



# Reimagining our Global University



UNIVERSITY OF  
**TORONTO**

**2019-20 Annual Report**  
Office of the Vice-President, International

# UofT in the World



Photo by Yeji Lee

This third annual report of the Office of the Vice-President, International is a proud snapshot of the University of Toronto's key achievements this year against our 2017-2022 International Strategic Plan.

Over the past year, U of T has extended and deepened its international networks and developed new research collaborations. We have launched and supported programs to enable all students to engage in global learning abroad and on our campuses. And we have developed partnerships with international corporate and not-for-profit funders, which help extend our reach and impact.

As the world responds to COVID-19, we continue to innovate with global partners to help solve the world's most significant challenges. This is more critical now than ever and we thank our partners for their shared commitment to a global vision.

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**Land Acknowledgment:**

*We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years, it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.*

## GLOBAL RANKINGS

The University of Toronto is among the world’s top research-intensive institutions and one of a very few that excels in all disciplines and subject fields.

We are Canada’s leading university and consistently ranked among the best universities worldwide in the five most closely watched international rankings:



### OTHER NOTABLE RANKINGS

- 16 QS - Graduate Employability (2019)
- 15 THE - Global Employability (2019)

## THE EIGHT AXES

Our International Strategic Plan focuses on eight axes across three broad, interwoven themes: Students, Partnerships, and Advancement & Reputation.

### STUDENTS



Recruitment



Mobility



International Student Experience

### PARTNERSHIPS



Academic Partnerships



Innovation



Entrepreneurship

### ADVANCEMENT & REPUTATION



Alumni & Fundraising



Reputation & Brand

In 2019-20, U of T leadership, faculty and staff supported these priorities by participating in inbound and outbound delegations and hosting events to deepen engagement with academic peers, industry partners, alumni, and prospective students and their families around the world.

**Global engagement shapes our institutional ethos and touches every aspect of our enterprise.**

## A WORLDWIDE NETWORK OF EXCELLENCE

### ● Students

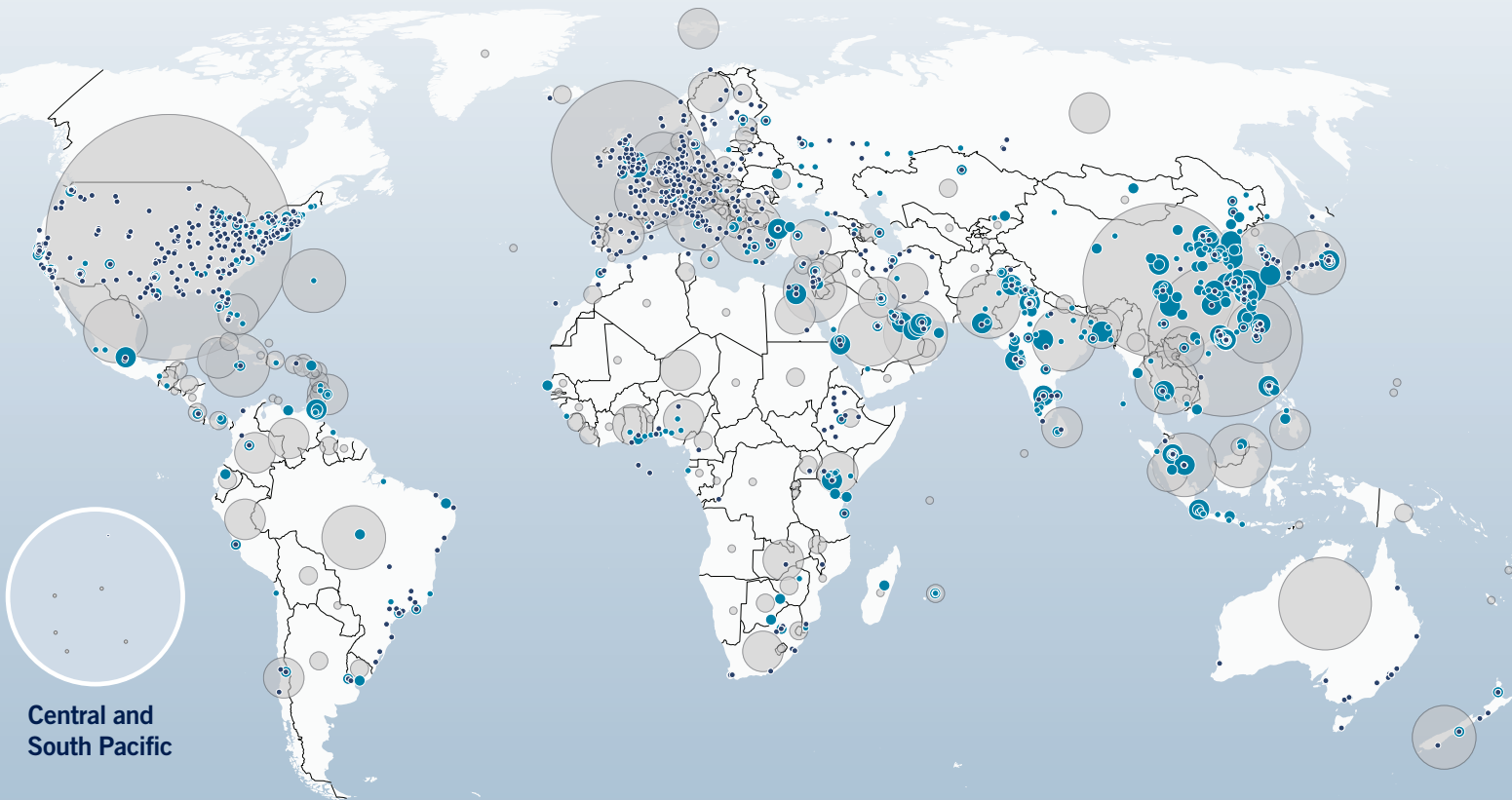
More than **14,000 first-year students** from more than **1,000 municipalities** throughout the world.

