ABOUT US

The Department of Student Life creates opportunities dedicated to the holistic development and empowerment of students.

Our goal is to create opportunities for engagement that will contribute to the development of life time learners, leaders, and agents of positive community and global change.
THE DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT LIFE

Student Development
The Department of Student Life and the International Student Centre work collaboratively with students, faculty, and staff to enhance the student experience and build a vibrant community. In total, the professional student development team includes 15 dedicated full time staff (5 in ISC and 10 in DSL - with two term positions externally funded). This includes the addition of two positions: Manager, Student Life & Leadership Programs and a Communications & Marketing Officer. The team uses their diversified skills and expertise to support a dynamic peer education and social justice model that provides exceptional student focused services and programs, thereby creating a vibrant campus life.

Student Staff and Volunteers
In 2015, the Department of Student Life implemented a long term volunteer model with 50 positions that are compensated through honorarium. This modification provided additional skill-building opportunities for students to participate in along with 40+ student staff partaking in the work study program this year. Student Life embraces an experiential peer education model that promotes peer-to-peer engagement. Our volunteers and work-study students receive on-going training and development through monthly workshops; topics include study abroad opportunities, facilitation skills, and discover personal leadership style.

100%
Incoming first year students were contacted for the First Year Experience Program

250
Secured external funds to offer additional academic peer mentoring to over 250 first generation UTSC students

6
Full time staff presented at the 2015 Canadian Association of College and Universities Student Services (CACUSS) on the topics of risk assessment, access to university and community engagement
THE DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT LIFE

Partnerships
During 2015-16, the Department of Student Life collaborated with many partners including the Office of the Dean & Vice Principal (Academic), Registrar’s Office, Admissions & Recruitment, Student Affairs departments at UTSC, UTM and St. George, Centre for International Experience, Hart House, Alumni Relations, the Scarborough Campus Students’ Union and other student organizations, and the external community, to develop programs and initiatives that aim to enhance the student experience at UTSC. Program areas include Leadership Program; First Year Transition and Orientation; First Generation Program; Campus Groups; Community and Civic Engagement; Study & Research Abroad; International Education and Awareness; English Conversation Practice; International Student Immigration and Transition.

In 2016-17, the Department of Student Life will continue to evaluate student needs and initiate opportunities to empower students in developing innovative programs and events that create meaningful student life experiences within an equity framework.

900%
Increase in applications to the Summer Research Exchange Program

Our mentorship programs were profiled and recognized by University Affairs (December 2015 issue) and the Council of Ontario Universities (Change Agent- Ontario Universities: Transforming Communities, Transforming Lives).

Added new workshops for all students including focused seminars for first year students, international students and club executives.
PRIORITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Priorities (For 2016-2017)
- Increasing Student Mobility at UTSC (inbound/outbound exchanges, research and study abroad) by 10% and expand intercultural programming to offer 5 additional events/workshops.
- Expanding community based experiential opportunities and learning by 20
- Administer CCR and Local CCR Committee at UTSC and strategically expand to 600 activities (including club activities)

Achievements (For 2015-2016)
- Expanded First Year Orientation and Transition programming; introduced ASKme Campaign and UTSC Welcome Day; Faculty Mix and Mingle; campus wide First year communication brochure and website
- Enhanced Community based experiential opportunities to include Alternative Week programming, Community Day events, and new Community Action Project
- Increased UTSC student mobility by over 10% (inbound and outbound). Also increased applications for summer research from 0 to 9 students at UTSC
- Launched pre-arrival e-mentorship program for international students
- Exceeded First Generation Mentorship participation target of 250 with 28% having GPA above 3.0.

Increased interactive online and social media presence

3662
Student Life Newsletter student subscribers, with a 44.9% open rate

371
New Facebook followers

619
New Twitter followers

New departmental website and branding strategy created in alignment with UTSC Communications and University of Toronto standards and guidelines
The 2015-16 Student Life budget, funded by the Student Services Fees (SSF) is estimated to be $27.18/FT Student. The 2015-16 ISC budget is estimated to be $15.61/FT Student.
PROPOSED BUDGET 2016-2017

In 2016-17, the Department of Student Life and International Student Centre will continue to maintain existing programs that diversify student engagement activities and supports, with a focus on student centered, community building, social justice and experiential learning opportunities, focusing on global and community education.

