



Computer Science Focused

MCS Town Hall

October 21, 2021

Prof. Jessica Burgner-Kahrs, Associate Chair (CSC)

Prof. Daniel Zingaro, Computer Science Faculty Advisor

Prof. Michael Liut, CS Student Community Advisor

Prof. Bogdan Simion, CS TA Coordinator

Prof. Lisa Zhang, CS POST Committee

Jessica Bailey, MCS Assistant Manager

Yvette Ye, CSC Academic Advisor

Laura Ferlito, MAT/STA Academic Advisor

Felicity Morgan, Director, Career Centre

Madison Peters, Manager, Academic Culture & English

Kate Romanow, Academic Advisor, Registrar

Land Acknowledgement

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 Mississauga's 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.



Agenda

6:00pm: General Session Begin

- Overview + Announcements
- Supports + Community
- General Questions Submitted

6:30-7:15pm: Split Sessions (occur simultaneously)

Session 1: pre-POSt Students	Session 2: post-POSt Students (breakout room)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All things POSt• Program Choices + Degree Planning• Study Strategies• Becoming a TA? What makes a good one?• Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TAships + Application Deadlines• ROP + Independent Study• PEY + Student Experiences• Improve your Memory• Questions

7:15pm-7:30pm: Merge Sessions

- Concluding Remarks & Questions

Introductions!

Faculty and Staff

Professor Jessica Burgner-Kahrs, Associate Chair

Professor Daniel Zingaro, Faculty Advisor

Professor Michael Liut, Community Advisor

Professor Bogdan Simion, CS TA Coordinator

Professor Lisa Zhang, CS POST Committee

Jessica Bailey, MCS Assistant Manager

Yvette Ye, CSC Academic Advisor

Laura Ferlito, MAT/STA Academic Advisor

Felicity Morgan, Director, UTM Career Centre

Madison Peters, Manager, UTM A.C.E.

Kate Romanow, Academic Advisor, Registrar

Student Leaders

Nameera Azim

Hayden Mak

Jarrod Servilla

Naaz Sibia

Leila Uy



Computer Science at UTM



Chair



Associate
Chair (CSC)



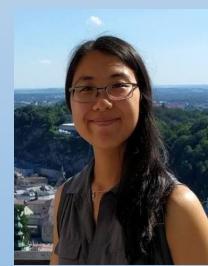
CS Faculty
Advisor



CS Community
Advisor



CS TA
Coordinator



CS POST
Committee



CSC Academic
Advisor

But there are many others...



UTM
CS

UTM's CS Professors, Postdocs and Sessionals

Research Stream

- Anthony Bonner, Associate Professor
- Jessica Burgner-Kahrs, Associate Chair (CSC)
- Sanja Fidler, Associate Professor
- Animesh Garg, Assistant Professor
- Igor Gilitschenski, Assistant Professor
- Lueder Kahrs, Assistant Professor
- Sushant Sachdeva, Assistant Professor
- Florian Shkurti, Assistant Professor
- Daniel Wigdor, Associate Professor

Postdoctoral Fellow and/or Sessional Instructor

- Kianoosh Abbasi, Sessional
- Mustafa Ammous, Sessional
- Jongwoo Kim, Postdoctoral Fellow
- Quentin Peyron, Postdoctoral Fellow
- Kefei Wen, Postdoctoral Fellow

Teaching Stream

- Sonya Allin, Assistant Professor
- Andi Bergen, Assistant Professor
- Ilir Dema, Assistant Professor
- Michael Liut, CS Student Community Advisor
- Michael Miljanovic, Assistant Professor
- Andrew Petersen, Associate Professor
- Arnold Rosenbloom, Associate Professor
- Bogdan Simion, CS TA Coordinator
- Pooja Vashisth, Assistant Professor
- Lisa Zhang, CS POSt Committee
- Tingting Zhu, Assistant Professor
- Daniel Zingaro, Computer Science Faculty Advisor

Announcement: New MCS Department Chair!



Professor Ilia Binder
new MCS Department Chair



Professor Konstantin Khanin
previous MCS Department Chair

Thank you for your service to our community!



What will Winter 2022 look like?

Academic Support

- [Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre \(RGASC\)](#)
 - [Face-to-face appointments can be booked!](#)
 - [Study skills and supports can be found here.](#)
- [Centre for Student Engagement](#)
 - Course Support
 - Skills & Writing Support
 - Professional Skills
 - and much, much more...
- [CSSC's CS Course Specific Resources](#)
 - Note: this is still a work in progress! It's built by CSC students for the benefit of all CSC students.



