

Laidlaw Scholars Programme

The Laidlaw Undergraduate Research and Leadership Programme, also known as the Laidlaw Scholars Programme, provides students with funding to pursue research in any area of interest at U of T, or anywhere in the world.

There are four program elements:

- 1. Research project:** Students propose a research topic with a research advisor who will supervise them. Global travel restrictions permitting, students may also have the opportunity to travel abroad if it suits their research project. Faculty from University of Toronto or potentially from other universities may serve as research advisors. Neither teaching assistants nor graduate students are eligible to serve as research advisors.
- 2. Leadership development and training:** Students receive leadership training to develop problem-solving and communication skills. This leadership program will take place throughout fall 2022 and winter 2023, with online sessions interspersed with in-person components where possible (following all social distancing guidelines set forth at that time by the University of Toronto).
- 3. Leadership-in-action experience:** Scholars will have the opportunity to apply learned leadership skills through an immersive experience or through project-based work in their second summer of the program. Application of leadership skills in a variety of different aspects will be a key focus of the program.
- 4. Network building (for future opportunities):** Students will work with staff and faculty at their university or universities across the world to grow their career networks during and after their time with the Laidlaw Scholars Programme.

The history

Lord Laidlaw of Rothiemay used his vision and commitment to create this program, which began at the University of Leeds and is now offered at 16 universities around the world. The long-term vision for the Laidlaw Scholarship is to create a wide-reaching and diverse international network of leaders who will reinvest their skills, knowledge and experience to help students, peers and colleagues.

For more information about the history and vision of the program, please visit the [Laidlaw Scholars website](#).

Program outline

New scholars can take part in one summer (six weeks) of full-time independent research in 2022.

During the second summer, also referred to as the Leadership-in-Action Summer, students can follow one of three pathways:

1. Practically implement your research (six weeks long),
2. Work with a University-approved program (could be self-proposed) to implement your leadership skills. This could be working with an NGO or organization on a project that will impact a community in need (six weeks long), or
3. Participate in a Leadership-in-Action experience through a centrally offered partner project. More details on this will be available after summer 2022.

Scholars will indicate which pathway they would prefer to take for the second summer at the time of application, but the final decision will be made by the Laidlaw Scholars Office only after the first summer research is completed. The research during Summer I can take place at any time over the summer, but ideally should be scheduled after June 1 and end before August 25 so that there is enough time to complete all of the necessary requirements prior to beginning research.

Current 2021 scholars will conclude their participation in the program in summer 2022. They will present their research findings in the fall term of 2022. The incoming 2022 cohort will finish their participation in the program in fall 2023.

Funding

Up to 25 academically strong, motivated students are selected annually for the Laidlaw Undergraduate Research and Leadership Programme. Selected students receive up to \$5,000 for the first summer of research. The second summer (Leadership-in-Action Summer) will also include a similar stipend for scholars.

Students are also eligible to apply for up to \$2,500 in extra funds. This funding can be applied to travel expenses, which are dependent on global travel restrictions and all University of Toronto guidelines, as well as extra lab funding (up to \$1000 of the \$2500 mentioned above) that cannot be covered by the main research amount. This extra fund covers the entirety of a scholars' engagement in the program.

Eligibility

This program is open to full time first degree first and second-year undergraduate students studying at the University of Toronto from all backgrounds and fields of study. Students must remain enrolled as full time students for the entire duration of their involvement in the program. You must inform the program of any change in your status if selected.

For the 2021-2022 application year, the scholarship is available to students from all three U of T campuses. The program is not open to visiting students or graduate students. Applicants will be assessed for their passion, drive, enthusiasm and ambition, while also keeping in mind their academic background and achievements.

Benefits

Students who participate in the program will:

- work alongside leading researchers to develop their academic potential
- receive a generous stipend to engage in summer research, as well as many opportunities to expand leadership abilities
- receive mentoring from a specialist supervisor
- actively learn from participants and teams while managing projects
- develop transferable skills pertaining to decision-making, planning and communicating
- explore potential careers while building confidence and breadth of knowledge
- gain access to a network of like-minded peers across the University and beyond

The leadership program will focus on the importance of leadership skills, understanding teamwork and applying it to day-to-day challenges. The networking component allows students to form connections with faculty and staff from around the world. This group of like-minded, highly motivated peers and teachers will allow students to expand their worldview, help them develop skills and enhance their future employability. Due to the nature of the leadership program, it is not possible for potential scholars to engage in international exchange opportunities/learning abroad opportunities while participating in the Laidlaw Scholars Program.

At the end of the program, all scholars are required to write a final research paper outlining the findings of their work. Additional deliverables include but are not limited to reflections on summer experiences and creating a research poster. All scholars will have the opportunity to present their research to faculty and staff from across the university at a symposium organized by the Laidlaw Scholars Program.

Application

Applications for the 2022 cohort will be available on **October 15, 2021**.

Access the program and application by clicking on the Experiential Learning Module in [CLNx](#).

Select “View Available Programs/Courses” and apply to the 2022 Laidlaw Scholars Programme (program name: Laidlaw Scholars Programme Recruitment and Application).

Can I apply and do PEY/another co-op at the same time?

It is possible to participate in PEY/another co-op at the same time as being a Laidlaw Scholar. However, one of the most important considerations is time over the summer. The Laidlaw Scholars Program requires that you reserve 6 weeks of the summer to conduct full time research. This research can take place at any point of the summer as long as it is done in a single stretch of time. As long as your co-op/PEY can work around this timeline, it is possible for you to do both.

To discuss the individual specifics of this situation, we highly recommend that you set up a meeting with a staff member to discuss your options prior to applying. Please email us at laidlaw.scholars@utoronto.ca to set up a time to discuss your questions.

Document guidelines

For details on how to submit an application for the 2022 Laidlaw Scholars cohort, please read the [application guidelines](#) and follow the instructions.

Important dates

- Friday, October 15, 2021: Application available
- Thursday, October 28, 2021: [Information Session](#) (4 – 5 p.m. EDT)
- Thursday, November 11, 2021: [Information Session](#) (12 – 1 p.m. EST)
- Wednesday, November 24, 2021: [Information Session](#) (12 – 1 p.m. EST)
- Monday, January 17, 2022: Application DUE by 9 a.m.
- February 14, 2022 – March 2, 2022 (tentative): Laidlaw scholars interviews
- Monday, March 7, 2022: Candidates notified of acceptance
- Wednesday, March 16, 2022: Leadership Session 1 (5 – 7 p.m.)
- March 17, 2022 – March 30, 2022: Individual check-in meetings
- Saturday, March 26, 2022: Leadership Session 2 (9.30 am. – 4 p.m.)
- Summer 2022: Research Summer I
- September 2022 – April 2022: Leadership Program (schedule will be released in September 2022)
- Summer 2023: Leadership-in-Action Summer

All information sessions will be held online using Zoom.

UTSG students can register through the CLNx links above. UTM and UTSC students, please email laidlaw.scholars@utoronto.ca to be added to the registration link.

Additional resources

[Laidlaw Scholarship – Laidlaw Scholars Network](#)

Contact us

For any questions about the scholarship or if you have any questions about the application process and would like to set up a meeting, please contact us at laidlaw.scholars@utoronto.ca.