

# TORONTO

## A CLASS OF ITS OWN

With 8,000 faculty, 800 undergraduate programs, three campuses, seven colleges and 500,000 alumni, the University of Toronto can be forgiven for setting a bold fundraising goal of \$2 billion. But audacious as it may seem, U of T has raised billions before, and it has the connections to do so again. U of T has nurtured cultural icons including Margaret Atwood and David Cronenberg. Its halls have echoed with the nascent debates of several future premiers and prime ministers. But above all, U of T is famous for its medical research: on insulin, bone-marrow transplants, stem cells and more. “We stand with Harvard and Tokyo as one of the top three universities in total research output,” president David Naylor proudly reports. And undergrads aren’t left out. **“More than 90 per cent of faculty who have won major distinctions for their research teach at least one undergraduate course,”** he notes.

AVERAGE  
ENTERING GRADE  
**85.1%**  
TUITION  
**\$6,853**  
BIG SCHOOL,  
BIG CITY

### STANDOUT PROGRAMS

- **Foundational Year:** Offered at all three campuses and every college, these small, specialized first-year seminars let students combine theme-based courses with co-curricular events; designed to develop critical skills while easing students into university life.
- **Cell and Molecular Biology:** Offered at the Scarborough campus, the program includes two four-month co-op placements. Students work alongside researchers as they strive to develop new cures.
- **Engineering Leaders of Tomorrow:** A unique leadership development program for engineering undergrads that aims to prepare tomorrow’s engineers to be successful problem solvers through a range of learning opportunities, including courses, workshops and panels.

### BEAUTY FACTOR

The large, leafy St. George campus offers quiet courtyards, stately quadrangles and green playing fields amid the bustle of its downtown location. A construction spree over the past decade has added several sleek new buildings to the already varied collection



of architectural styles. Hart House is a Gothic-revival, ivy-covered student centre with a gym, pool, pub, theatre—and its own farm, if you crave the occasional



### THE INSIDER

The University of Toronto’s intensity is intoxicating. “That’s what I came here for,” says one student. Says another: “Western thinks we’re the nerd school.” And yes, she says, in a way they are. “U of T students are known to be intense. You’re competing with people who will sacrifice their entire social life for marks.” In fact, U of T is so focused on academics, it’s as though other campus life components are ignored. For example, there’s—gasp!—no active student bar. And while U of T’s spirit doesn’t hold a candle to Western’s, it does exist—largely in residence, where students are more inclined to form tight communities on the sometimes overwhelmingly large, yet incredibly beautiful campus. First-year students take classes in “Con” hall, a lecture theatre that seats 1,700 (1,700!). One student puts it this way: you’re thrown into a huge pool and “told to swim by yourself.” That being said, U of T students enjoy the benefits of being at a wealthy, research-focused university. “I was in heaven doing my papers here,” says one U of T grad. “Whatever was missing in terms of access to profs was made up for in access to resources.” And it’s not just books: U of T has ideal study spaces. Maybe you feel like going to the Graham Library, with its luxurious fireplaces? Or hitting up the more modern and minimalist Pratt? Or, if you’re really desperate, Robarts is open 24 hours—but watch out, students say it can be soul-destroying.

rural retreat. Nearby is the domed rotunda of Convocation Hall. Massive, brutalist Robarts is an ugly but efficient library that will soon get an upgrade. The two smaller suburban campuses, Scarborough and Mississauga, are located at opposite ends of the Greater Toronto Area. Both campuses are growing, particularly Scarborough’s, where a 6,000-seat aquatics centre and a 2,000-seat Field House are being readied for the 2015 Pan American Games.

### EXTRACURRICULAR

At a school as big as U of T, the extracurricular opportunities are vast and varied. Hart House hosts everything from a photography studio to an archery club. Trinity College Literary Institute, the oldest debating society in Canada, holds weekly satirical debates. And in 2013, the Sexual Education Centre infamously hosted a trip to a local swingers club.

### BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH** ■ U of T’s Centre for Community Partnerships coordinates co-curricular service-learning programs through its Serve and Learn and Alternative Reading Week programs. There’s also support for student groups, athletic teams, colleges and residences in customizing unique outreach initiatives designed to match students’ learning and leadership goals with the needs identified by the community.

**ENTREPRENEURSHIP** ■ The school boasts a broad range of courses and programs in entrepreneurship for students and recent grads, including a certificate in entrepreneurship for engineering undergrads and a major in innovation and entrepreneurship within the M.B.A. program. A microfinance initiative, Rise Asset Development, offers loans and mentorship to young entrepreneurs.

### utoronto.ca

#### STUDENT BODY

**UNDERGRADUATES:** Full-time: 57,829 · Part-time: 6,291

**GRADUATES:** Full-time: 13,212 · Part-time: 1,753

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS:** First-year: 16.3% · Graduate: 13.6%

**MALE-FEMALE RATIO:** 44 to 56

#### HOUSING FACTS

**RESIDENCE SPACES:** 8,652 (4,077 reserved for first-year students)

**RESIDENCE COSTS:** Double room with meals: \$9,884 to \$13,325 · Single room with meals: \$10,572 to \$16,187 · Apartment-style: \$4,808 to \$8,180

#### MINIMUM ENTERING GRADES

Arts: 72-82% · Science: 76-83% · Commerce: 83-90% · Engineering: 84-92%