Student Resource Package 2020

Note: This package is a hard copy of the engineering grad student resources webpage from August 2020. To find the most up to date resources, please check online.

At U of T Engineering, you’ll find a global community of innovators, industry experts and researchers. We are at the forefront of engineering education and research — in the areas we explore, the ways we collaborate beyond traditional disciplines, and the unique opportunities we create for our graduate students.

Throughout your studies, you’ll have a number of ways to get involved beyond the classroom and lab — both within U of T Engineering and through University-wide services and offerings. Below are resources and supports available to you to help you succeed as you complete your studies. Some of the resources below are unique to engineering students but some are also across the university. Please note, the list is not exhaustive, and students are recommended to also browse through GradLife and UofT Student Life.

Broken link? Have a resource you would like to recommend or suggest to be added? Let us know. Email gradstudies@ecf.utoronto.ca

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Mental health, wellness and safety resources

Feeling distressed? There’s help.
If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

Engineering Department Graduate Administrators
Connect with your graduate administrator to learn more about the mental health and wellness resources available to you through your department.

UofT Engineering Mental Health and Wellness
Contains resources for students that may not be found on this page.

SGS Graduate Students’ Health & Wellness
Graduate students can access counselling services at the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) — wellness counsellors offer tailored graduate student services and focus on identifying strengths, acquiring resiliency and building coping skills.

SGS Wellness Portal
Looking for mental health services, resources, or academic supports? Need to talk with someone about your experiences of supervision? This portal, developed in collaboration with the University of Toronto Graduate Students’ Union (UTGSU), can help point you in the right direction.

Accessibility Services
Graduate students with a documented disability, whether ongoing or temporary, may require academic accommodations. The School of Graduate Studies (SGS) and the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering (FASE) each have an on-site Accessibility Advisor to provide resources, services, and academic accommodations to graduate students both inside and outside the classroom. Accommodation needs are based on a documented temporary or permanent physical, learning, sensory, or mental health issue, disability or medical condition. Graduate-specific accommodations include support for thesis-related work, fieldwork, practicums and laboratory components. Early registration is encouraged. For information about Accessibility Services at the University of Toronto, you can visit the Accessibility Services website, or contact the front desk at accessibility.services@utoronto.ca.

OISE Psychology Clinic | 416-978-0654
Provides assessment and counselling services to children and adults. Typically provided by graduate students doing their clinical training under the supervision of faculty and staff psychologists.
GECoS Mental Wellness Commission
Engineering graduate student group that advocates for engineering graduate student mental health and wellness, hosts events, shares resources, and collaborates on Faculty-wide initiatives.

Grad Minds
University wide graduate student group to promote well-being and provide mental health education through programs, initiatives, and events, with a focus on developing psychological resilience, personal skill development, self-care practices, and destigmatizing mental health problems.

Multi-Faith Centre for Spiritual Study and Practice
Supports the spiritual well-being of students, staff and faculty through dialogue, activities, and spaces to practice your faith.

First Nations House
Provides culturally relevant services to Indigenous students to support academic success, personal growth and leadership development. We offer learning opportunities for all students to engage with Indigenous communities at U of T and beyond.

Family Care Office
The Family Care Office is a U of T-wide service for students, faculty and staff that helps families achieve balance. Learn about daycare options, pregnancy, eldercare and more. Student family housing is also available.

External health and wellness services available to you include:

- **Good2Talk Student Helpline**: 1-866-925-5454
- **Mental Health Helpline**: 1-866-531-2600
- **Assaulted Women’s Helpline**: 416-863-0511
- **Telehealth Ontario**: 1-866-797-0000
- **MYSSP: U of T My Student Support Program** (U of T MySSP) 24/7 by calling 1-844-451-9700. Outside of North America, call 001-416-380-6578. Also App available for download, visit here for more info.

