



FACTOR-INWENTASH
FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

PhD Application and Program Information

for September 2023



TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE UNIVERSITY	3-4	THE PHD PROGRAM	5 - 16
Message from the Dean	3	The PhD Program	5
Message from the Director, PhD Program	3	PhD Funding Commitment	6
The Program Objectives	4	Faculty Initiatives	8
A Distinguished Social Work Faculty	4	Program Activities	9
		Collaborative Programs	10
		ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS	11
		APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS	12-15
		Application Checklist	15
		HONOURS & ACHIEVEMENTS	16
		Our Latest Grads: Examining Critical Issues	16
		Awards	16

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL LAND

"I (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 Mississaugas 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."

This statement was developed in consultation with First Nations House and its Elders Circle, some scholars in the field, and senior University officials. The Ceremonials Committee of the Governing Council has approved the Statement on the Acknowledgement of Traditional Land. It is quoted from the website of the Office of the Vice-President and Provost, at the University of Toronto.

www.memos.provost.utoronto.ca/statement-of-acknowledgement-of-traditional-land-pdadc-72/

Message from the Dean

I am very pleased to extend greetings to you as you contemplate your future as a doctoral student at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work. As a graduate of this doctoral program, I can attest to the rich experience that is available to you. This Faculty is ranked #1 among faculties of social work in Canada and #2 among schools of social work globally. We have established an international reputation through research in areas including social work education, health and mental health, child welfare, housing, aging, violence, and trauma. These are a few of our areas of research that facilitate potential opportunities for our doctoral students, and in addition, our graduate students begin their journeys as architects of the future of social work by

developing new lines of inquiry that expand the scope of the discipline.

The Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work is located in one of the most diverse cities in the world. This location, and our collaborations with a vast array of local, national and international networks, is key to providing students with a wealth of opportunities for pursuing research and learning experiences that address important questions related to social justice. The University of Toronto is an excellent place to pursue graduate education. Students here have access to scholars with international reputations both in Social Work and in the network of programs across the three campuses of the University. There are multiple opportunities for doctoral students to become involved in leading edge research, engage with other disciplines, and

immerse themselves in a vibrant educational environment.

The Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work prepares practitioners and scholars to make a difference in people's lives. Our doctoral graduates go on to become leaders in the field and leaders in social work education national and internationally. We welcome you to join us and become part of a community of scholars, educators, practitioners, and advocates making an impact on the important issues of our times.

Charmaine C. Williams, PhD

Interim Dean & Professor

Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work
University of Toronto

Message from the Director, PhD Program

I am delighted to introduce you to the PhD program at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work (FIFSW). As one of the leading Schools of Social Work in Canada and North America, FIFSW offers a unique opportunity to learn within a thriving community of social work researchers, educators, and practitioners who are deeply engaged with the interdisciplinary community of the University of Toronto. Our social work faculty come from a range of cultural, personal, and professional backgrounds which inform their research and teaching expertise. Working in partnership with community-based, government, and grassroots leaders FIFSW Faculty produce scholarship that addresses pressing social justice, economic, and health concerns that impact the lives of people in Canada and across the world. Mindful of the diversity of Indigenous peoples and their histories on this territory, we embrace the Calls to Action put forward by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada through engaging with local Indigenous communities, integrating Indigenous knowledges into social work research, education, and practice, while

working to understand and address the continued impacts of colonization and systemic inequality for Indigenous, racialized, and marginalized communities.

Our faculty is committed to mentoring and supporting doctoral students to deepen their knowledge, broaden research capacities, and develop strategies to enrich social work's commitment to promoting human rights, dignity, and social justice. Through coursework, research and teaching opportunities, doctoral students are challenged to grow intellectually and professionally in a supportive environment. Beyond FIFSW, students can tap into a wealth of activities and resources offered by the greater University of Toronto community. Many students take part in graduate-level courses offered in different departments or get involved in student-led initiatives across campus. These opportunities enable doctoral students to form community bonds while developing a comprehensive analytical lens and skillset that enhances their own research. Our doctoral students generate important and innovative research that advances the social work profession and social welfare more broadly.

This booklet provides you with an overview of our faculty and the doctoral program. You will find information about faculty members' research interests, program requirements and related coursework, the funding support available to doctoral students, and our admissions procedure. I hope you will find the material presented in the booklet informative to your decision to apply for our program. In the fall we also host several 1- to 1.5-hour long virtual info sessions to help you learn more about our program, the admission requirements and application process. The schedule for these information sessions is available on the Faculty website: <http://socialwork.utoronto.ca/>. I welcome you to utilize these resources to get to know our program more. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Rupaleem Bhuyan, PhD

Associate Professor & PhD Program Director
Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work
University of Toronto

The Program Objectives

The objective of the PhD program is to prepare the next generation of Canadian and international scholars for their roles as the academic, practice, and policy leaders of tomorrow. The program is designed to develop students as critical thinkers who are able to employ a wide range of research methods, to pose relevant and timely questions that lead to the production of interdisciplinary knowledge that can be used to improve individual and social conditions.

A Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work PhD graduate will receive education in conducting qualitative, quantitative, and multi-method research, applying a range of theoretical orientations, and writing for academic, practice, and policy audiences. Students develop their own content areas, guided by members of the faculty as well as the broader university, and graduate as substantive experts in their respective fields. PhD students will be mentored to develop their teaching skills and are encouraged to become course instructors within the Faculty.

A Distinguished Social Work Faculty

The strength of any graduate program is its faculty. Our faculty is in the forefront of Social Work research and contributes regularly to leading international journals and conferences. Internationally recognized for their outstanding research and scholarship, faculty members in the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work have an extensive range of expertise in areas that are of critical importance to the lives of people throughout the globe and to the communities in which they live. We invite you to check out the research areas and scholarship of our faculty at: <https://socialwork.utoronto.ca/faculty-research-directory/>

Kindly note that when and if you decide to apply, you do not have to make contact with any potential supervisor. If admitted, you are assigned a faculty advisor for the first year, and you will select a supervisor at the end of First Year.

An Elder once told me that you need four things to change the world:

- ◆ knowledge, and a lot of people have that;
- ◆ persistence, and some people have that;
- ◆ passion, and only a few people have that;
- ◆ and spirit, and you need to remember that.

There is one other thing. You need the moral courage to do what you know is right. Now go practice. Your heart and spirit will thank you for it and one day the world will too.

Cindy Blackstock (Gitksan First Nation)

*Class of 2009, Executive Director, First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada.
Associate Professor, McGill University*

The Program

The PhD Program is intended for full-time study. Normal Program Length to complete PhD requirements: 4 – 5 years full-time; Time Limit to complete PhD requirements: 6 years full-time.

Candidates for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy shall:

- 1) Complete the following half-courses, or their equivalent, approved by the SGS:

a) 5 PhD required courses:

SWK 6301H Intermediate Statistics and Data Analysis (half-course). <https://socialwork.utoronto.ca/programs/courses/#SWK%206301H>

SWK 6302H Epistemology and Social Work Research (half-course). <https://socialwork.utoronto.ca/programs/courses/#SWK%206302H>

SWK 6307H Designing and Implementing Qualitative Social Work Research. <https://socialwork.utoronto.ca/programs/courses/#SWK%206307H>

SWK 6308H Designing and Implementing Quantitative Social Work Research. <https://socialwork.utoronto.ca/programs/courses/#SWK%206308H>

SWK 7000H Doctoral Thesis/Comprehensive Seminar (half-course - CR/NCR). <https://socialwork.utoronto.ca/programs/courses/#SWK%207000H>

NOTE: SWK4506H <https://socialwork.utoronto.ca/programs/courses/#SWK%204506H> is a prerequisite for SWK6301H. Students must either take SWK4506H or pass an equivalent competency exam with a grade of at least A. SWK4506H does not count as one of the required courses.

Students who demonstrate competency in any of the required courses can be exempted and will substitute alternate courses. Course instructor will determine competency.

b) Graduate elective half-courses (or equivalent) at least one of which is taken at the Faculty of Social Work, and at least one of which is taken in another graduate department at the University of Toronto. Elective courses are primarily substantive in nature but can also be methodological. They are selected by the students based on the focus of their research, with multiple interdisciplinary options.

2) a) Students are required to successfully complete a Comprehensive Exam (SWK8000H), which typically corresponds to the original theoretical framework of their thesis.

b) Subsequently, students develop a Thesis Proposal with guidance from their Supervisor and committee members. Once the proposal is approved by the committee, students move on to the status of PhD Candidates (equivalent to ABD = all but dissertation).

3) Students then conduct a Thesis which shall constitute a distinct contribution to knowledge in the field of social work and must be based on research conducted while registered for the PhD Program. A thesis should have a coherent topic with an introduction presenting the general theme of the research and a conclusion summarizing and integrating the major findings. Nonetheless, it may contain a collection of several papers. The collection of papers may be expanded or supplemented by unpublished material, scholarly notes, and necessary appendices. In all theses, pagination should be continuous; there should be a common table of contents and an integrated bibliography for the whole thesis.

The student shall successfully defend the thesis at a final oral examination which is administered by SGS.

4) Students must have an adequate knowledge of a language other than English if an additional language is deemed essential for satisfactory completion of research for the thesis. The Faculty is responsible for ensuring that an acceptable certificate of language competence is deposited with SGS.

Good Standing Requirement and Progress through the PhD Program.

- 1) Students are expected to be available on a full-time basis during the course of their PhD Studies. Students are required to register for each successive fall session on a full-time basis following their first session of registration unless granted a leave of absence. The minimum period of registration in each academic year is three consecutive sessions.
- 2) To remain in 'good standing,' PhD candidacy must be completed within 3 years of entry into the program.
- 3) Full-time students must complete the requirements for the degree within six years following admission to the program. Please note guaranteed funding covers 5 years only.
- 4) PhD students may apply to their Graduate Coordinator for a one-session to three-session leave during their program of study for (i) serious health or personal problems which temporarily make it impossible to continue in the program, or (ii) parental leave by either parent at the time of pregnancy, birth or adoption, and/or to provide full-time care during the child's first year. The guaranteed funding time-frame is then adjusted accordingly.

