

THE VARSITY

STUDENT HANDBOOK

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LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

If you're reading this, it's likely that you've been on campus for at least a couple days by now. Whether you're downtown on the St. George Campus, in Scarborough, in Mississauga; whether you've traveled on a plane from Dubai, a train from Detroit, or the subway from the Don Valley, you're probably all thinking some variation of the same thought: this university is freaking huge. Although the astonishingly large number of students that populate first year classes can be intimidating, and the monolithic lecture halls can inspire both awe and horror (perhaps simultaneously), The Varsity aims to show you that the University of Toronto's size is actually its greatest asset.

While you may get the impression from your first class at Convocation Hall that U of T is an impersonal and amorphous aggregate of thousands of students, faculty, and staff, our goal is to introduce you to the many diverse communities that comprise our school and give it its character as an institution with something to offer everyone.

You may have heard the common myth that this gargantuan institution will treat you as a number rather than as a conscious human being; we assure you that this is completely false. Your university experience is exactly what you make of it. Thousands of opportunities are here waiting for you, but they will not come knocking at your door. You must be active in pursuing your interests, whether they're academic, extracurricular, or alcoholic.

To help you navigate all three campuses during those disorienting first few weeks, we've included four pages of maps to get you to your classes on time, and locate libraries in the labyrinthine structures that make up St George, UTM, and UTSC.

In 'Professorial pearls of wisdom,' English professor Nick Mount advises that the healthiest approach to your next four years involves sometimes taking a step away from the maelstrom of homework, lectures, and readings, and escaping from the often entrapping snare of academia.

To this end, we've compiled a comprehensive clubs guide so that, no matter where your interests lie, you'll find a vast array of groups to get involved with at U of T.

Though this school's size comes with a tremendous number of benefits, it also necessitates a large and complicated structure for student governance and administration. To help you understand the issues that affect you as a student, and the controversies which surround many of the university's policies and organizations, we've included two pages detailing campus politics. Who knows? Maybe you'll decide to run for a position on one of the ubiquitous student unions, college councils, and student governments that populate our campus.

And while the campus is a great place to spend time, don't forget you're either in the middle of, or a short commute away from, a world-class city with a burgeoning arts community and a stellar night life scene. Our arts guide will point you in the right direction, but there's so much to discover on your own that it would be a mistake not to spend at least one night every week away from the library, exploring the city.

The four or more years you're about to spend at U of T are yours to shape. Like the majority of us, you'll have frustrating moments and at times you may feel completely exasperated at its size and complexity. Yet, through all the madness; the all-nighters, the endless readings, the night-marish cram sessions; you'll also have a great time, you'll learn volumes (quite literally), and there will be friends you make here that you'll still see forty years from now. Your student newspaper welcomes you to the University of Toronto.

Cheers,

LUKE SAVAGE

Editor-in-Chief, *The Varsity*, 2010-2011

SEAN MAC KAY

Features Editor, *The Varsity*, 2010-2011



FROM YOUR PRODUCTION TEAM: HOPE YOU ENJOY THE ISSUE AND YOUR TIME ON CAMPUS. GOOD LUCK!