SAFETY
If you're feeling unsafe on campus, experience or witness something that made you or a peer feel unsafe or in danger, the below University services are available to you. You can also register for U of T’s alert system to stay updated on campus alerts. If your matter is urgent, call 911.
**Sexual Violence Prevention & Support Centre** | 416-978-2266
Support and information to students who have been affected by sexual violence; optional to make a report to the university

**TravelSafer Service** | 416-978-SAFE (7233)
Walking or travelling alone between University buildings, parking lots and transit stops near campus? Get a free Special Constable of Security Guard escort.

Other Resources:
- **Campus Police (non-urgent):** 416-978-2323
- **Community Safety Office:** 416-978-1485
- **Sexual Assault Helpline:** 416-978-7800
- **Assaulted Women’s Helpline:** 416-863-0511

**Student Experience**

**Gym and Fitness**

**Move U:** MoveU’s goal is to encourage physical activity and promote a healthy active lifestyle while allowing students to explore their environment and interact with their peers.

**Sports/Intramurals:** As a graduate engineering student you can choose to play on either SGS (composed of graduate students) or SKULE (composed of graduate and undergraduate engineering students) intramural teams. You can also choose to make your own team! This link provides information on how to find teams that exist or instructions on how to create your own team

**Hart House Drop-In Fitness Classes (virtual for COVID)**
A variety of fitness classes for all levels including zumba, boot camp, and dance are currently being offered online through hart house.

**Graduate Engineering Student Community Resources Quercus Course**
The Graduate Engineering Student Community Resources Quercus Course was developed GECoS in response to pandemic to help students cope with isolation and build community and engagement. All graduate students and post-docs are welcome to join. The Quercus course has discussions, resources, events and more. If you have not joined yet, please send an email to d.duong@utoronto.ca for an invitation.

**Gradlife**
Academic success, professional development, and social events specifically for graduate students.

**Grad Room**
Activities, workshops, and bookable space just for graduate students
ULife Directory

ULife is a one-stop website listing a large and diverse directory of student clubs, organizations, activities and opportunities on all three campuses. The thousands of entries include film appreciation clubs, debating societies, sports teams, social activism, drop-in classes, and research opportunities and awards.

Mindful Moments

Drop-in meditation sessions held across campus every week (many online during COVID-19).

First Nations House

Provides culturally relevant services to Indigenous students to support academic success, personal growth and leadership development. We offer learning opportunities for all students to engage with Indigenous communities at U of T and beyond.

International Students

CIE (Centre for International Experience)

CIE offers: international study, research, internships and awards, help with Canadian study permits, work permits and health insurance in Ontario, global skills and intercultural communication development, and tools to build community and succeed in Canadian campus life.

ISC (International Students’ Council)

The International Students’ Caucus (ISC) is the main student body at the University of Toronto that coordinates efforts centred around 5,000 international graduate students’ interests and concerns. Email: isc@utgsu.ca

iConnect Mentorship Program

A mentorship program for incoming international students that matches them with mentors from different cultural backgrounds, providing opportunities to explore together on and off-campus, make connections and strengthen intercultural skills. International students starting at U of T in September 2019 are invited to apply during the summer to receive support from their mentors online prior to their arrival.

International Transition Advisor for Grad Students

The International Transition Advisor can support you with questions around cultural adjustment, preparing for winter, working in Canada, finding immigration resources, and navigating new academic expectations.

International Students’ Council (ISC)

The International Students’ Council acts as the body that coordinates efforts centered around international students’ interests and concerns at the University of Toronto.
Academic success and software

Graduate Peer and Career Support (Grad PACS)
Grad PACS supports PhD, MASc and MEng students to identify career pathways to launch their career planning early in their degree.

Academic Success Centre
Academic success centre has a Study Hub program to help you: develop a healthy approach to learning, find confidence and motivation to study, take better notes that actually help, better prepare for tests and exams, and manage your tasks more efficiently.

Academic success centre offers learning strategists to help you identify your strengths and develop personalized learning strategies to meet the challenges of academic life.

GPS (Graduate Professional Skills)
The Graduate Professional Skills (GPS) program, an initiative of the School of Graduate Studies, is designed to help all graduate students become fully prepared for their future. GPS focuses on skills beyond those conventionally learned within a disciplinary program, skills that may be critical to success in the wide range of careers that graduates enter, both within and outside academia.