Overall, as student enrolment increases, and students become engaged, the demand on the Department of Student Life and International Student Centre staff and resources will continue to be challenging throughout the 2016-17 year. Student Life will continue to creatively manage resources and space, and explore external funding to supplement programs and services (including MTCU, Green Path and alumni).

The Department of Student Life and the International Student Centre will maintain programs and initiatives, as well as focus resources on enhancing existing initiatives that increase student participation and involvement.
**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY**

The Advisory Committee for the Department of Student Life is comprised of students, Director, and the Manager of the International Student Centre. The budget process is initiated in collaboration with Financial Services, the Chief Administrative Officer, and the Dean of Student Affairs. The committee approves budget increases above the student ancillary fee up to the year over year rate of inflation.

The Advisory Committee convenes monthly, to discuss and evaluate programs and services, provide feedback, needs assessment, and review previous departmental budgets.

The Department of Student Life’s budget totals $753,753 from the Student Services Fee and $197,766 from external sources which include, Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, as well as alumni contributions.

The International Student Centre’s budget totals $432,778 from the Student Services Fee and $174,618 from internal sources which include, contributions from the university’s main operating budget, and Centre for International Experience, St. George.

### Department of Student Life

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Revenue SSF:</th>
<th>Other:</th>
<th>Expenses:</th>
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<td>2016-2017</td>
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### International Student Centre

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Revenue SSF:</th>
<th>Other:</th>
<th>Expenses:</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>2016-2017</td>
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PLAN FOR SUCCESS

We connect students to campus resources and guide them to success outside of the classroom.
The Department of Student Life works collaboratively with SCSU and campus partners to ensure first year students have a successful transition to academic and student life.

This year the Department of Student Life hosted 2 orientation events focused on enhancing the student experience for those new to campus: UTSC Faculty Mix & Mingle as well as UTSC Welcome Day.

**FALL ORIENTATION NUMBERS**

**4454**
Students attended orientation and transition programming. 3154 students at pre-arrival programs, 1005 students at Orientation events, 1256 students attended First Six Weeks events.

**345+**
Students attended the UTSC Welcome Day.

**380+**
Students attended the UTSC Faculty Mix & Mingle.
The International Student Centre supports newcomers to Canada, both international and new immigrant students, as well as all internationally minded students.

As November 2015, there are 2075 international students, and 1450 permanent residents at UTSC.

100
First Year International student mentees in pilot run of Buddy Program

800+
Emails received by 8 Student E-buddy Mentors

241
Students attended the Study Abroad Fair

830
One-on-one immigration appointments (200 unique students, 630 return students)

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CENTRE SUCCESSES

258 emails and walk-in inquiries from students who are interested in going on study abroad

172 students, including 4 campus groups participated in our Diwali Dinner

60+ students attended our Thanksgiving Luncheon

Launch of Leadership Development Program ILEAD: International stream

New Intercultural workshop designed from students in MIB program

Collaborating with the SCSU, VP Equity, to finalize a funding opportunity for WUSC/refugee students after their first year
With the highest number of student opportunities entered across all three campuses, in only its third year of operation, the Co-Curricular Record has seen marked success at UTSC. In the past year, increasing numbers of students have taken advantage of the database of activities that provide active engagement, as well as opportunities for growth and development. In addition to being able to search for extracurricular opportunities, the CCR allows students to keep track of their involvement outside of the classroom and have these experiences officially recorded and recognized by the University of Toronto.

