



International Students' Caucus (ISC) Legislative Program 2017 – 2018 Academic Year

International graduate students, composing about 40% of the graduate student community, are a vital part of The University of Toronto. However, they face a number of special issues that complicate their stay at The University. The International Students' Caucus (ISC) aims to bring attention to their situation, to promote potential solutions and to create a feeling of welcome and belonging.

Based on the feedback from past events as well as internal committee meetings during 2016-2017, the Graduate Students' Union's (UTGSU) ISC is proposing the following Legislative Agenda to the UTGSU Executive and the UTGSU General Council:

- Continue its efforts towards the improvement of international graduate students' academic skills and interpersonal skills that are essential to their career development. UTMUST will be a chance for international graduate students to showcase their research in public presentation. An interviewing event is being planned for students to practice their interviewing skills.
- Create a Facebook page to promote ISC's social existence. The Facebook page will be used to post future events, to share relevant information, and to strengthen the social connections between international graduate students.
- Continue the improvement of health care options for international graduate students, including annually healthcare workshops and the re-integration of international students, postdoctoral fellows, and foreign academic workers into OHIP;
- Continue its contribution to improve the funding situation of international students, with the help and resources from the respective Committees of the Graduate Students' Union, union allies, Libraries, and other university administration;
- Seek to ease the information access from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) to the international graduate student body, including Fall (and/or Winter) "Permanent Residence Workshops" on campus;
- Continue to formalize its working relationship and system with other groups and entities across campus who are also dedicated to similar issues, such as the International Students' Association (ISA) at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), Local 3902 International Students Commission, the Centre for International Experience (CIE), and many other international graduate student organizations;
- Work with the City of Toronto to improve and expand upon its current international student programs, including the Airport Welcome Program and International Students' Festival;

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