

# *Introduction*

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Hello, and thank you for signing up for the official *bridges* newsletter!

We are *bridges*, a student-support system for grade 12 students entering university. Attending university is a huge first step into the working world. University provides you with many opportunities to meet people, gain valuable work experience, and learn something new! However, finding these opportunities can be difficult, and the pressures of first-year may cause you to forget about them.

That's where we come in! *Bridges* is a team of nine university students from various schools who want to help make this transition easier for you. This way, you will not be restricted to the information from one university alone! Although some of the information that universities give you may seem standard, there are many differences in the information they provide! We want to provide you with the resources and information you need going into first-year and by signing up for the *bridges* program, we can assure you that we will give you all the information you need!

You may be wondering--how are we exactly going to do this? Well, there is more than one answer to that! First of all, we will be communicating large amounts of information via the newsletter (just like the one you're reading now!). We will be sending newsletters from now until the end of your first year! These newsletters will be delivered biweekly until the Fall 2020 semester begins--after which you will receive them monthly. You can expect these newsletters to arrive in your email on Mondays. These newsletters will contain information such as guides to course selection, tips for saving money, and much more. In addition to this, we will be sharing information on our Instagram ([@bridgestouni](#)). On our Instagram, you can expect us to share what it's like to be a university student, important dates, events, and more! We will also be hosting occasional live Q&A sessions via Zoom, so tune in for those!

If you wish to contact us, please don't hesitate to send us a message on Instagram or send us an email at [bridgestouniversity@gmail.com](mailto:bridgestouniversity@gmail.com). If you wish to contact us individually, please refer to the chart at the bottom of this newsletter. Even if you have a question about a university that our team does not attend, please don't be afraid to ask! We'll happily forward your question to someone who does attend that university if possible. Remember, that we're *bridges*! We create them, you walk them!

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## *Course Selection Preview*

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Course selection can be one of the most intimidating parts of entering university life. Having to navigate through a maze of university requirements through multiple tabs can quickly turn into a frustrating task. For this exact reason, we believe that the first concept every incoming student should get a grasp on is course selection. Though picking courses can often be very stressful, it doesn't have to be that way. One of the main purposes of selecting courses is to explore the huge variety of classes you now have access to. No matter what your interests, hobbies, or career aspirations are, there is a class ready to guide you on your way to fulfilling your wildest interests and questions.

Many students don't realize that just because you're in a specific field, not all your courses need to be relevant to that one specialty. A science student doesn't have to study sinusoidal waves all the time, nor does an art student have to study the change in paintings during the renaissance. The great thing about university is that, if you play your cards right, you can graduate with many different skills in multiple fields you got to experience over the years. Conversely, if you love only a single field and want to be the next world-leading expert in it, that's just as awesome!

At the end of the day, all that matters is that you try to understand what interests you, what you wish to be in life, and how you can get there. For both of these components, it's essential that you know the academic system inside and out. Which is why our very next newsletter is all about the various ways each university does its course selections. From due dates to enrollments, from prerequisites to antirequisites, from rating professors to rating faculties, we'll cover it all on our next newsletter! Our main mission is to help you solidify all that the universities have to offer in our convenient newsletters. So until then, take a breather, relax, and we'll help you every step of the way!

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## *Specific Deadlines*

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As a university student, it is important to keep up to date with anything that happens at your university. For the most part, no one will be there to remind you of these dates. Of course, you may get emails from the head of your faculty reminding you of key dates, but they won't tell you everything. You are in charge of knowing these dates! Below are links to university calendars! Feel free to check them out!

[McMaster University](#)  
[OCAD University](#)  
[Queen's University](#)  
[Ryerson University](#)  
[University of Guelph](#)  
[University of Guelph-Humber](#)  
[University of Toronto](#)  
[University of Waterloo](#)  
[University of Western Ontario](#)  
[York University](#)

## *Contact Us!*



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