### ● Alumni

Over **600,000 alumni** in **190+ countries** and territories.

### ● Research Collaborations

More than **1,740 research collaborations** that resulted in 25 or more publications over a three-year period. Only Harvard and University College London have more extensive collaboration networks.



### President's International Councils (PICs)

Made up of faculty and staff with regional expertise, PICs provide advice on how to refine and implement our strategic plan in the following target regions: **Africa, East Asia, Europe, the Indian subcontinent, Latin America & the Caribbean, the Middle East & North Africa, and the United States.**

## STUDENTS

**Students are our greatest strength and central to our mission as a global university.**

The world's brightest students come together at U of T from across Canada and the globe to gain the knowledge and skills needed to defy boundaries and reimagine the world.

At home and abroad, we are reinventing how we educate students by providing them with global knowledge, experiences, skills, values and agility to see limitless potential in a rapidly changing world. Learning abroad offers academic and professional advantages that enhance global competencies and personal growth. To reduce financial barriers, U of T provides needs-based funding to students so learning abroad opportunities are more inclusive and accessible.

Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, U of T was on track for **24%** of its undergraduates participating in learning abroad by the time they graduate. This number was reduced to **21%** as opportunities were cancelled due to the pandemic.

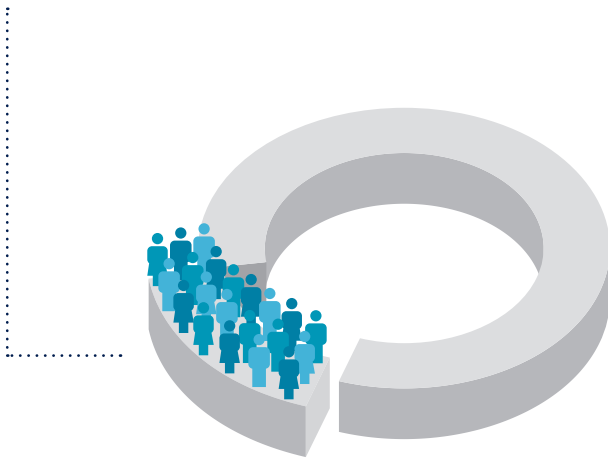


Photo by Johanna Dangel, futurGenerator internship program, Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures

### **NEW** COVID-19 Student Engagement Award

Many U of T students developed inspiring innovations and projects that responded to the pandemic. To nurture this global and community-oriented mindset, U of T launched the COVID-19 Student Engagement Award: **155 team projects** have been supported involving over **500 students** from across the University.

## Awards for learning abroad

**\$2.1 million** for needs-based awards was made available to support learning abroad.



**\$1.9 million** was committed to students as of April 2020. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, no further awards were made this year.





## GLOBAL LEARNING AT HOME

At U of T, specialized courses and programs offer students opportunities to acquire many of the insights and skills gained from learning abroad, right here on our campuses.



