

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 be carried out throughout fall 2021 and winter 2022, 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:** 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 12 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 (6-8 weeks) of full-time independent research in 2021.

During the second summer, students can follow one of four pathways:

1. Continue with their research from the first summer (six weeks long),
2. work on a project that applies their research from the first summer (six weeks long),
3. participate in a leadership experience with other scholars – more details on this will be available after summer 2021, or
4. take part in a six week-long internship with a global focus.

Scholars will choose which pathway 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 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 2020 scholars will conclude their participation in the program in summer 2021. They will present their research findings in the fall term of 2021. The incoming 2021 cohort will finish their participation in the program in fall 2022.

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 stipend depends on the student's choice of research or leadership – focused on the leadership experience or internship options. 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 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 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 2020-2021 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. 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 2021 cohort can now be accessed on [CLNx](#). Interested students can access the program and the application by clicking on the [Experiential Learning Module](#) within CLNx. Click on View Available Programs/Courses and apply to the 2020 Laidlaw Scholars Programme.

In order for the hyperlinks to work, you must be logged into CLNx first.

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, it is highly recommended you set up a meeting with a staff member to discuss your options prior to applying. You can schedule a virtual meeting through the Laidlaw Scholars Program [CLNx calendar](#) (please login to CLNx prior to clicking on the link).

Document guidelines

For details on how to submit an application for the 2021 Laidlaw Scholars cohort, please read the [application guidelines](#) and follow the instructions.

Important dates

- Monday, October 15, 2020 – Application available
- Wednesday, October 21, 2020 – [Information Session](#) (4 – 5 p.m. EST)
- Thursday, November 5, 2020 – [Information Session](#) (12 – 1 p.m. EST)
- Tuesday, November 17, 2020 – [Information Session](#) (9 – 10 a.m. EST)
- Monday, January 18, 2021 – Application DUE by 9 a.m.
- February 8, 2021 to February 26, 2021 (tentative) – Laidlaw Scholars Interviews (All interviews will be conducted online)
- Monday, March 8, 2021 – Candidates notified of acceptance
- Wednesday, March 17, 2021 – Leadership Session 1
- March 18, 2021 to March 31, 2021 – Individual check-in meetings
- Saturday, March 27, 2020 – Leadership Session 2 (9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
- Summer 2021 – Research Summer I
- September 2021 to April 2022 – Leadership Program (schedule to be released soon)
- Summer 2022 – Summer II Experience
- All information sessions will be held online using MS Teams and/or Zoom. UTSG students should register through the CLNx link above. UTM and UTSC students – please email laidlaw.scholars@utoronto.ca to be added to the registration list.

Additional resources

[Laidlaw Scholarship – Complete Scholarship Details](#)

[Laidlaw Scholarship – Student Success Stories](#)

[Laidlaw Scholarship – Laidlaw Scholars Network](#)

Contact us

For any questions about the scholarship, please visit the CLNx calendar to set up a virtual meeting or contact us at laidlaw.scholars@utoronto.ca.