

Graduate Student Admissions FAQs

These FAQs are for use in communication with prospective and/or newly admitted graduate students. They are also available on the [SGS website](#) and will be updated as the situation evolves.

Note to Graduate Administrators: Professional programs may choose to omit FAQ #3. Research programs may choose to omit FAQ #4.

FAQ 1:

What should we communicate to newly admitted graduate students about their academic programs?

We look forward to welcoming you to exciting academic and co-curricular learning opportunities. In preparation for welcoming you, we're carefully considering the implications that the COVID-19 pandemic will have on the Fall term's learning environment.

This is a stressful time for everyone – a time of many questions, challenges and uncertainties. We're committed to finding ways to allow newly enrolled students, including international students, to begin their studies at the University of Toronto in the 2020-21 academic year, regardless of potential restrictions that may be in place in September.

Your health and the health of the community remain our priorities during this pandemic and throughout the gradual lifting of restrictions. We would very much like to return to in-person education in September, but if our public health officials recommend against this, we will continue to deliver educational content remotely. As a world-class university, we have high-quality resources available to instructors and students, allowing effective teaching and learning in remote environments. Our outstanding faculty members will continue to work with students, offering the high quality of teaching and mentorship for which U of T is known.

FAQ 2: Newly Admitted International Students

What should we communicate to newly admitted international students who cannot enter Canada for September?

If travel restrictions continue and prohibit international students from entering Canada for the fall term, courses will be offered remotely. Please maintain communication with these students over the summer to assure them that a high-quality education will be provided remotely in the fall. Please ensure supervisors and/or graduate coordinators are also in touch with students, where applicable.

FAQ 3: Research Opportunities

What should we communicate to newly admitted students about engagement in research opportunities?

For some students access to research opportunities in the lab or in the field may continue to be restricted or impeded in the fall term. If this happens, please encourage graduate supervisors to consider alternative plans such as moving some research opportunities online or postponing research

until winter 2021 or year two of the program of study and replacing these with other learning opportunities.

FAQ 4: Experiential Learning Opportunities

What should we communicate to newly admitted students about affected Experiential Learning Opportunities?

For some students access to placements, internships and other experiential learning opportunities may continue to be restricted in the fall term. If this occurs, your graduate supervisor or graduate coordinator will be able to provide you with an alternative plan of study such as postponing these endeavours until a later date or meeting the learning outcomes of these experiences in alternative ways. If your placement or internship is required for accreditation purposes, your graduate unit will develop an alternative plan for you to meet these requirements.

FAQ 5: Quality of Student Experience

What should we communicate to newly admitted graduate students about the quality of the student experience?

We're working closely with public health authorities to determine when and how to facilitate a safe return to campus, classrooms and research spaces this fall. Although on-campus activities may be modified, your U of T experience will begin this September. There will be many valuable opportunities for you to interact and collaborate with your peers and to engage in important co-curricular activities to round out an exceptional student experience. Additional academic supports will be provided remotely through the Graduate Centre for Academic Communication and the Graduate Professional Development program.

The Division of Student Life will provide remote opportunities to orient you to university life, help to develop a sense of community, and bolster your personal health and well-being. For international students, the Centre for International Experiences provides high-quality programming to welcome you to Canada and the University of Toronto. Although there is uncertainty today about the extent of disruption we face, we're well-equipped and committed to providing you with an exceptional graduate student experience.

Newly admitted student-facing FAQs are posted on the [SGS COVID-19 webpage](#).