**Fall 2015 marked the launch of campus group roles on the Co-Curricular record.**

**OVERALL PROGRAM NUMBERS**

- 973  
  Number of UTSC CCR opportunities entered

- 229  
  Number of UTSC Campus Group positions submitted

- 1444  
  Number of UTSC students validated

- 30  
  Number of UTSC Faculty & Staff validators

- 1404  
  Unique approved events

- 750+ attendees at 40 ULEAD workshops

- 213 active clubs
CREATE YOUR EXPERIENCE

Students have the opportunity to participate in our peer-led, on campus programs and be empowered to build a vibrant student experience at UTSC.
EXTRA attention and support for first generation students is possible through the Ministry of Colleges and Universities (MTCU) external funding. As part of the First Year Experience Program, the First Generation Program specifically aims to assist those who are first in the family to attend university in Canada. Upon arrival, all first generation students were invited to participate in 6 weeks of programming that aligned with the Six “I’s” of Community Development (Schroeder, Minor, & Tarkow, 1999). First Generation students in our program also have access to our Learning Skills Advisor, and twice weekly study cafes. On a tri-campus level, a mid-semester learning needs assessment was completed to assess student progress and inform programming.

The First Generation Program was highlighted in the University Affairs Issue for December 2015. The article emphasizes how UTSC peer mentors are helping those who are first in the family, find their way to university.
Our First Year Experience Program seeks to help first year students connect to the campus community through mentorship, peer academic support, and events that highlight how to be successful and achieve balance in a post-secondary environment. Student Life strategically outreaches to all first year students, ensuring that incoming first year students have a positive interaction with UTSC before beginning their studies. This includes summer events, e-mentoring, and peer-to-peer telephone contact. This year, over 906 students participated in the First Year Experience program. 127 volunteer mentors supported 706 first year mentees, and helped plan and facilitate regular networking, outreach, and social events. The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) grant contributes significantly to funding the additional student leaders and academic events.

**OVERALL PROGRAM NUMBERS**
(SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2015)

- **906 Mentees** in our First Year Programs
- **300+ First Year Students** attended the First Year Experience Mentor Launch
- **120+ program participants** were at October’s 6 Week Celebration, celebrating early successes, mentorship relationships, and launching the Co-Curricular Record for the year.
- **20+ First Year Students** participated in our first ever Alternative Reading Week, contributing outreach and support to our local Boys and Girls Club.

**706**  
Mentees in the First Year Experience Program  
(453 Science, 100 Mgmt, 153 Arts)

**127**  
Mentors in the First Year Experience Program

**89%**  
Attendance by Volunteer Mentors for monthly meetings hosted by Lead Mentors to discuss trends, issues, and success occurring with mentees.
CAMPUS GROUPS & RECOGNITION

Student organizations and leaders contribute to the intellectual, political, social, and cultural landscape of the campus, and are a core element of a vibrant student life.

The Department of Student Life provided guidance, support, and risk assessment to help student groups meet their goals and engage students at UTSC. In 2015, there were 213 recognized student organizations and 1404 unique approved events; that is an average of 20 student-led initiatives every week!

Events increased in quantity, scope, and scale. Student Life continued to provide one-on-one guidance, campus group consultation, leadership workshops, and the ULEAD Conference to strengthen the leadership and event planning skills of student leaders.

OVERALL PROGRAM NUMBERS

- 750+ students attended 40 ULEAD workshops
- 213 active clubs
VOLUNTEER IN THE COMMUNITY

We are focused on creating connections between the university and the surrounding community that lead to engagement opportunities for our students.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS

The Department of Student Life has developed strong community partnerships to support community needs and create meaningful leadership opportunities for UTSC students. Key partnerships and collaborations contribute to 8 different community engagement initiatives. Community mentors, Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup volunteers and Alternative Reading Week participants are community engagement opportunities that build leadership and a sense of social responsibility. UTSC students volunteer over 5000 hours a year and will receive recognition for leadership and community engagement through the CCR. Private donations significantly contribute to the growth and development of these initiatives and jobs for students.

