply/requirements/pathway

Transitional Year Programme

The Transitional Year Programme (TYP) is a full-time, eight-month access-to-university program. It is intended for adults who do not have the formal qualifications for university admission, such as those who did not have an opportunity to finish high school or did not succeed in high school because of financial problems, family difficulties or other circumstances beyond their control. The Transitional Year Programme is quite unique – we provide each student with an academic advisor, access to counselling and funding options, a space to work, socialize and be with other students in their program. typ.utoronto.ca

ADMISSION AWARDS



Did you know that we offer thousands of student awards annually based on a variety of eligibility criteria? It's true! Admission awards are for newly qualified students entering their first year of undergraduate studies at the University of Toronto.

There are a number of awards that are dedicated to self-identifying Indigenous (First Nation, Inuit, and Métis) students. For example, the President's Award for the Outstanding Indigenous Student of the Year is presented to students of Indigenous ancestry (Status, Non-Status, Inuit, Métis) and awarded in that student's final year of study at U of T. One thing to note is that some awards require the completion of a separate application or process, so be sure to check our **Award Explorer** (awardexplorer.utoronto.ca).

Awards Profile

After you apply to U of T, you'll be able to access the **Awards Profile** through the JOIN U of T Applicant Portal. By submitting the Awards Profile, you'll be considered for a number of different awards that are based on financial need, leadership, community involvement, and other criteria.

By submitting the Awards Profile, you will be automatically considered for the following awards: First Nations House Bursary/Indigenous Students Bursary, Colonel F. A. Tilston Admission Scholarship, William Buttmer Entrance Scholarship, Bennett Scholars, Tom Mitchinson and David Connolly Award, The Victoria Annual Fund Award, General Motors Admission Award, A.L. Cochrane Scholarship, and the Innis Admission Scholarship for Indigenous Peoples.

Award Spotlight

U of T Engineering Entrance Scholarship for Indigenous Students

This award is open to domestic students who identify as Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuit) on the basis of academic excellence and the information provided on the applicant's Online Student Profile; financial need may also be considered. It covers tuition, plus a stipend, for 4 years (renewable).



“First Nations House was **instrumental** in providing **financial assistance, cultural programming** and generally just a spot to **feel at home!**”

Andrea is a member of the **Mohawk Nation, Turtle Clan**, and an alumna of Woodsworth College's Millie Rotman Shime Academic Bridging Program, Andrea pursued an Honours B.A. at the Faculty of Arts & Science, specializing in Indigenous Studies and double-minoring in Book & Media Studies and Creative Expression & Society. Andrea received the **2019 President's Award for Outstanding Indigenous Student** and was a **Bennett Scholar** in 2018 and 2019.



FINANCIAL AID



We know that financing a university education is no small undertaking.

Our policy is that no student offered admission to a program at U of T should be unable to enter or complete a program due to lack of financial means. This commitment to our students who are Canadian citizens, permanent residents, or protected persons means that we will supplement the funding provided by government sources.

OSAP & Canadian Government Aid

The Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) is a government financial aid program made up of a mix of grants and loans. If you're from another Canadian province or territory, you can apply for aid through your government's financial aid program.

Band Funding

The University of Toronto accepts Band funding. Contact your Band's education office or coordination team to inquire about available funding to support your postsecondary ambitions.

University of Toronto Indigenous Tuition Initiative

The University of Toronto has created the Indigenous Tuition Initiative to foster and strengthen relationships between U of T and Indigenous communities in Ontario, across Canada, and in the United States. This initiative includes three programs: 1) The U of T Indigenous Tuition Grant covers the cost of tuition in eligible undergraduate and graduate programs for students from the nine identified First Nations communities; 2) Indigenous students from the rest of Canada may be eligible for domestic Ontario tuition fee; and 3) Native American/Alaska Native students from the continental U.S.A. may be eligible for domestic Ontario tuition fee.

University of Toronto Financial Aid

University of Toronto Advanced Planning for Student (UTAPS) fills the financial gap for eligible full-time students who receive the maximum amount of government financial aid available but whose government funding and other assessed financial resources do not cover all assessed university costs. UTAPS funding varies depending on student need.

Find out more about admission awards and financial aid for prospective undergraduate Indigenous students at indigenous.future.utoronto.ca/finances

Indigenous House
U of T Scarborough



YOUR FUTURE IS HERE



Campus Tours

The path to university can be different for everyone.

Uncover your future here at U of T! Our three beautiful campuses offer students the chance to learn, network, and innovate in Canada's economic hub, all while surrounded by diverse neighbourhoods. We invite you to take advantage of our campus tours that are available year-round and speak with current students to learn about their experiences.

U of T St. George: future.utoronto.ca/visit/campus-tours/st-george

U of T Mississauga: future.utoronto.ca/visit/campus-tours/mississauga

U of T Scarborough: future.utoronto.ca/visit/campus-tours/scarborough

Schedule a Virtual Visit

Are you an educator, guidance counsellor, Indigenous counsellor or community organization and would like to book a virtual presentation for your students? Let's make it happen! Contact our Indigenous Student Recruitment Team to schedule a virtual or in-person presentation at indigenous.undergrad@utoronto.ca.



Meet Our Community

Aaron Sinclair (he, him, his)

Community: Peguis First Nation

Position at U of T: Student Recruitment Officer, Indigenous

Currently enrolled in the Academic Bridging Programme.

What I love most about my role is helping future Indigenous students navigate their pathway to post-secondary education, whether they are coming from high school or returning as a mature student, as well as working with the different faculty teams to support U of T's reconciliation efforts.

My advice for students would be to immerse yourself in the support services offered to you. Through the Indigenous Student Services and your Registrar's office, there are a lot of people here who care about seeing you succeed.



Strive to be the person you need and make your ancestors proud every day.

2023 TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

1ST

in Canada

21ST

in the world

2024 QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS: SUSTAINABILITY

1ST

in the world



Meet Our Community

Tee Duke (she, her, hers)

Community: Niisaachewan Anishinaabe Nation – Treaty 3 Territory

Position at U of T: Director, Indigenous Initiatives, U of T Mississauga

What I love most about my role is being able to connect, centre and support the Indigenous community during their academic/non-academic journey at U of T.

CONNECT WITH US

We're always here to answer any questions you might have about joining the University of Toronto. Get in touch with our Indigenous Student Recruitment Team at indigenous.undergrad@utoronto.ca.



indigenous.future.utoronto.ca
future.utoronto.ca

  @FutureUofT