In September 2019, U of T launched **Global Citizen and Global Scholar** initiatives to promote international learning in and out of the classroom:

- ① Students in eight divisions can receive a certificate and a **“Global Scholar”** notation on their transcript by completing a curated set of courses.
- ② By demonstrating three competencies and completing a self-reflective workshop, students can receive a **“Global Citizen”** designation on their co-curricular record (CCR). In its first year, 235 students completed three competencies towards their designation.

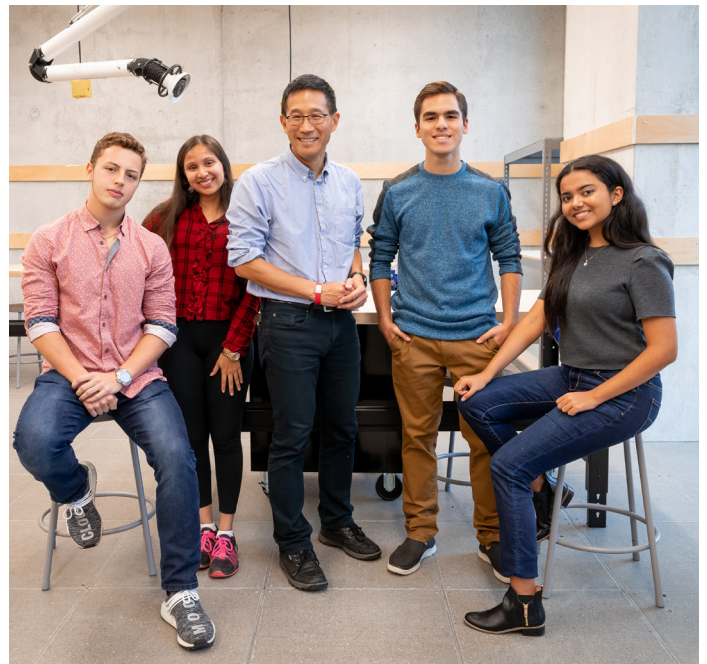
## RECRUITMENT

U of T attracts the world’s best minds and enhances the diversity of our international student population by recruiting top students from around the globe. This year, U of T is home to international students from **161 countries**.

### **NEW** Merit-based Scholarships for International Students

U of T introduced the **International Scholar Award** to attract top international students. Divisional scholarships of **\$80,000 to \$180,000** over four years are awarded based on academic merit.

**The Lester B. Pearson International Scholarship Program** awards prestigious four-year scholarships to top international students. This year, 65 global alumni served as scholarship assessors. The resulting 2020 cohort of **39 students** represents **24 countries**, bringing our total number of U of T Pearson Scholars to 146 from 56 countries.



*Photo by Roberta Baker. Professor Chris Yip, Dean, and Pearson Scholars, Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering.*

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Mixing diverse groups of students helps create a global university. Great initiatives and great professors put our international students in the best position to succeed.



### International Student Experience Fund

#### THEMES

- Programs and Services
- Inclusive Classrooms
- Addressing Barriers
- Interactional Diversity
- Reaching Students Early

## \$2.4M

committed to date for curricular and co-curricular initiatives that contribute to a learning environment consistent with U of T's global mission and profile

## 18 PROJECTS FUNDED

including an online platform strengthening global competencies, and training resources to develop global classrooms

### NEW U of T Global Educator Award

This award celebrates faculty who embody U of T's global mission and whose approach to teaching demonstrates intercultural or global fluency – the ability to operate and communicate within different cultural contexts successfully.

The inaugural winner is **Dr. Obidimma Ezezika**, Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream at the University of Toronto Scarborough.



Photo by Andy King

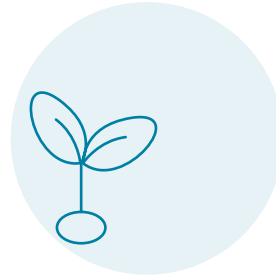


VP International Professor Joe Wong and students from the Reach Project.

## PARTNERSHIPS

The challenges we face are interconnected and demand global cooperation. Academic partnerships are strongest when they leverage multiple modalities of interaction with an emphasis on research.

Academic Partnerships accelerate discovery, foster learning and leverage complementary research strengths for higher impact. U of T supports international partnership development through workshop funding, seed grants competitions with partners, International Doctoral Clusters and Global Research Alliances.



### Seed Grants:

Support joint research projects

#### Collaborative international activity:

Seed grants were awarded for collaborations with Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Tsinghua University, University College London, University of Hong Kong, University of Manchester and University of Sydney.



