

Making Excellence Accessible

Transitional Year Programme

2020-2021



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 the 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 2020–2021. 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 think of meeting 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. In this report, you will read about some of the individuals who have graduated and gone on to pursue degrees at U of T.

One of our many highlights was the first year of TYP at U of T Scarborough (UTSC) which offered students a unique experience. This also strengthened the relationship between St. George and Scarborough campus, allowing for more collaborative programming and maximizing resources. We hope to do the same for the U of T Mississauga community in the future. We also enhanced our STEM programming with academic advising and course-prep workshops for students interested in this field. This was met with great success and we look forward to working with the Life Science program to offer option courses in Biology and continue to build more accessible pathways to STEM.

We continued to expand our peer advising and mentoring activities including hiring five TYP alumni as work-study students to serve as peer advisors known as "TYP Connectors" to link with students and help keep them engaged in the program. In addition, we began a Student Advisory Committee which brought together students with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences who worked with staff to provide thoughtful and dynamic perspectives on matters that impacted students.

This year we also recognized the importance of enhancing our online content strategy to reach a wider network. As a result, we are working to redesign TYP's website and social media forums to capture the true essence of our program. By presenting more engaging and interactive content, the goal is to celebrate our history and community of students, alumni, faculty, and staff.

Above all, we will continue to identify students in more communities who can benefit from our unique, life-changing program. We are grateful to the donors who have come forward to support TYP and look forward to continuing to work together to open doors to even more students with diverse life experiences. Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

Lance T. McCreedy
Director, Transitional Year Programme

Transitional Year Programme 2020-2021



45

Number of students enrolled



33

Students received awards



More than
\$165,000
awarded to TYP students



24

TYP Grads who went on to undergraduate studies at U of T

Becoming a Leader

Since Brooke Holdsworth first started in the Transitional Year Programme at U of T, her goal has been to act as a role model for Indigenous people in higher education and ultimately make a difference in the world by pursuing a degree that will help support Indigenous communities.

She looks forward to taking courses in Indigenous Studies, Psychology, and Equity Studies so that she can gain knowledge that is essential to creating change in the world for oppressed and marginalized peoples.

Brooke is also highly involved in extra-curricular activities that help further the exploration of her passions, including sitting on the student advisory committees for TYP and First Nations House. Through building a career in counselling or teaching, she hopes to help people in Indigenous communities heal and return to a state of wholeness.

"As a mother, I never thought that I would be able to attend University, I believed this was an option closed off to me. Receiving a TYP student award allowed me to get some of the necessary supplies I needed to be successful. I am proud to report that I received all A's last term. I am humbled and honored that I was chosen to receive a student award at TYP."



"TYP has allowed me to be part of a community of higher learners with decreased barriers."

– Brooke Holdsworth, TYP Alum and first-year Woodsworth College Student

“Balancing work and schooling is hard, especially with managing a disability on top of it. I was fortunate enough to have received a bursary at a time where I was going to have to find a way to make ends meet. This generosity resulted in me not having to stress about financial issues and put more effort into my school work. I’m grateful to have been given the chance to succeed in school.”

– Nicole Kar Yee Chan, TYP Alum and first-year UTSC Student



Giving Back to the Community



David Gomez is an artist with a strong passion for social justice work.

He joined the TYP program with plans to pursue a degree in Ethics, Society and Law with a minor in Public Policy. Eventually, he hopes to attend law school at U of T and work in a practice that focuses on social justice issues and advocacy. He says that “When I earn my Law degree, my goal is to work directly with my immediate communities like the LGBTQI2S+, the Black and Brown communities of Toronto and many more. I want to help people who don’t necessarily come from or understand the rules and ways of social and political barriers to access.”

Outside of the classroom, David pursues his interests in art and social justice work as the founder of an art collective, which features a group of LGBTQI2S+ allies, and creatives that use art to support, nurture, and uplift Colombian people resisting police and military violence.

“The financial support I received was much more than just a dollar amount, it gave me a new life.”

– David Antonio Gomez, TYP Alum and first-year New College Student

“I am the first in my entire family to attend university and as profound as that may be, the journey to get here has not been an easy one. Pitted against me were the prices of academia and this inherent feeling of thinking that I didn’t deserve to be here. The financial support I received from an award at TYP allowed me to source proper resources and services that aided my process in finding that courage and inner brilliance within myself. The award said to me that I – a brown, queer immigrant – deserve to be here. It was much more than just a dollar amount, it gave me a new life.”