Mental Health Support



Navi

YOUR
MENTAL HEALTH
WAYFINDER

<https://www.viceprovoststudents.utoronto.ca/navi/>

- [UTM Peer-to-Peer \(P2P\) Mentoring \(apply here\)](#)
- [UTM My Student Support Program \(MySSP\)](#)
 - Download the App! ([App Store](#) | [Google Play](#))
 - Call: 1-844-451-9700 || +1-416-380-6578
- [UTM Mental Health Resources](#)
 - UTM Health & Counselling Centre: +1-905-828-5255
 - Accessibility Services: +1-905-569-4699



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TORONTO
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MISSISSAUGA

Mental Health Support for MCS Students

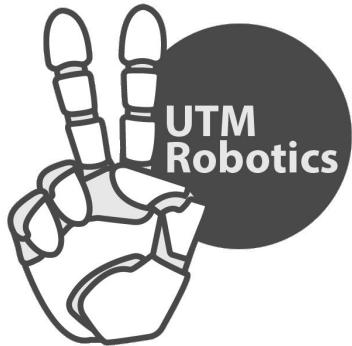
- MCS and UTM's Health & Counselling Centre have partnered!
- MCS will now have a new embedded health counsellor.
 - Helen Leung will be offering HCC's mental health supports and counselling.
 - One-at-a-time counselling sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
 - Same day and pre-scheduled appointments are now available.
- Schedule an appointment over the phone: **+1 (905) 828-5255**.

**HEALTH & COUNSELLING
CENTRE**



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO₁₂
MISSISSAUGA

MCS Student Organizations



@utm_robots



@utm.cssc

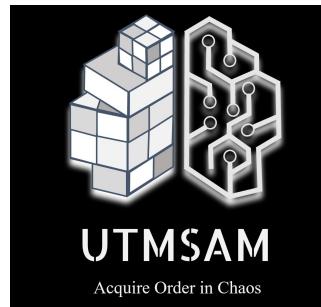
CSSC Discord: <https://discord.gg/UbsB8m7MEs>



@wiscutm



@dscutm



@utmsam



discord.gg/w2QxZnAf

Details here: <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/math-cs-stats/students/clubs>



NETWORKING SERIES

Build connections. Explore possibilities.

TECHNOLOGY

Connect with alumni to get advice on career planning, job search and workplace success!

Software Engineer 3 at **eBay**

Manager - Cybersecurity Threat Management at



Talent Acquisition - Global Product & Software Engineering at



Brought to you in partnership with UTM's Department of Mathematical & Computational Sciences

TUES NOV 9 • 5:00 - 6:15 PM EST • ONLINE • REGISTER VIA CLNX.UTORONTO.CA

Session Split!



Main Room



is intended for anyone who has not yet made a POSt or wants to learn more about CS POSt.

Breakout Room



is intended for upper-year students who are already in a POSt.

you may attend either session



pre-POSt: for all students choosing a POSt

Agenda

- All things POST
- Program Choices + Degree Planning
- Exploring Alternative Degree Choices
- Study Strategies
- Becoming a TA? What makes a good one?
- Questions

Session Leads

- Profs. Daniel Zingaro and Lisa Zhang
- Ms. Yvette Ye, CSC Academic Advisor

Program Of Study (POSt)



- Entry requirements for CS POSt are released by the end of May. Details of May 2022 round will be [posted on the MCS website](#).
- Students are evaluated for entry twice once in late-May and again in late-August. Cutoffs can be different for each round.
 - If you didn't meet May's requirements you apply again in August.
- What happens if I don't qualify, can I re-apply?
 - Yes! You can technically apply every year until you graduate.
 - The real question is "should you?".

Program Choices & Degree Planning



Computer Science (HBSc)

- Specialist: Information Security
- Specialist: Computer Science
- Specialist: Bioinformatics
- Major: Computer Science
- Minor: Computer Science

Statistics, Applied (HBSc)

- Specialist: Statistics, Applied
- Major: Statistics, Applied
- Minor: Statistics, Applied

Mathematics (HBSc)

- Specialist: Mathematical Sciences
- Major: Mathematical Sciences
- Minor: Mathematical Sciences



