



WHAT IS THE UTSU?

Founded in 1901, the University of Toronto Students' Union (UTSU) is the official student government for more than 38,000 students at the University of Toronto. If you're a full-time undergraduate student at the St. George campus, you are automatically a member of the UTSU. We strive to be a democratic, accessible, and member-driven organization, and all of our work is done with a strong commitment to equity.

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?



- essential functions:
- Advocacy
 - Service provision

Our advocacy work includes lobbying the government and the university administration, organizing public education campaigns, and supporting student initiatives.

Our services include an array of offerings from grants for students in need to funding for student clubs, we are the organization that provides the student health insurance plan and a number of other essential services. Finally, all of our work is guided by a commitment to equity.



We lobby at three levels of government, advocating for students' needs within the university, provincially, and federally. We support students' initiatives, fighting for equity and accessibility across our campus.



We are committed to providing services and resources to help you flourish in your social lives at U of T.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH OVER 350 RECOGNIZED UTSU CLUBS

- Academic**
 From education promotion and awareness, to program development and more, there are many ways to broaden your academic horizons and engage with the community.
- Advocacy/Volunteer**
 Our advocacy- and volunteer-based clubs provide numerous opportunities to get involved at all levels, both within the university and globally. Cultural diversity is celebrated through the programming efforts, campaigns and operations of our culturally based clubs.
- Hobby/Interest**
 These clubs cover a wide range of interests and hobbies and provide opportunities for fun on campus, while positively contributing to the university community.
- Music/Theatre/Arts**
 These clubs can provide a variety of creative outlets to help enhance your university experience and allow you to express yourself in all forms of the arts.
- Political**
 Our politically based clubs engage students in topics on local, provincial, national and global platforms.
- Publication**
 Our publication-based clubs encourage creativity and expression through their different media.
- Religious**
 The UTSU recognizes a number of clubs that celebrate the diversity of the spiritual and faith based practices on campus, providing safe spaces for dialogues, reflection and more.
- Sports**
 Sports clubs allow you to share your interest in sports without joining a varsity or intramural team.

INTERESTED IN CREATING A CLUB?

studentlife.utoronto.ca/task/how-to-start-a-club

Apply for recognition through the Ulife website! Being recognized by Ulife means that you can use "University of Toronto", or "U of T" in your group's name, as well as have the ability to book space on St. George campus. Once recognized, apply to UTSU for club recognition and funding. In order to receive UTSU funding: Be approved through recognition from Ulife or ASSU; have at least 30 members; and have at least 50% + 1 members who must be UTSU members (full-time undergraduate or professional faculty students at the St. George or Mississauga campus).



UTSU SERVICES



HEALTH AND DENTAL PLAN

Our health and dental plan offers discounted services for extended health care, dental, vision, and travel health care to our membership recognized as full-time undergraduate students (including studies in theology). The plan covers the cost of prescription drugs, clinical counselling, psychotherapy, massage therapy, vision care such as eye glasses or eye exams, dental exams and procedures, and the cost of trip cancellations, interruptions, and medical emergencies. UTSU members are automatically enrolled in the plan, which costs \$412.34 this year (\$224.60 for health and \$187.74 for dental) for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Students may also opt-in family members for \$824.68 for each member and must be done from September 1-30. This is also known as the change-of-coverage period, which is the time that students may opt-in family members or opt-out of the plan. Students can go to studentcare.ca and complete the required steps. Opting out of the health plan requires that you provide proof of alternative coverage.

To use your coverage, you can provide your group and certificate numbers to your health practitioner so they can bill the insurance company, Desjardins. The group number is Q1212, and the certificate number is your complete student number. If you've already paid and would like to file a claim, you can download the StudentCare mobile app from Google Play or the App Store, register for an account, and upload your receipts or proof of payment. You can also mail in a claim form.

From September to November there will be a blackout period. This period occurs while our plan administrator, Studentcare, organizes the list of students who are enrolled in the plan. Claim reimbursements are not done during this period, so hold on to your receipts and submit after November. Following the blackout period, claims generally take 2 weeks to be processed.

For coverage or refund issues, to mail in a claim, to opt-in or opt-out, go to www.studentcare.ca. You may wish to contact Studentcare directly at 1-866-416-8706.

If you have any additional questions please do not hesitate to contact the UTSU through our direct messaging service found on utsu.ca.



FOOD BANK

Due to COVID our current food bank service remains closed. The UTSU recognizes that there are students who are food insecure and encourages those students to apply for funds through the Emergency Bursary of the Student Aid program at utsu.ca.