### International Doctoral Clusters (IDC):

A research and doctoral education arrangement between U of T and partners to drive disciplinary innovations

#### Collaborative international activity:

A new collaboration with the National University of Singapore on *Urban Water, Waste and Energy Solutions* became U of T's 11<sup>th</sup> IDC.



### Workshops:

Fund early partnership development

#### Collaborative international activity:

Funding was awarded for workshops with universities, including Ghent University, National Autonomous University of Mexico, National University of Singapore, Tec de Monterrey, University of Melbourne, University of Oxford, University of Tokyo, and University of Sydney.



### Global Research Alliances (GRA):

U of T and partner jointly tackle complex research problems, share talent and deepen networks

#### Collaborative international activity:

GRAs were launched with priority partners University College London and Hebrew University of Jerusalem.



## INNOVATION

By working with industry partners, we gain important market insights to expand our ability to bring innovations to society. Here are two examples of industry engagement this year:



Photo by Johnny Guatto

### The U of T Exponential Impact Lecture

U of T launched this distinguished series with inaugural lecturer, Jeroen Tas, Chief Innovation & Strategy Officer for Philips, speaking about leveraging novel technologies and multi-disciplinary strategies to develop impactful products and services.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The U of T Entrepreneurship community is Canada’s leading engine for research-based start-ups and a global leader in transforming ideas into products and services that impact the world. These two initiatives offer inspiring entrepreneurship opportunities for our students:

**NEW**

Thanks to a visionary gift of \$500,000, the new Lo Family Social Venture Fund will help U of T’s budding entrepreneurs launch social ventures with potential to improve communities in Asia and beyond. Recipients may receive up to \$15,000 for undergraduate or up to \$30,000 for graduate awards.

**NEW**

As part of our entrepreneurship partnership with National University of Singapore (NUS), U of T sent its first cohort of nine aspiring student entrepreneurs to Singapore for part-time entrepreneurship-related coursework at NUS and six months’ paid start-up internships with industry.

### LG Sciencepark

Building on U of T’s existing partnership with LG Electronics in artificial intelligence and control systems, the LG Group doubled its collaborative research commitment by expanding the relationship to include its corporate R&D unit, LG Sciencepark. Associated LG projects are now being run out of LG’s newly established Toronto AI Lab on the margins of U of T’s St. George campus.

### International Research Collaborations with Industry

We have seen a notable increase in global companies investing in U of T research:



**Reuters Top 100 ranks U of T the most innovative university in Canada and 27<sup>th</sup> in the world.**

*This new international ranking places U of T among the world’s top 30 universities for efforts to “advance science, invent new technologies and power new markets and industries.”*

## ADVANCEMENT & REPUTATION

To sustain and enhance the University's academic mission, leadership, and worldwide impact, U of T builds mutually beneficial relationships with alumni and friends, and the not-for-profit and private sectors. We also work to elevate our global brand and profile through these relationships along with a global communications strategy.

### Alumni Engagement

U of T has convened four International Leadership Councils (ILCs) in Asia, UK/Europe, and the east and west coasts of the US, made up of prominent alumni who provide strategic, regional insights and advice.



President Gertler hosted Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the Ukraine Reform Conference on St. George campus in July 2019. Photo by Nick Iwanyshyn.

**U of T has over 600,000 alumni in 190+ countries. Their impact helps shape our global reputation.**

### Global Leadership

Together with our students, faculty, alumni and partners, U of T leadership is regularly engaged in international discussions regarding how universities can address the world's biggest problems.

In July 2019, President Meric Gertler attended the U7+ Summit, which brought together universities from 18 countries who committed to six principles and measurable action items related to the 2019 G7 Summit agenda. With partners, U of T is championing solutions to environmental and sustainability issues such as climate change, biodiversity and energy transition. In September 2019, President Gertler attended the Global University Engagement Summit for world university leaders on the topic 'Future Civic Universities' at The University of Manchester. In January 2020 Provost Cheryl Regehr hosted a university leaders' forum in Davos regarding how the concept of place is shaping universities in the 21st century. These are just a few examples of the University's international sectoral engagement and commitment to action.

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**As we face COVID-19, U of T's dedication to global collaboration is stronger than ever.** The pandemic is a sharp reminder of how international cooperation accelerates discovery. As President Gertler stated, "open collaboration with scientists around the world is the fastest and smartest way forward."

As we look ahead to the coming year, we will continue to champion our mutual efforts - and amplify, diversify and extend our global impact.



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