

# Transitional Year Programme 2024-25

The Transitional Year Programme (TYP) is a full-time, eight-month access-to-University program for adults who do not have the formal qualifications for university admission. Established in 1970 and originally supporting Black and Indigenous communities, the program now welcomes all students facing barriers to higher education.

## A message from Director Stan Doyle-Wood

It is my honour to write to you for the first time as the Director of the Transitional Year Programme, a role I assumed on July 1, 2025. While I am newly appointed as Director, I am by no means new to TYP. I have had the privilege of serving as a faculty member in this transformative program for many years and have also served as Interim Director during previous periods. I have witnessed firsthand the power of this space to change lives, strengthen community, and redefine excellence through inclusion, resilience, and collective growth for students from historically excluded backgrounds.

The 2024–2025 academic year has been one of both reflection and renewal for TYP. Under the leadership of my predecessor, Dr. Lance T. McCready, TYP partnered with the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) to host the first-ever Access and Equity in Higher Education for Mature Students Research Symposium. This landmark event brought together scholars, educators, and community members to spotlight the unique challenges and opportunities facing mature learners, and reaffirmed TYP’s role as a leader in equity and access.

We are equally proud of the continued engagement of our alumni, many of whom are finding meaningful ways to give back to both the TYP and broader University of Toronto communities. This year, alumni led workshops, mentoring sessions, and career-focused events to support current students—a powerful testament to the strength and spirit of the TYP network. In addition, our commitment to supporting alumni through academic and career advising continues to grow, ensuring that TYP remains a lifelong source of encouragement and empowerment.

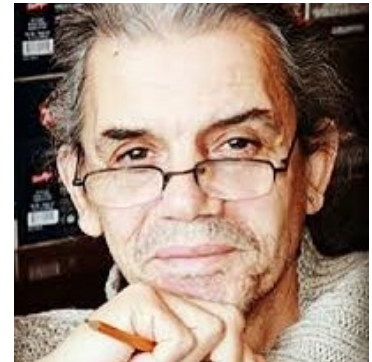
Looking ahead to 2025–2026, we are excited to revisit and reimagine TYP’s longstanding history of community engagement. We plan to strengthen partnerships with schools, community agencies, and health organizations to co-create programming that supports mature students, youth, and families. These efforts are rooted in our belief that education is a collective journey—one that thrives when knowledge, care, and opportunity are shared across communities. We also aim to diversify our course offerings within the Faculty of Arts & Science, ensuring that our curriculum continues to reflect the experiences and aspirations of our students.

None of this would be possible without the generous support of our donors. Your commitment to TYP makes a real and lasting difference. It allows us to uphold a critical program that not only prepares students for academic success but also nurtures leaders who carry forward a vision of equity and excellence in everything they do. On behalf of our students, alumni, faculty, and staff—thank you.

In community and with deep gratitude,

**Stan Doyle-Wood**

Director, Transitional Year Programme



“Your commitment to TYP makes a real and lasting difference. It allows us to uphold a critical program that not only prepares students for academic success but also nurtures leaders who carry forward a vision of equity and excellence in everything they do.”

## A future of meaningful service.

**Ricky Tran** a 2024-25 recipient of the Frank Iacobucci TYP Education Award, is a dedicated Transitional Year Programme student preparing to pursue undergraduate studies, driven by a passion for accessible and culturally sensitive healthcare. With practical experience in dental assisting and administration, public health, and clinic setup, Ricky aims to pursue a degree in dentistry, aspiring to provide accessible care—particularly for underserved populations—and shape community-focused clinics



**“This award empowers me to deepen my academic engagement, particularly in courses that strengthen my foundation for dental school. . . Knowing that people like you believe in my potential is both motivating and humbling, and it propels me toward a future of meaningful service and advocacy in healthcare.”**

---

## Making a difference.

**Janeil Jagoo**, a 2024-25 recipient of the Rose M. Patten TYP Award and Frank Iacobucci TYP Education Award, is in her first year, transitioning from the Transitional Year Programme into a full undergraduate program, and is pursuing a double major in Life Sciences and Psychology. Janeil aims to one day become a forensic pathologist or a neurologist. On campus, she’s actively involved in intramural sports as a game manager, and off campus, she runs a small business that focuses on beauty and confidence for young women.



**“My hope is that through my education, I can contribute to discoveries that go far beyond myself and make a real difference in people’s lives. I want to be part of something greater, helping to advance our understanding and ultimately improve lives worldwide.”**

---

## Rooted in community.

**Cathy Muwanga** is a 2024-25 recipient of the Bram Appel TYP Education Award, BMO Financial Group Access to Higher Education Awards, the Walter and Mary Tuohy Foundation TYP Education Award and the Rose M. Patten TYP Award. Cathy is the sole parent to two teenagers and has been working as a personal support worker in Canada for the past 15 years. She has always had a passion for social justice, often seeking out community service jobs to give back to her community. Now enrolled in Studies in Social Sciences at the Faculty of Arts & Science, she aims to apply her knowledge to initiate meaningful change in her community.



**“With my education, I strive to achieve to make a difference in underprivileged communities – To broadcast that the right to gain an understanding does not require privilege.”**

## Alumni Highlight: Carrie Commanda

Carrie Commanda is a member of Nipissing First Nation in northern Ontario. Growing up, she never believed that university was an option for her: unaware of her own history and ashamed of her culture, she lacked confidence and pride.

But Commanda's outlook has since been completely transformed. A 2016-17 recipient of the Nancy and Frank Iacobucci TYP Education Award, Carrie began her journey at U of T after her mentor advised she apply to the Transitional Year Programme. In June 2024, after completing a specialist program in Indigenous studies, she graduated as a scholarship-winning member of Woodsworth College. Now, she looks forward to a future in social work, in which she will encourage other Indigenous youth to believe in themselves.

**“Looking back on that first year, I had to stand on my own two feet and fight for what I wanted. I had to tell myself I could do it, just work really hard and never give up. Because if you don't give up, you're only going to succeed. There's no other option.”**



Read the full interview with Carrie: <https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/news/if-you-don-t-give-you-re-only-going-succeed-new-graduate-carrie-commanda-has-travelled-life>

# 55

students enrolled  
for 2024-2025

# 137

merit awards and  
need-based grants

# \$410,589

in total funding awarded

# 21

TYP alumni graduated from  
U of T degree programs

### For more information, please contact:

Transitional Year Programme  
University of Toronto  
123 St. George Street  
Toronto, ON  
M5S 2E8

Phone: (416) 978-6832  
Email: [typ.info@utoronto.ca](mailto:typ.info@utoronto.ca)