INCOME TAX PROGRAM

The Income Tax Program has become a virtual service. Relying on volunteers through the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program, U of T students are trained to help their peers file simple taxes. Please check our website at utsu.ca to see when the next available date is for booking your virtual tax clinic appointment. For information please contact: services@utsu.ca.



STUDENT AID

In addition to tuition, there are several additional costs associated with post-secondary education.

The UTSU provides assistance to members who show financial need through needs-based bursaries, including:

1. The Book and Academic Supplies Bursary (for costs above and beyond tuition)
2. The Exam Deferral Bursary (for costs associated with postponing an exam)
3. The Academic Pursuits Bursary Grant (for learning opportunities)
4. The Health and Wellness Bursary (for costs that exceed the health plan coverage)
5. The Accessibility Bursary (for an array of accessibility needs)
6. The Transit Bursary (for public transportation)
7. The Emergency Bursary (food insecurity, housing issues, general cost of living difficulties)

Applications for these bursaries are accepted on an on-going annual basis.

The Microtransactions Access Program helps provide free codes to students who are taking courses that require you to otherwise purchase a microtransaction at an additional course cost.

For information on either bursaries or microtransactions, please contact Dermot at vpopperations@utsu.ca.

Additionally the UTSU offers:

The Dollar for Daycare Bursaries that help young families with costs associated with dependent care during study or class time.

Apply before March 1, 2021. Decisions are made by April. For information please contact: services@utsu.ca.



STUDENT REFUGEE PROGRAM/WUSC

The UTSU proudly introduces the Student Refugee Program, a new initiative within the UTSU to provide support services to all refugee students and to create awareness of refugee issues on campus. The UTSU and New College along with other colleges proudly support the arrival of refugee students to the University of Toronto through the assistance of World University Services Canada.

For information please contact: services@utsu.ca or srp@utsu.ca.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Blue Crew is a group of students who actively participate through volunteerism in the U of T community. During COVID-19 we will not be running this program. Please check our website mid November to see the plans for January 2021 and look for information on our new Ambassador Program launching September 2021.



HELP DESK

The help desk through CRISP messaging connects students with our Community Resource Specialists to provide quick and efficient service to students around their questions and concerns.

The help desk also sells a variety of discounted tickets and has discount codes for our members. COVID has limited our ability to provide tickets.

Contact the Helpdesk for advice how to proceed:

Live Chat: utsu.ca/helpdesk

Email: helpdesk@utsu.ca



PARTNER GROUPS SUPPORTED THROUGH STUDENTS

Bike Chain: The primary focus is on bike repair and workshops for students. www.bikechain.ca

Sky Solar Racing: Since 1997, the Blue Sky Club has represented the University of Toronto in biennial solar racing events around the world. www.blueskysolar.utoronto.ca

CINSSU (Cinema Studies Student Union): Support Cinema Studies students (Free Friday Films) and promote film culture. www.cinssu.com

CWTP (Centre for Women and Trans People): The CWTP is a social justice organization committed to advocacy for women and trans people through programming, socials and events. www.womenscentre.sa.utoronto.ca

DLS (Downtown Legal Services): Provides legal support and advice for students and low-income communities generally at no cost or low cost. www.downtownlegalservices.ca

LGBTOUT (Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Trans People of the University of Toronto): Provides programming and advocacy for LGBT+ community. www.lgbtout.sa.utoronto.ca

OPIRG: Is a U of T based group with a mandate for action, education and research on issues of social and environmental justice. www.opirgtoronto.org

SEC (Sexual Education Centre): Aims to make sexual education inclusive and available for everyone at U of T and provides supplies, peer support/resources, education, and volunteer and outreach opportunities. www.facebook.com/UofTSEC/

SBA (Students for Barrier -Free Access): Aims to advocate for equity, access and the rights of students with disabilities at the University of Toronto. www.ulife.utoronto.ca/organizations/view/id/2212

UTAT (University of Toronto Aerospace Team): Engages local, regional, national, and international communities to promote aerospace and the University of Toronto. www.utat.ca

UTERN (University of Toronto Environmental Resource Network): Acts as an umbrella organization that serves students interested in the health of our environment. www.utern.org/wp/UTIHP

(University of Toronto International Health Program): UTIHP trains members to become global citizens, empowering them to act as catalysts of change. www.utihp.org

COMING SOON... STUDENT COMMONS

What is the Student Commons and what is its purpose?

The Student Commons is the new home to the UTSU, campus clubs, levy groups, and much more!

We look forward to welcoming students in September 2021 and being students' information and resource hub for all things student related!

What to expect when the student commons is running

Students should expect exceptional programming to be run out of the Student commons building, a place to relax and unwind, a resource centre for all student inquiries, and lots of ways to get involved and stay connected.