Program Choices & Degree Planning

***please verify all information, requirements, and details with [UTM Academic Calendar!](#)



Computer Science (HBSc) -- Specialist: Information Security

First Year	CSC108H5, CSC148H5; MAT102H5, (MAT132H5, MAT134H5) / (MAT135H5, MAT136H5)/MAT134Y5/MAT135Y5/MAT137Y5/MAT157Y5, MAT223H5/MAT240H5
Second Year	CSC207H5, CSC209H5, CSC236H5, CSC258H5, CSC263H5, CSC290H5; MAT224H5/MAT240H5, MAT232H5/MAT257Y5; STA256H5
Third Year	CSC343H5, CSC347H5, CSC363H5, CSC369H5, CSC373H5; MAT301H5, MAT302H5
Third and Fourth Years	CSC358H5/CSC458H5; two of (CSC422H5, CSC423H5, CSC427H5, CSC490H5)

Computer Science (HBSc) -- Specialist: Computer Science

First Year	CSC108H5, CSC148H5; MAT102H5, (MAT132H5, MAT134H5)/(MAT135H5, MAT136H5) / MAT134Y5/MAT135Y5/MAT137Y5/MAT157Y5
Second Year	CSC207H5, CSC209H5, CSC236H5, CSC258H5, CSC263H5, CSC290H5; MAT223H5/MAT240H5, MAT232H5/MAT257Y5; STA256H5
Third and Fourth Year	CSC343H5, CSC358H5/CSC458H5, CSC363H5, CSC369H5, CSC373H5; Five half courses from any 300/400 level U of T Mississauga CSC courses or from GGR335H5, GGR337H5 or GGR437H5. At least 1.0 credit must come from 400-level courses, and no more than 1.0 credit of GGR courses may count to this requirement.

Explore Program Options

How to get started:

- 1 Learn about UTM's programs in the [Academic Calendar](#)
- 2 Learn about the application process in the [Program Selection Guide](#). It will help you understand the basics, such as: when and how to apply, program options, and general tips.
- 3 Sign up for [Program Selection Webinars](#), hosted by a Academic Advisor & Career Counsellor, on the Registrar's Office website.



Your path is your own.

Your program of study does not have to determine your career. You are developing **transferable skills** that make you a great candidate for a variety of career options!

Visit the Career Centre website and use the [**Careers by Majors page**](#) to see some examples of career options that UTM grads have pursued.

We bet some of the options will surprise you!



Resources

- Use the [**Program Plans**](#) to guide you from first year to graduation - from academic information to getting involved, this resource is updated annually to help you maximize each year.
- Students interested in Type 3 programs are advised to think about their back-up plan in case they are not accepted right away. The [**Alternative Program Options Guide**](#) offers similar programs you can consider combining.



Alternative Options: Computer Science

Type 3 Program

Alternative options:

Computer Science - Specialist

- Applied Statistics - Major/Minor
- Bioinformatics - Specialist
- Communication, Culture Information & Technology - Major
- Computer Science - Minor
- Digital Enterprise Management - Specialist
- Forensic Science - Minor
- Geographical Information Systems - Major/Minor
- Linguistic Studies - Major/Minor
- Mathematics - Major/Minor
- Economics - Major
- Physics - Major/Minor
- Technology, Coding & Society - Major

Study Strategies: Time Management



Building off of the [RGASC's Study Skills Resources](#):

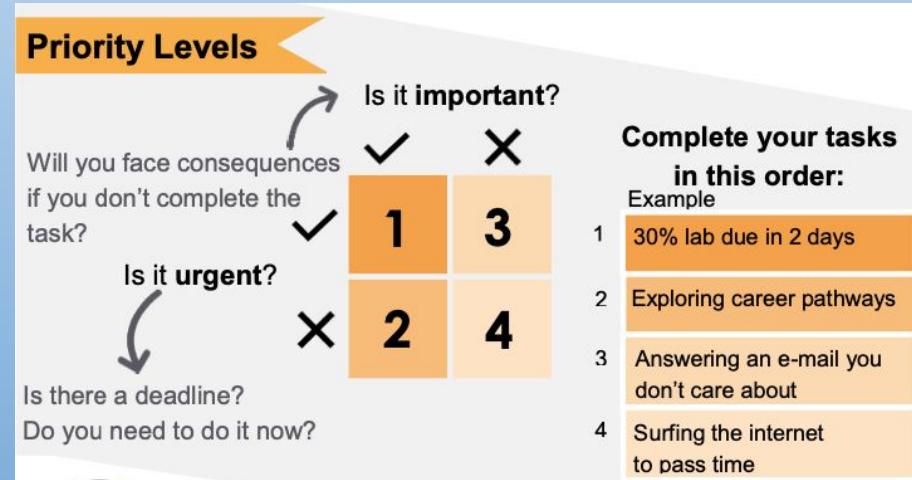
1. Prioritize your Tasks!
2. Break Down Tasks into Smaller Pieces.
3. Plan with Action Words!

