

Because you'll have to study eventually...

ALEX ROSS takes you on a tour of the key spots on campus to get your cram on. Photos by REMI CARREIRO

GERSTEIN LIBRARY

This is absolutely the quietest place at U of T, if not in all of Toronto. Try not to get lost in the labyrinthine structure of Gerstein's intricately layered floors (a spool of thread or trail of bread crumbs might be handy) as you try to find your way to a perfect study spot. The stacks are probably what Nirvana sounds like, so make sure you don't make the slightest noise; it might disturb the concentration of the overworked engineering students who populate them.

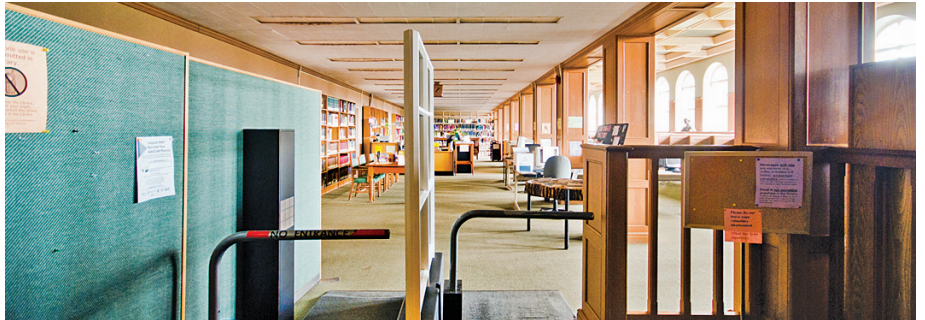


THE 13TH FLOOR OF ROBARTS

While not as quiet as the stacks at MedSci, the 13th floor of Robarts offers a very quiet and formal space for you to get your work done. Being on the 13th floor gives you the illusion that you're studying on the summit of a large mountain. This particular floor also (probably) has the least number of students. The downside to this arrangement is that you'll have come down before 11p.m. Hopefully you're productive enough that you won't have to pull an all-nighter.

LIDLAW LIBRARY

This little library is tucked away in University College. Believe me, if you're not looking for it you'll probably miss it. I spent most of my first two years not even knowing that it existed. The booths in Laidlaw are also quite large, which means you can have several books on the go at once or hide your lunch or dinner from the prying eyes of the librarians there. Laidlaw offers a quiet area to work, but doesn't have the cold, depressing ambience of Robarts and MedSci.



GRAHAM LIBRARY

This is probably my favorite study space in all of U of T. This small library is tucked away in the Munk School of Global Affairs and has all the ambient warmth of a private study; you might find yourself pulling out a cigar and snifter of brandy every once in awhile unexpectedly. For quieter study sessions, you can head to the basement where the periodicals and divinity studies books are kept. There's also a pleasant pine smell that permeates the entire library.

THE JCR AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

This study space represents the antithesis of the MedSci building. The Junior Common Room is for people who really enjoy lots of background noise and interrupting their study sessions every half hour to talk to friends. However, the JCR does have large comfy couches for those tired of cramming in stiff chairs. You can also use them to take a quick 20 minute cat nap. This room also houses Diabolos', probably the best coffee shop on campus.

