



PRE-ARRIVAL CHECKLIST

For incoming international students

Congratulations and welcome to the University of Toronto!

We've prepared a checklist to help you start your journey at U of T. Whether you're starting your studies in your home country or here in Toronto, we've got you covered!



The essentials

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Connecting with others:

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 If you see this icon, it means the information is about living and studying in Toronto. If you're beginning your term from your home country, this info may not apply to you now, but it will be important once you come to Toronto.

The essentials

◆ Get up to date information related to COVID-19

Given that information changes quickly, we recommend that you frequently consult the [COVID-19 Information for University of Toronto Students](#) website to get up to date answers to your frequently asked questions (FAQs). You will find a section for [newly admitted international students](#) as well as important information relating to the University's [Quarantine Accommodation](#) Program.

◆ Get a study permit

We strongly recommend that you [apply for your study permit](#) online as soon as you receive your letter of acceptance. Our [immigration advising](#) team is available by appointment to help guide you through this process. You can also [attend a webinar](#) to learn how to apply.

[You can begin your program through online courses outside Canada](#), even if your study permit, temporary resident visa (TRV) or electronic travel authorization (eTA) have not yet been processed. You should still apply for these documents as early as you can.

◆ Understand your health insurance

Degree-seeking international students at the University of Toronto are automatically enrolled in **two health-care plans**:

1. The **University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP)**, a mandatory basic health-care plan that can help cover the costs of medical services at clinics and hospitals. Everything you need to know about UHIP can be found at [uhip.ca](#). Our [UHIP Office](#) has additional information specific to U of T students.
You'll be enrolled in UHIP automatically and the coverage charge will be listed on [ACORN](#).

If you will be studying remotely for a full term, visit the [UHIP Office](#) website for information about dis-enrollment.

After you arrive in Canada, follow these [instructions to print your UHIP card](#). You'll need it each time you use a health-care service.

2. A **supplementary health-care plan** provided through one of U of T's student unions, which can help with additional medical costs (e.g. prescription medication, dental, vision and more) not covered by UHIP. You can find more information at [studentcare.ca](#).

◆ Ensure your immunizations are up to date

The [Public Health Agency of Canada](#) recommends that you're vaccinated for specific illnesses as a visitor to Canada. Find out more about these normally [recommended vaccinations](#) and if you can't receive these vaccinations before arriving in Canada, please visit [Health and Wellness](#).

[Click here](#) for information about COVID-19 vaccinations in Canada.

Academics:

◆ Learn about course selection

You'll be assigned a start time for course selection depending on your faculty and year of study. Your start time for enrolment will be posted on your ACORN account. If you have questions about the course selection process, [contact your registrar's office](#).

◆ Pay tuition online

Your final tuition amount will be posted on your [ACORN](#) account, so follow the instructions on your ACORN account for payment. Refer to this guide if you need [help using ACORN](#).

The [Student Accounts website](#) has an annual schedule of due dates and instructions on how to pay tuition fees from outside Canada.

If you must pay tuition fees for your first year before the fees are billed as part of a study permit application process (e.g. Student Direct Stream program), the estimated tuition fee amount will be displayed on your admissions offer and on the Finances card on the ACORN dashboard.

◆ Get your UTORid online

A UTORid is an eight-character, alphanumeric identification that allows you to access various U of T online programs and services. Along with your 10-digit student number, it's printed on your TCard, which is your U of T student ID. You won't be able to get your TCard until you're physically on campus, but you can obtain a UTORid and U of T email address as of May 1 for Fall 2021 registration by online appointment. [Visit the TCard website](#) for more information.

◆ Learn about online learning tools

Throughout your studies at U of T, wherever you're studying, you'll be using various online tools. Your instructors will provide guidance on how these tools will be used in each of your courses. These tools include:

- [Getting Ready for Online](#): Tips and strategies for successful online learning
- [Quercus](#): U of T's main online learning environment, which has its own [student guide](#)
- [BlackBoard Collaborate Ultra](#): A videoconferencing tool that allows you to share files and interact with your instructors and peers

◆ Learn about academic supports

You may find the academic culture at U of T to be different from your previous experiences in terms of teaching styles, learning styles and expectations. U of T's academic culture encourages independence and self-exploration, where asking questions is encouraged and expected in many contexts. Students are responsible for finding the information they need and for advocating for themselves. Below are some key resources to help you get started:

- [Registrar's office](#): Your main source of academic and financial advising
- [Important dates](#): Know the deadlines specific to your [faculty or academic unit](#)
- [Academic Success](#) and [learning strategists](#): Reach your highest learning potential
- [Writing centres](#): Get help with your writing from a trained writing instructor
- [Graduate Centre for Academic Communication](#): Advance training in academic writing and speaking for graduate students
- [Academic integrity](#): Resources to help you act with honesty and responsibility in all academic matters

Living in Toronto:

◆ Explore your housing options in Toronto

There are a number of housing options for you to consider. These include living in residence as a first-year undergraduate, graduate or student with a family, and finding off-campus housing or temporary short-term accommodations.