GCAC (Graduate Centre for Academic Communication)
Graduate Centre for Academic Communication (GCAC). GCAC provides graduate students with advanced training in academic writing and speaking.

Accessibility Services
The School of Graduate Studies (SGS) and the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering (FASE) each have an on-site Accessibility Advisor to provide resources, services, and academic accommodations to graduate students both inside and outside the classroom.

Graduate Scientific Writing Courses
The Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering’s Graduate Scientific Writing Courses are designed to help students organize complex ideas into a coherent framework and express them using professional scientific language. There are two versions of an Introductory Course: an ESL (English as a Second Language) course, and an EFL (English as a First Language) course. The content is the same, but the material is delivered at a pace that is appropriate for each cohort. Upon completion of either of these courses, students may progress to the Advanced Course, also known as the “Thesis Course”.
Libraries

- Access extensive resources and support, including workshops, computers, printing and Wi-Fi, study space, and research guides featuring advice, tools and the best resources for your needs curated by expert librarians.
- Librarians can also help you get access to a specific paper/book/resource that is unavailable through your access
- [Comprehensive list of UofT Libraries](#)
- [Engineering library](#)
- [Gerstein Library](#)
- [Engineering Research Guides](#)
- [Study Space](#)
- [Technology](#)
- [Workshops](#)

Engineering & Computer Science Library

The Engineering & Computer Science Library is the second largest science library at U of T. It is the main library on campus for engineering, applied science and computer science materials. It has a robust collection of books and journals, as well as standards, codes, conference proceedings, technical reports, handbooks, and other technical material.

Centre for International Experience

Whether you’re coming to Toronto for graduate studies from another country, or interested in international experiences for graduate students, the Centre for International Experience is a great resource.

First Nations House

Provides culturally relevant services to Indigenous students to support academic success, personal growth and leadership development. We offer learning opportunities for all students to engage with Indigenous communities at U of T and beyond.

Sexual & Gender Diversity Office

The Sexual & Gender Diversity Office (SGDO) develops partnerships to build supportive learning and working communities at the University of Toronto by working towards equity and challenging discrimination. The Office provides innovative education, programming, resources and advocacy on sexual and gender diversity for students, staff and faculty across the University’s three campuses.

Engineering Leadership Education

U of T Engineering’s Troost Institute for Leadership Education in Engineering (Troost ILead) offers programming for undergraduate and graduate engineering students, including courses, leadership labs and more. Troost ILead is the first centre of its kind in Canada.
SGS Best Practices for Grad Students

SGS developed resources in consultation with the Graduate Students' Union and graduate units across the University of Toronto. They have been designed to support graduate students, faculty, and administrators.

Access to Printing and Remote Computers for Software

- Can get account for both printing, access to remote computers and software
- located in the Engineering Annex building, Room 212 and activate your account there

As a Graduate student, while taking courses, you get access to printing quota (150 pages per course). You also get access to a printing quota as a teaching assistant. Labs are located SF1012 has two black-and-white printers (SF1012a and SF1012b); SF1013 has three black-and-white printers (SF1013a, SF1013b, and SF1013c) and one colour printer (SF1013clr); and SF1106 has one black-and-white printer.

Software Deals for Graduate Students:

**MATLAB** (STUDENT COPY, annual cost):

**Some Microsoft Software** is free with Dreamspark, login: UTMAIL address, password: click on "forgot Password" to have it Email’d to you for set-up. If you have problems accessing your Dreamspark account you should email msdnaa@ecf.utoronto.ca

**Office 365 ProPlus** is available to all students.

**Some AUTOCAD software** may be available for FREE. You should use your UTMAIL+ Email address when filling in the registration fields.

**ANSYS** has a free student products

**SAS Analytics** software is available for free

Other software deals are available at the Software License Office in the Robarts Library, on the ground floor or see [http://sites.utoronto.ca/ic/software/](http://sites.utoronto.ca/ic/software/)

Research supervision guidelines

**Checklist**

Important topics to discuss with your supervisor at the start.