NOT using action words:

- Study for my CSC148 test.

USING action words:

- Redo the worksheet for Lecture 4. Summarize points on OOP: Inheritance.
- Complete PCRS for Week 9. Connect questions asked back to last week's video lecture notes.



Study Strategies: Effective Study Plan



Building off of the [RGASC's Study Skills Resources](#):

1. Determine your Academic Goals!
2. Reflect upon how YOU study best.
3. Create a one-month calendar.
4. List your upcoming priorities.
5. Make a two-week Calendar.
6. Revise your study plan.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

Block in all your week-specific activities

Class: extra-credit excursions

Volunteer/Employment: work, meetings

Social/Personal: appointments

Highlight the available time for studying



What skills do you want to develop through your program?



How will your course performance affect your career pathways and future?



What grades do you want to earn in your courses?

Block in all your activities that repeat every week

Class: lectures, labs

Volunteer/Employment: meetings

Social/Personal: meals, commute

Remember to take breaks from studying. It's healthy to schedule time to exercise, see your friends, and have fun!

How do I become a TA? What makes a good TA?

First, a TA is short for a *Teaching Assistant*. Their role is to support the Instructor in delivery, and even creation, of course material. They can also have instructional responsibilities (e.g., running a practical, lab, or tutorial) and even assess (grade) students.

The Winter 2022 [TA application portal \(UTAP\)](#) generally opens in late-October and closes in late November or early December.

Announcement will go to all students via “UTM MCS Students” Quercus instance.

Some FAQ

1. Can a second year student become a TA?
2. What are the benefits of becoming a TA?
3. Do I get paid to be a TA?
4. What exactly makes a “good” TA?
5. Can anyone be a TA?

Live Questions

Do you have any questions?

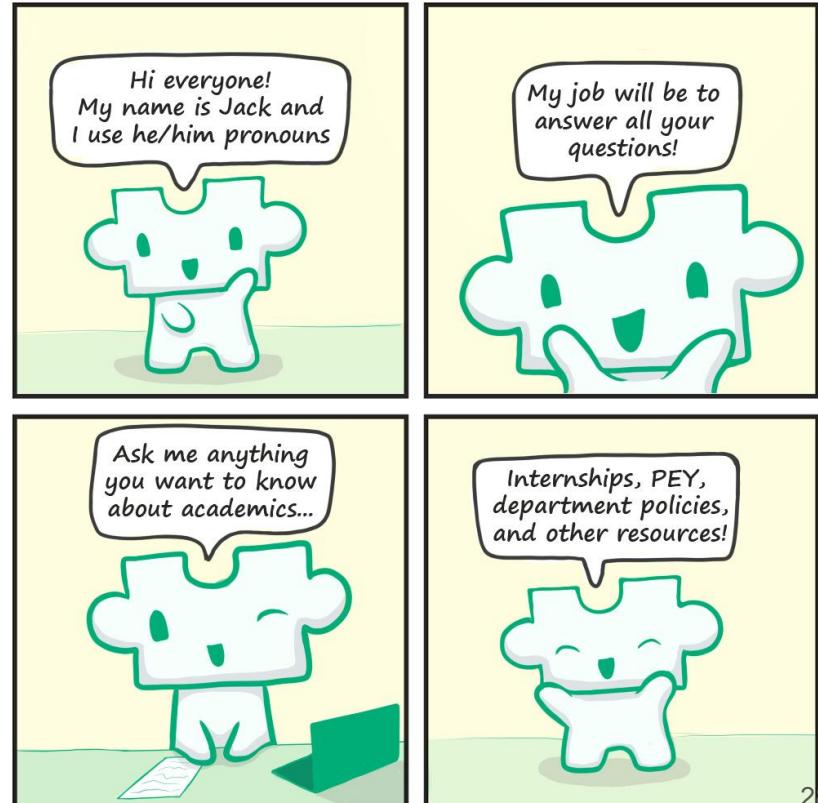
Raise your hand or use the chat!

Do you have another question? Ask Jack!



<https://cssc.utm.utoronto.ca/ask-jack>

<https://discord.gg/UbsB8m7MEs>





post-POSt: for all students in a CS POSt

Agenda

- Teachings Assistantships and Application Deadlines
- ROP and Independent Study
- PEY/Internships
- Improving your Memory!
- Questions

Session Leads

- Profs. Jessica Burgner-Kahrs, Bogdan Simion, and Michael Liut
- Ms. Jessica Bailey, MCS Assistant Manager

Teaching Assistantships & Deadlines

The Winter 2022 [TA application portal \(UTAP\)](#) generally opens in late-October or early-November and closes in late November or early December.

