

Making Excellence Accessible

Transitional Year Programme

2021-2022



Transitional Year Programme
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Message from the Executive Director



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 targeted to Black and Indigenous communities, the program now welcomes all students facing barriers.

I am pleased to provide this report on the University of Toronto's Transitional Year Programme (TYP) for 2021–2022. For over 50 years, this remarkable program has opened doors to students from various academic and cultural backgrounds and life stages to fulfill the dream of pursuing a university education. At TYP, we like to meet our students where they are at on their path. Where we meet them varies. Many come to the program having struggled academically in high school, thinking post-secondary education wasn't an option. Others are seeking higher education, having already achieved success in different careers. Some started families young and only now have the time or resources for a university education. Regardless of their background, we help our students re-engage in formal education and achieve their individual goals and aspirations.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic shifting our program online, we've encountered many exciting opportunities for growth within the program. In this report you will read about some of the students who persevered through another challenging year of remote learning to graduate and go on to pursue degree studies. With more of an understanding of the pandemic's impact on education, improving digital access for our students was a top priority. One of our many highlights was investing in our loaner laptop program to ensure all our students had reliable access to technology. Our annual needs assessment revealed the disparities of access to quality technology and technological literacy amongst students. With this in mind, we provided students in need with a laptop for the year and workshops to improve proficiency in using digital devices and navigating educational platforms at U of T, such as Quercus and Acorn.

Our increased presence online garnered greater interest in our program, benefitting our recruitment and ability to build relationships with other community organizations. Our many applicants cited our new website and social media engagement as key factors for learning about the program. We were also able to establish partnerships with surrounding community organizations, such as Toronto Community Housing, for outreach and future collaborative projects and hope to integrate these initiatives into our program. With a combination of in-person and online connectivity, we reached a wider network while also remaining committed to the harder to reach communities TYP traditionally serves. We look forward to continuing to build mutually beneficial partnerships with community organizations across the GTA to offer programming that maximizes access to post-secondary education.

Finally, we are continuing to collaborate with other departments at U of T to streamline pathways for specialized areas of study. With the help of the Human Biology Program we are making great strides in enhancing our STEM programming. We are excited to identify and work closely with other departments that reflect the program interests of TYP students. Our hope is to empower students to confidently transition to degree studies. Above all, we will continue to support students from a variety of communities who have benefited from our unique, life-changing program. We are grateful to the donors who have come forward to support TYP and look forward to, together, continuing to open doors to even more students with diverse life experiences. Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

Lance T. McCready
Director, Transitional Year Programme

Transitional Year
Programme 2021-2022



44
students enrolled



86
merit and need-based
awards disbursed



\$248,000
awarded to TYP
students & alumni



17
TYP alumni graduated from
U of T degree programs

Giving Back to Community

Maritza was drawn to the University of Toronto specifically for the Transitional Year Programme. She hopes to be able to take what she learns back home to the community of Fort Albany, located on James Bay.

The Transitional Year Programme enabled Maritza to pursue her academic interests despite barriers she had encountered earlier in life. Maritza's academic goals are currently focused on broadening her understanding of Indigenous Studies, Family Studies, and fostering her deep appreciation for English. Beyond the classroom, she enjoys strengthening her bond with her First Nations community.

"This award gave me the ability to invest in my education as well as my long term well-being. I am so thankful to you and your generosity and I only hope I will make not only myself and my community proud, but you as well for believing in me and my ability!"

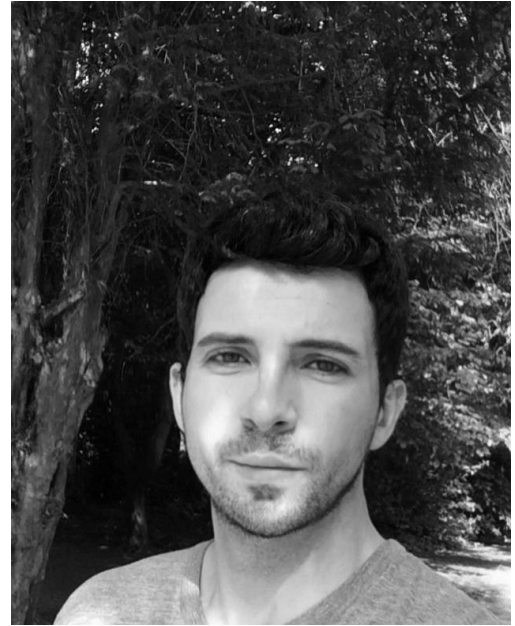


"The community of Fort Albany took care of my family and I for years, and I wish only to give back what was given years ago."

– Maritza Rollande Ayala-Spence,
First Year, Transitional Year
Programme

"I'm beginning my third year and I've just finally entered into a Specialist in Visual Studies at Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design, which I have been working towards for the past 2 years. Due to a traumatic event when I was in high school I was unable to finish school and I had to begin working to support myself so university wasn't an option for me. Three years ago I discovered the Transitional Year Program at U of T, which allowed me to complete my requirements to enter into Arts and Sciences and get a degree. I never thought that it would be possible or that I could even do it. Being here has opened my mind more than I can explain. It's always been my dream to hone my creative skills into a career and now I'm doing just that."

– David Schembri, TYP Alum & Third Year Architecture Student



Fostering a Culture of Support & Inclusion



Catherine Kyakuhaire is a single mother of two children, who joined the University of Toronto through the Transitional year Program (TYP). Her passion for learning about Social Justice and Mental Health issues within our communities, is the reason she is pursuing a degree at U of T.

Thanks to the TYP program, Catherine is now able to work toward her goal of going to graduate school to pursue a master's degree in Counselling Psychology, and then a career in psychotherapy.

In addition to her studies at Woodsworth College, she is also a member of the University of Toronto, African Alumni Association where she holds the position of Senior Volunteer Coordinator. In this role, Catherine works with international students from Africa, to help them navigate the university system. Through her volunteering, she has had lifechanging conversations with incoming students about their mental health which has strengthened her desire to pursue an education in counselling.

"I hope to use my education and knowledge to help people overcome mental health challenges. I want to serve in underprivileged communities and make a difference in people's lives."

– Catherine Kyakuhaire, TYP Alum & Third Year, Double Major in Equity Studies and Women and Gender Studies

"I am filled with gratitude and forever indebted for this donation. As a single mother, and a student I have been struggling financially, and have been challenged in balancing my education, my life and my children's wellbeing. This has not been easy, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. This generosity is life-changing and a big weight has been lifted off my shoulders."