120+
Weekly Community Outreach opportunities at 8 sites in Scarborough

215
UTSC students participated in community programs

25
Paid student opportunities

15
Chaplains at UTSC, 2 new chaplains - Muslim Chaplaincy and Roman Catholic Chaplaincy

ALTERNATIVE READING WEEK

69 PARTICIPANTS

COMMUNITY DAY EVENT: SHORELINE CLEANUP

31 PARTICIPANTS

KEY COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

Indigenous Program
Community Outreach
Alternative Reading Week
Multi-Faith Program
Imani Academic Mentorship Program
HART HOUSE PARTNERSHIP

This year, the Department of Student Life facilitated Hart House programming at the Scarborough campus. A student intern has been hired to support these initiatives.

The initiatives include:

**Conscious Activism Documentary Series** A screening of documentaries that encourage participants to explore the complex relationship between social justice, spirit and activism.

**Where Does Change Happen?** A tri-campus experiential learning opportunity for students to connect and learn about community advocacy, social enterprise and social change by visiting community partners throughout the Greater Toronto Area.

For UTSC, the focus will be on how change is happening for Indigenous communities in Scarborough with a visit to: Native Child and Family Services, Wilfrid Laurier Collegiate Institute and Eastview Public School.

2

Documentary screenings have taken place at UTSC during the fall semester.

3

Where Does Change Happen?
Locations in Scarborough:
Native Child and Family Services
Wilfrid Laurier Collegiate Institute
Eastview Public School.
GO BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

We create learning opportunities outside of the lecture hall and help students to discover new perspectives with us.
The Leadership Development Program is designed to provide every UTSC student with diversified learning and engagement opportunities. Inspired by The Social Change Model, our Leadership Development Program continues to offer students the opportunity to take learning beyond the classroom.

The 3 overarching program streams focus on personal development, collaborative team-building, and issues impacting the local and the global community. In 2015, the Leadership Development Program was brought under the coordination of a staff-person dedicated solely to the program. The program has grown significantly since the beginning of the 2015-2016 school term, with the addition of 6 focus streams distributed under the 3 major program areas. Focus streams aim to engage particular student demographics already engaged with the Department of Student Life to provide programming related to specific areas of interest under the broader leadership themes.

2 Program partnerships with other UTSC offices

6 New focus streams added:
  iLEAD: First Year
  iLEAD: International
  ULEAD: Design
  WELEAD: Abroad
  WELEAD: Culinaria: Sustainability
  WELEAD: Buddhist Artist Inspiration

3 New workshops in the WELEAD stream

OVERALL PROGRAM NUMBERS

994 students have participated across streams

495 new students have joined the program since January 2015

475 first generation students are engaged with the overall program

133 international students are engaged with the overall program
UTSC students’ participation in study abroad opportunities has seen a growth over the last two years, a 14% increase in Summer Abroad Program and 47% increase for Exchanges. This year we increased applications for Summer Research Exchange Program from zero to nine students. In 2016, we will see the addition of a new full time position, Global Mobility Coordinator, a role that will focus on study abroad initiatives, promotion, inbound student support and international partnerships.

The International Student Centre is focused on increasing student mobility and the internationalization of education in the following ways:

- New marketing campaign to promote study abroad opportunities
- Launch of WELEAD: Study Abroad stream in the Leadership Development Program
- The Study Abroad Fair (In 2015, 241 students, staff and faculty walked through)
- Outreach & information sharing regarding study abroad through emails and walk-in inquiries
- Introducing a new parent information session on study abroad

**UTSC DESTINATIONS**

**Going Abroad**
- National University of Singapore
- University of Manchester (England)
- University of Mannheim (Germany)
- Chinese University of Hong Kong
- University of Warwick (England)
- Nanyang Technological University (Singapore)
- Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- Korea University
- Osaka University
- University of Birmingham (England)

**Coming to UTSC**
- Nanyang Technological University (Singapore)
- University of Hong Kong
- University of Geneva
- Centre for Macroeconomic Study (Argentina)
- University of College, Dublin
- University of Stirling (Scotland)
- Paris 9 - Paris Dauphine
- Chinese University of Hong Kong
- University of Nottingham (England)

*Strategic Partnerships with U of T*

**Hosted partner visits**
- National University of Singapore (NUS)
- Lancaster University (England)
- International Exchange Canada, Government of Canada