Announcement will go to all students via “UTM MCS Students” Quercus instance.

Some FAQ

1. What are the benefits of becoming a TA?
2. Do I get paid to be a TA?
3. What exactly makes a “good” TA?
4. Can anyone be a TA?
5. Are Fall positions still open?

Research Opportunity Project (ROP) and Independent Study

ROP

- Earn either half (0.5) or full (1.0) course credit.
- 2nd through 4th year (though only upper-year students are usually taken).
- Become involved in hands-on, cutting-edge, research with more individual attention.
- Finding a project/supervisor: login to the [ROPAPP](#)

Independent Study (aka a Reading Course)

- Earn half (0.5) of a 300- or 400- level course credit.
- Learning is mostly independently up to the student.
- In CS, often you work in a team or small group (but not always).
- Finding a project/supervisor: [here are some CS Faculty that do these projects](#).
 - We encourage you to contact any MCS Faculty you would like to work with!



PEY: Professional Experience Year

- Provides you with an opportunity to work full-time for an employer of your choosing!
- 12-16 consecutive months after your second or third year of studies.
- Apply what you've learned in CS to a large-scale and/or long-term project.

More Details

<https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/math-CS-stats/current-students/professional-experience-year>

5 Strategies to Improve your Memory!



Building off of the [RGASC's Study Skills Resources](#):

1. **Chunk the Information**
2. **Create Mnemonics**
 - o Acronyms and Visual Stories are great!
3. **Engage in Self-referent Encoding**
 - o How does this connect to me?
 - o How do I relate to this?
4. **Practice and Overlearn**
 - o Solve problems without help.
 - o Summarize key points in your own words.
 - o Engage in study groups!
5. **Use Distributed Practice**

Acronym
Openness
Conscientiousness
Extraversion
Agreeableness
Neuroticism



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Distributed Practice
Eight 30-min study sessions

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Cramming
One four-hr study session

Live Questions

Do you have any questions?

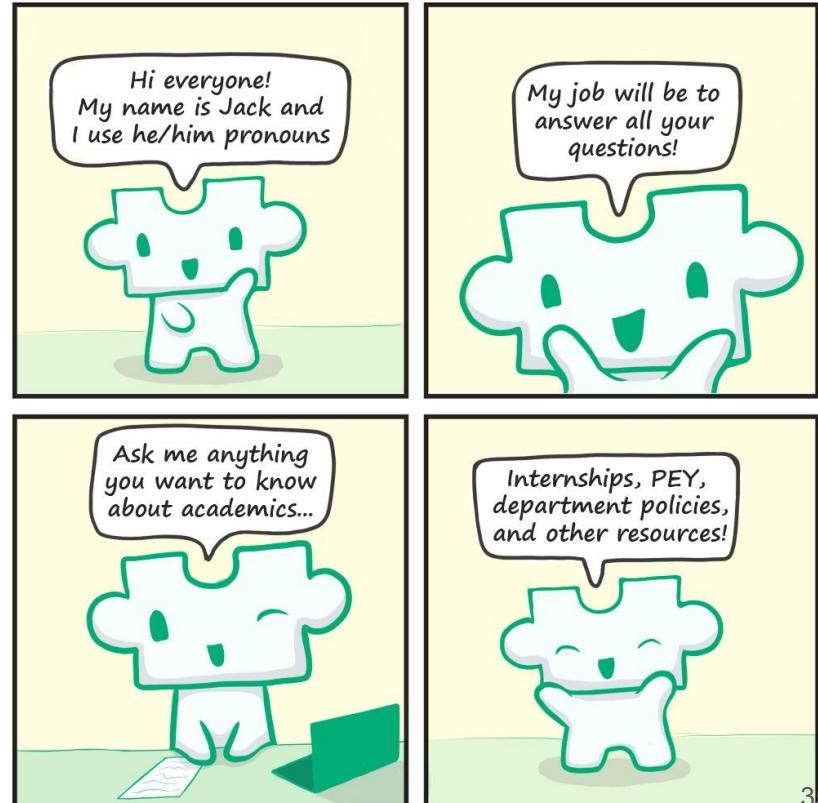
Raise your hand or use the chat!

Do you have another question? Ask Jack!



<https://cssc.utm.utoronto.ca/ask-jack>

<https://discord.gg/UbsB8m7MEs>



Return to Main Session

- Leave Breakout Room, Return to Main Session
- Q&A will continue there!

