



GRADUATE STUDENTS' UNION

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
LOCAL 19, CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

International Students' Caucus (ISC) Annual Report 2014-2015

Based on the Legislative Agenda of the Graduate Students' Union's (GSU) International Students' Caucus (ISC) proposed at the beginning of the academic year, ISC has:

- ISC has worked towards improving the City of Toronto's Airport Welcome Program and International Students' Festival by participating in its regular meetings at the City Hall of Toronto. The chair with four other ISC members attended the 3rd Toronto International Student Festivals committee meeting on behalf of ISC. The ISC looks forward to continuing its ongoing involvement in and support of these international students activities.
- Continue its efforts toward the improvement of health care condition of international students, including annual healthcare workshops and propelling the launching of a major OHIP for all movement from CUPE 3902. ISC Health Insurance Researcher/Advocate (Suwimon Phaetthayanan) successfully organized its 2014 annual UHIP/Health Insurance Workshop for international graduate students, inviting Ms. Shain Dhalla on Nov.13, 2014.
- Seek to ease the information access from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) to the international graduate student body. ISC is continuing holding "Permanent Residence Workshops" on campus this year, inviting immigration lawyer, Elizabeth Long on Oct. 27th, 2014 and April 2nd, 2015. Both attracted over 50 international graduate students, showing the great need of such information sessions, facing the new immigration system;
- To bring the most frontier academic researches of international graduate students to the public as well as to improve international students' communication and presenting skill, ISC collaborating UTCSSA co-organized first "University of Toronto Most Understandable Scientist competition (UTMUST)" on Nov. 21st, 2014. There are over 20 competitors from diverse faculties registered with over 100 attendees on the competition day. We also invited four judges from various academic units of UofT, including Vice-Provost in Academic Programs (Dr. Sioban Nelson), Director of CIE (Ms. Miranda Cheng), Director of ELWS (Dr. Jane Freeman) and Vice President of Royal Ontario Museum (Dr. Chen Shen). Abstract program, photos, as well as video record are archived and published on the program website: www.utmost.ca.
- ISC activities and events coordinators (Yanshan Cao, Rajeev Acharya, and Lydia Di Li) organized several social and sports events and provided great platforms for international graduate students in leisure time. We held FIFA world cup night on July 9th, 2014, New Year Karaoke Night on Jan. 1st, 2015, Bubble Soccer for fun on April 10th, 2015, upcoming Toronto 2015 Pan Am Games in the summer, as well as the ISC monthly leadership meetings, which turned out to be regular opportunities for all representatives for both work and social.

Toronto, April 19th, 2015.

Yan Wang

Chair, International Students' Caucus (ISC)
Graduate Students' Union (GSU)