**Supervision Guidelines for Students**

Outlines aspects of student-supervisor relationship including expectations for mentorship, responsibilities, accommodations, and addressing problems
Professional Development

Entrepreneurship

U of T Engineering is home to two entrepreneurship accelerators: The Entrepreneurship Hatchery and Start@UTIAS. They are part of a larger ecosystem of startup incubators across U of T. Both the Entrepreneurship Hatchery and START@UTIAS provide engineering students with experienced mentorship, engaging programming and access to seed funding to transform business ideas into viable startups.

OPTIONS

The OPTIONS Program is an initiative to support all engineering graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in exploring diverse career options. It consists of a: 1) Cohort Program and 2) Complementary Events.

Graduate Peer and Career Support (Grad PACS)

Grad PACS supports PhD, MASc and MEng students to identify career pathways to launch their career planning early in their degree.

ILead:Grad

ILead:Grad is a cross-department, student-run organization focused on skill and social development. They strive to realize their vision by building on three fundamental pillars: empowering individuals, cultivating a positive environment, and making an impact.

CLNx (Career Learning Network)

Experience Matters. Bringing together opportunities and resources for career, advising, research, mentorship and co-curricular experiences.

Engineering Connect

Expand your network and connect with current graduate engineering students and alumni! Lots of networking opportunities and events are promoted on the platform.

10,000 PhDs

The 10,000 PhDs Project, an initiative of the School of Graduate Studies at the University of Toronto, used Internet searches of open-access data sources such as official university and company websites to determine the current and/or first (2016) employment status of the 10,886 PhDs who graduated from U of T between 2000 and 2015 in all disciplines. The study successfully located 88% of PhD graduates.
PPIT - Prospective Professors in Training

The Prospective Professors in Training (PPIT) program prepares PhD students for the rigours of a career in academia. The program is comprised of two parts that introduce students to curriculum, teaching, and learning within the context of engineering education and the tools required to apply to—and hold—an academic position (including developing effective application materials and balancing time and resources between teaching, research, and administration).

10000 Coffees

The U of T Hub on Ten Thousand Coffees is a career networking platform for the whole U of T community. With more than 3,000 alumni professionals across a multitude fields, students and fellow alumni can seek out their career advice anytime and from anywhere. Monthly webinars deliver learning around best practices in the workplace.

LinkedIn Learning

As a student, staff, or faculty member at University of Toronto, you have access to LinkedIn Learning, an online learning resource with high-quality instructional videos taught by recognized experts. Using your UTORid to log in, you may choose from more than 1,400 online self-paced courses that cover a wide range of topics, including business, IT, software, and design. The LinkedIn Learning platform is available to any current student or employee at the university.

Graduate student spaces

Student Spaces | Due to COVID spaces may not be available for student use, please check their website for information if they have one

Graduate Department Student Lounges

Check your graduate student association or graduate unit to see what spaces are available to you.

Grad Room Lounge

The Grad Room Lounge, located at 66 Harbord St., is a casual space in which to meet grad students from across U of T. In addition to being a great place to relax or student, they also offer workshops and professional development program.

Graduate Lounge

Open Monday to Friday, 8:45 am to 5:00 pm, the new Graduate Student Lounge in 63 St. George Street is open to all members of the graduate community. Come relax, read, or meet your friends in this comfortable space. Learn more about the renovations at 63 St. George Street.
**MEng Student Lounge**

MEng students have a dedicated space (MY660) in the sixth floor of the Myhal Centre for Engineering Innovation and Entrepreneurship. MEng students can use this dedicated space to study, collaborate with others or unwind. The meeting rooms MY667, MY665, MY663 and MY661 are also available to MEng students. To book any of the meeting rooms, please speak to your department graduate administrator.

**Libraries**

- **Study space**
- **Gerstein library during COVID-19** - some technology space (only 15 seats) for students who need access to a wired computer or WIFI

**Engineering & Computer Science Library**

The Engineering & Computer Science Library is the second largest science library at U of T. It is the main library on campus for engineering, applied science and computer science materials. It has a robust collection of books and journals, as well as standards, codes, conference proceedings, technical reports, handbooks, and other technical material.

