

Q&A: MY FIRST YEAR AT U of T ENGINEERING



Engineering

MY FIRST YEAR

HOW MANY COURSES WILL I TAKE?

You'll take five or six courses per term. There are two terms: the fall term runs from September to December and the winter term runs from January to April. Most classes are between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday to Friday.

WHAT WILL A TYPICAL WEEK LOOK LIKE?

On average, you'll spend about 30 hours per week in class. Classes consist of lectures (where learning begins), tutorials (where students work on problems) and labs (where students receive hands-on experience). Most first-year engineering students spend two to three hours per night and about 12 hours on the weekend studying outside of class. In total, that's about 50-60 hours per week of class and study time! Since the first-year workload is heavy, we recommend you work no more than 10 hours per week at a part-time job, if needed. You should be prepared to put in extra hours during peak times around midterm and final examination periods.

WHO TEACHES THE CLASSES?

Most courses are taught by professors. In addition to teaching undergraduate students, these same professors conduct research, publish articles and books and supervise

graduate students. As one of the best engineering schools in the world, the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering at U of T has many world-renowned professors. Take the time to get to know your professors! It will only enhance your experience here and could lead to future research opportunities.

HOW IS UNIVERSITY DIFFERENT FROM HIGH SCHOOL?

At university, you'll be far more independent than in high school. You are responsible for attending class, keeping up with coursework, submitting assignments on time and following academic regulations. Adjusting your learning style and adopting good study habits can help you get the most out of your university experience. We have many engineering-specific services to help you with this.

WILL MY GRADES DROP IN UNIVERSITY?

Most first-year students experience a considerable change in their marks. In most courses, the final grade will be predominately determined by tests and final exams. You may find that your university average falls below the grades you achieved while in high school. Class averages range from high 60s to low 70s.



WHEN ARE EXAMS?

There are two examination periods: December 6-20 and April 14-28. We expect you to be in Toronto for the duration of each examination period. If you need to make advanced travel plans, do not plan on leaving before December 20, and check carefully before making plans for the summer break.

WHAT SERVICES AND SUPPORT ARE AVAILABLE TO ME?

In addition to the academic advising services provided by the First-Year Support Team, you can attend seminars to help you improve academic skills like time management, reading, note-taking, memory and concentration. We also have dedicated services for engineering students including the Math Aid Office and the Engineering Communication Program, as well as study guides and tutors. If you're in the TrackOne/Undeclared or any of the Core 8 programs and fall behind in the fall term of your first year, you can participate in the Transitional Program (called the T-Program for short). The T-Program allows students who fall behind in the fall session of first year the opportunity to immediately address their problem areas by repeating up to three fall-term courses in the winter term, and extending their program into May and June. The program has been a great success in helping students catch up to classmates in time for the start of second year in September.

For more information on services available to first-year students, visit www.firstyear.engineering.utoronto.ca or contact the First Year Office at firstyear@ecf.utoronto.ca. For more information on U of T, campus life and the many services available, please visit the U of T Family website: www.family.utoronto.ca. If you're in the Engineering Science program, please contact askengsci@utoronto.ca.

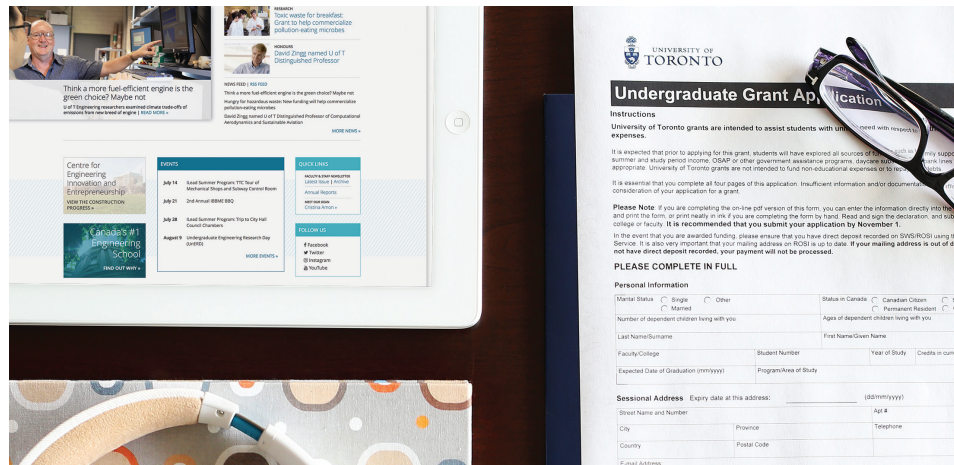
SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AIDS

CAN I APPLY FOR MERIT-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS?