The University of Toronto's [Housing Services](#) can help you explore all your options with an amazing [housing resource library](#), housing databases and housing advice and support.

Note that prior to moving in to your permanent accommodations, you may be required to complete a mandatory quarantine. Find out more about the University's [Quarantine Accommodation](#) program and [Canadian government requirements](#).

◆ Plan your finances

Wondering about additional financial supports? We have some options for you explore below:

- [Awards Explorer](#): Explore diverse U of T funding opportunities
- [U of T's financial calculator](#): Budget your finances through the academic year
- [Graduate students](#): Information on financing your graduate education
- [Working in Canada](#): How to work in Canada as an international student
- [Money and finances in Canada](#): Government of Canada guidelines on managing finances

We recommend that students open a bank account once in Canada, and it's a good idea to research a number of banks to compare products and services. You can explore if a Canadian bank has a branch in your home country or if a local bank has a partnership with a Canadian bank that could verify your ID and activate your account prior to arrival.

- [List of major Canadian banks](#): A guide for the Canadian banking system

- [How to choose and open an account](#): Government of Canada information and account comparison

◆ Prepare for Toronto's climate

Toronto's climate ranges from near-tropical in the summer (up to 35° C), to very cold in the winter (sometimes as low as -20° C). You will need different kinds of clothing to stay comfortable all year round.

Top tips:

- Winter (Dec.-Feb.): learn to love winter and [get answers to your winter questions](#)
- Summer (June-Aug.): lightweight clothing (such as cotton) is good
- Spring (March-May) and fall (Sept.-Nov.): sweaters and a lightweight waterproof coat
- Canadian students tend to dress casually for most occasions
- Dressing for the weather is socially acceptable!

◆ Stay safe and get around in Toronto

Toronto is often ranked as [one as the safest cities](#) in North America. It's good to familiarize yourself with safety services available:

Safety on campus and in Toronto:

- [Campus Police](#) (U of T)
- [Community Safety Office](#) (U of T)
- [Sexual Violence Prevention & Support Centre](#) (UofT)
- [Public safety services](#)
- [Emergency services](#)

There are also many ways to travel around the city:

- [Toronto Transit Commission](#) (TTC) – learn more about [reduced student fares](#) and [Presto cards](#)
- By [bike](#), [ride share](#) services, or taxi
- Driving - learn how to get a [new license](#) or [exchange your license](#)

- [GO Transit](#) if you are headed outside the city of Toronto

◆ Find support as a student with children

Be sure to connect with U of T's [Family Care Office](#) for all the info and support you may need. You can also check out this [online community for student parents](#).

◆ Pack your bags

If you'll be living in residence, check with [Housing Services](#) to learn about what you'll need for your room. You can purchase big items near campus to avoid taking up space in your suitcase. For clothing, you'll want items for a wide range of temperatures. If you don't already own winter items, you may want to wait and buy them in Toronto.

Make sure to make copies of your important documents and carry the originals with you in your carry-on luggage. Check [IRCC](#) and [University websites](#) for updated entry to Canada requirements before your departure.

- Passport
- Temporary Residence Visa (TRV) or Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) (if required)
- Port of Entry (POE) Letter of Introduction from Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) – Don't forget to show this to get your Study Permit at the airport!
- Letter of Acceptance from the University of Toronto
- Proof that you have enough money to support yourself during your stay in Canada
- Immunization record
- Other COVID-19 related required documents. Remember to [check for updates](#).

◆ Arrive in Toronto

Be sure to check the [COVID-19 Information for University of Toronto Students](#) page for the most up to date information relating to entering Canada, quarantine accommodation and transportation from the airport.

You can also find up to date information on the [government of Canada website](#).

If public health guidelines around COVID-19 allow, you may find [UofT welcomers](#) at Toronto Pearson International Airport.

Connecting with others:

◆ Connect with your peers

While we may not be able to gather in large groups due to COVID-19, there are still opportunities to connect with other students:

- [ISE-Ambassadors](#): Connect with an ISE-ambassador over the summer to ask questions about life at U of T
- [CIE virtual programs](#): Several exciting online activities for you to connect with your peers, exchange ideas and build community. Find more info on our website and our calendar on CLNx.
- [Mentorship & Peer Programs](#): Opportunities to be mentored by a fellow student or staff
- [Orientation calendar](#): Find out more about orientation events and activities. You may also want to check out what your faculty, college, department or student union/ association has planned for orientation.
- [Hart House](#), a home for experiential learning at U of T, also has several virtual events to engage in the arts, dialogue and community.

◆ Connect with us!

If you have questions or concerns, the Centre for International Experience (CIE) and U of T Student Life are here to support you!

[Centre for International Experience \(CIE\)](#): The CIE is home to many services and supports for international students. If you have any questions related to your experience as an international student, you can contact the CIE's Resource and Information Hub by emailing cie.information@utoronto.ca.

[Student Life](#): U of T Student Life offers a range of programs and services to support you in finding community, staying well, succeeding as a university student and so much more.



studentlife.utoronto.ca
uoft.me/studentlifeapp

   
@UofTStudentLife

If you have any questions about any of the information in this guide, feel free to contact us:

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