**Finances and work opportunities**

**U of T Financial Planner**

This calculator will show you how much money you will need to cover tuition and fees, housing costs, food and everything else for the upcoming academic year.

**Financial Aid & Advising**

The School of Graduate Studies has financial advisors on staff who are trained to assist currently registered students with navigating the various funding practices at the university. They can also provide support with budgeting, scholarships and debt load management.

**SGS Emergency Grants**

The School of Graduate Studies has an emergency grant for students with unexpected financial expenses.

**Work Study positions**

For information on teaching assistantships, please contact your graduate department administrator for more information and postings.
UTGSU Grants and Bursaries:

- Conference Bursary
- Grad Community Development Fund
- Black Trans Relief Fund

Awards and scholarships

University Wide Awards

Through the generous support of numerous donors, a number of endowed awards have been established at the School of Graduate Studies (SGS). These awards have individual eligibility criteria and monetary values.

Canada Graduate Scholarships

CIHR – Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarships
NSERC – Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarships
SSHRC – Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships

Master’s level: CGS M

The objective of the Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master’s (CGS M) Program is to help develop research skills and assist in the training of highly qualified personnel by supporting students who demonstrate a high standard of achievement in undergraduate and early graduate studies. The Tri-council allocates CGS M awards to universities specifying the number of awards that each may offer to their students annually. CGS M awards can only be offered to students pursing graduate studies at eligible Canadian Universities and the award must be held at the university that has made the offer.

Doctorate: CGS D / PGS D

The Canada Graduate Scholarships—Doctoral (CGS D) program is a federal program of scholarships awarded through national competitions by the granting agencies: the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). The program aims to promote continued excellence in Canadian research by rewarding and retaining high-calibre doctoral students at Canadian institutions. By providing support for a high-quality research training experience to awardees, the CGS D program strives to foster impacts within and beyond the research environment.

Vanier

The Vanier CGS program aims to attract and retain world-class doctoral students by supporting students who demonstrate both leadership skills and a high standard of scholarly achievement in graduate studies in social sciences and humanities, natural sciences and engineering, and health. The Vanier CGS program strongly encourages candidates to pursue their studies beyond the university that granted their previous degree(s).
Writing NSERC/CIHR Proposal Workshops
Offered through GCAC (Graduate Centre for Academic Communication)

OGS/QEII-GSST
The Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) program encourages excellence in graduate studies at publicly-assisted universities in Ontario. Since 1975, the OGS program has been providing merit-based scholarships to Ontario’s best graduate students in all disciplines of academic study. The scholarship program at U of T is jointly funded by the Province of Ontario and the University of Toronto. The Province allocates OGS awards to universities specifying the number of awards that each may offer to their students annually.

Joint Calls for Research Proposals
The Office of the Vice President, International helps support international research collaborative work through various joint calls for research proposals with select international institutions. The collaborations supported through this seed funding leverage each institution’s unique research strengths, foster the mobility of researchers, and accelerate discovery.

Adel S. Sedra Distinguished Graduate Award
In honour of the significant contributions made by Professor Adel S. Sedra, former U of T Vice President and Provost, the University of Toronto Alumni Association (UTAA) has established this award to recognize a doctoral student who demonstrates outstanding academic achievement and extracurricular leadership

Department Specific Awards
- Chemical Engineering
- Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
- Institute of Biomedical Engineering
- Materials Science and Engineering
- Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Civil and Mineral Engineering
- University of Toronto Institute for Aerospace Engineering

UTGSU Grants and Bursaries:
- Conference Bursary
- Grad Community Development Fund
- Black Trans Relief Fund
Student clubs, associations

**Graduate Engineering Council of Students (GECoS)**

The Graduate Engineering Council of Students acts as a forum for representatives from all Engineering Graduate Student Associations at the University of Toronto to collaborate on academic, social and professional events, discuss issues that broadly affect Engineering graduate students, and represent the general interests of Engineering graduate students to the Faculty and University.