You were automatically considered for scholarships during the application and admissions process. The vast majority of our admission scholarships are for one year of study. You will automatically be considered for in-course scholarships based on your achievements in first, second and third year and we encourage you to complete the online engineering portfolio (e-portfolio) in order to be considered for awards that also include extra-curricular/leadership qualities in the terms.

WHAT NEED-BASED AWARDS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ARE AVAILABLE?

You can apply for various types of assistance. In addition to government student loan programs, U of T has a financial assistance program called UTAPS (University of Toronto Advance Planning for Students) for domestic students with an assessed need that is not fully covered by government aid. U of T Engineering also has a grant program for students who are in financial need. To find out more about these programs, please refer to the Guide to First Year or contact Pierina Filippone, Assistant Registrar, Scholarships and Financial Aid, at awards@ecf.utoronto.ca.



2019

2020

YOUR FIRST-YEAR SUPPORT TEAM

EMZHEI CHEN
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, FIRST YEAR STUDENT
SUCCESS AND TRANSITION
emzhei.chen@ecf.utoronto.ca

JENNIFER FABRO
FIRST YEAR ADVISOR
jen@ecf.utoronto.ca



PAID WORK EXPERIENCE

DOES U OF T ENGINEERING OFFER CO-OP?

Yes! It's called PEY Co-op (Professional Experience Year Co-op). After second year you have an opportunity to pursue a 4-month summer work term, and after third year, you can opt to work for 12 to 16 months with an employer of your choosing. These co-op terms give you ample time to make career-boosting connections and meaningful professional contributions. PEY Co-op is optional, full time and paid. While on their work term, PEY Co-op students earn a competitive salary (average annual salary in 2018 was \$50,000), positioning themselves perfectly to negotiate for higher starting salaries after graduation than non-PEY Co-op counterparts. PEY Co-op employers represent every sector and include some of the most leading-edge companies around the world, including Apple, Google, Tesla and Shell. With more than 1,500 available positions worldwide you'll only accept the PEY Co-op job offer that aligns with your goals.

GLOBAL EXPERIENCES, CLUBS AND TEAMS

CAN I STUDY OR WORK ABROAD?

Yes! Completing engineering courses abroad is an incredible way to gain international experience, cross-cultural competency and credit toward your degree. You have access to more than 100 study-abroad institutions worldwide, including 14 engineering-specific partnerships at exceptional universities all over the world. You can also choose to work on a research team at a partner university abroad during the summer to expand your international network. Through the PEY Co-op program you can also gain global work experience. For more information on study-abroad opportunities, please visit www.learningabroad.utoronto.ca/

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED WITHIN THE UofT ENGINEERING COMMUNITY?

Engineering students are known across U of T for being one of the most spirited groups on campus. From athletics to music and design teams to student government, there are close to 100 clubs and opportunities within U of T Engineering alone, and hundreds more available throughout U of T. For more information on the ways to get involved, please visit the Engineering Society's website (www.skule.ca) and the U of T student life website (www.ulife.utoronto.ca).



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

Engineering

ENGINEERING STUDENT RECRUITMENT & RETENTION OFFICE

35 St. George Street, Room 173, Toronto, ON M5S 1A4 Canada
engineering@ecf.utoronto.ca | +1 416-978-3872
www.discover.engineering.utoronto.ca

 @DiscoverUofT |  /discoveruoftengineering

 www.youtube.com/uofteng |
 [@uoftengineering](https://www.instagram.com/uoftengineering)