**Engineering Student Associations**

Engineering departments within the Faculty have their own graduate student associations that organize everything from intramural sports to social and professional events. When you become a graduate student, you automatically become part of your department’s graduate student association.

- **Association of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Graduate Students (AMIGAS)**
- **Aerospace Students’ Association (ASA)**
- **Biomedical Engineering Students’ Association (BESA)**
- **Chemical Engineering Graduate Students’ Association (CEGSA)**
- **Civil Engineering Graduate Students’ Association (CEGSA)**
- **Electrical and Computer Engineering Graduate Students’ Society (ECEGSS)**
- **Materials Science & Engineering Graduate Students’ Association (MSEGSA)**

**National Society for Black Engineers (NSBE)**

NSBE is a student-governed nonprofit organization with a mission "to increase the number of culturally responsible Black Engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the community." It offers its members leadership training, professional development activities, mentoring, career placement services, community service opportunities and more.

**Black Graduate Students Association**

Aims to engage powerful discourse of the issues and experiences in the Black community, celebrate Black culture and support members at UofT and beyond. [Facebook page](#).

**Graduate Super Women Engineers (GradSWE) | Facebook page | LinkedIn**

A U of T graduate student group of self-identifying women engineer volunteers working to build a supportive and inclusive community for students in STEM at U of T through building and professional development events. Email: gradsweuoft@gmail.com

**U of T Graduate Student Union**

This University-wide group manages the Graduate Student Health and Dental plan and several other benefits for grad students. The union also organizes grad
student intramurals, the GSU Pub and Grad Escapes, a series of fun events for U of T grad students to explore and enjoy the City.

Gradlife

Gradlife is your one-stop shop for all resources and activities offered to grad students across U of T. Their newsletter is full of fun activities and events you won't want to miss.

U of T Student Clubs and Associations

U of T is home to hundreds of student-led clubs and teams — everything from cultural associations to interest groups.

Getting involved with student governance

U of T School of Graduate Studies made up of four Divisions. Engineering is considered part of Division 3 Physical Sciences

UofT

There are multiple groups you can consider auditing Governing Council meetings and trying to get to know various standing committees that exists within the University. Governing council oversees all academic, business and student affairs of the University and has space for only two graduate representatives.

Graduate Wide/SGS Governance

There are multiple committees within the School of Graduate Studies. Graduate students can be elected to fill roles on the Graduate Education Council. There are 3 from each division. GEC is an academic advisory and approval body responsible for academic policy and regulations for SGS.

Faculty Council

Faculty Council sets and approves academic policy, principles, priorities, and the general direction for the teaching and research activities of the Faculty. Various groups report to Faculty Council, but each department association appoints two representatives from their elected board.

Executive Committee of Council

One graduate student representative from those appointed to Faculty Council can apply to be graduate representative to executive council. Chair of each Engineering department reviews items and forwards for final discussion at faculty council.

Engineering Student Associations and Graduate Engineering Council of Students (GECoS)

GECoS and each department has their own student association with an executive that runs events for their students. Some associations have elections and recruitment in September so this is a great opportunity to get involved. See your member associations here. GECoS website here.
**Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 3902 (CUPE 3902)**

Union that represents Teaching Assistants at University of Toronto

**Housing**

Visit [U of T Student Life](https://www.utoronto.ca/student-life) for information on finding rentals, roommates, on and off-campus housing, family housing, roommate conflicts and more.

**Grad House**

Graduate House is home to both students from the School of Graduate Studies and students from five second-entry professional faculties.

**Massey College**

Massey College is a graduate students' residential community affiliated with, but independent from, the University of Toronto. It provides a unique, congenial and intellectual environment for graduate students of distinguished ability in all disciplines to share in a rich and stimulating community.

**Family housing**

Family housing is open to University of Toronto students actively registered and enrolled full-time each Fall and Winter term pursuing a degree who: are living full time with a spouse/common-law partner and/or have custody of one or two children.

For more information on frequently asked questions, visit the [School of Graduate Studies](https://www.utoronto.ca/school-of-graduate-studies).