For additional information on procedures and policies refer to the PhD Manual available from our website at: www.socialwork.utoronto.ca.

PhD Funding Commitment

Funding opportunities are committed for up to five years for PhD students who are engaged in full-time studies, complete program requirements in a timely manner, remain in good standing, and apply for major external grants.

Eligibility

- 1) Students to be eligible for the funding commitment are required to be engaged in full-time studies for the academic year so that they can pursue their education within the necessary time requirement and commit fully to their education. Full-time is defined as being registered as a full-time student each academic session.
- 2) Students are required to make satisfactory progress through the program as defined by the School of Graduate Studies (www.sgs.utoronto.ca). A PhD student by the end of August of the third year is expected to have completed all program requirements exclusive of the Thesis (i.e., course work, Comprehensive Paper Proposal, Comprehensive Exam and Thesis Proposal approved by their committee). The research, writing and oral examination of the Thesis should be completed by the end of the fifth year of the program. Students on file with the University Accessibility Services follow a specific plan that is appropriate. Students who are on a leave of absence (health, parental, or other) in Years One through Five are not eligible for funding during the time absent. The time to completion clock will stop for students who are on approved leave until they return to full-time study.
- 3) Students demonstrate evidence of applying for major external funding.
- 4) Annual Reports: Starting from the second year, students and their supervisors are expected to provide annual progress reports (end of May) to the PhD Program Director to be considered in good standing, which means the student is meeting the milestones (e.g. coursework completion, Comprehensive Exam, Thesis Proposal approval, and Thesis completion) stipulated in the PhD Manual.

Composition of the PhD Funding Package 2022-2023

The Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work provides a minimum funding commitment of \$19,500 for full-time students after students pay off their tuition and fees. The funding package includes a combination of awards received, research and teaching assistantships and other external sources.

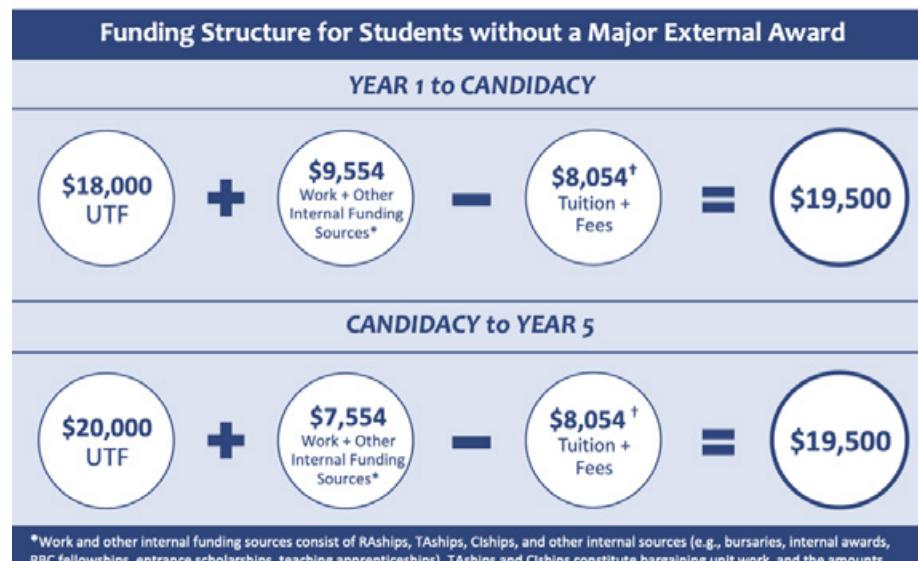
All students need to pay tuition and fees on their own. The funding commitment of \$19,500 is computed after the tuition and fees are paid. The academic year fees and incidental fees have been factored into the funding packages for students.

a) For students who do not hold a major external award:

The composition between University of Toronto Fellowship (UTF) and employment opportunities (e.g. research assistantships) is specified in the table below:

b) Students who hold an Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) and regular SSHRC awards will not receive the full UTF, but will receive top-up merit funding of \$6,500 or \$8,000 per year until year 5, depending on their candidacy status.

Students who hold a higher valued major external award (e.g. CGS-SSHRC, CIHR doctoral awards, and Vanier award) will not receive top-up funding.



I came to study in Toronto by myself as an international student. The inclusive, vibrant, and progressive climate of the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work (FIFSW) yet made me feel at home and stay invigorated. The PhD curriculum has expanded my knowledge territories; the mentorship I received from my supervisor and many intelligent faculty members is truly nurturing and transformative. During the time at the FIFSW, I was given numerous opportunities for personal growth, professional development, and lifetime friendships. Going through this uneasy yet enlightening journey, I have gained confidence to carry out research that can have a meaningful impact on the communities I care about.

Yu-Te Huang

*Class of 2017, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work and Social Administration,
the University of Hong Kong*

Internal Awards

The Faculty has a number of internal awards, entrance scholarships, fellowships, and conference travel funds available to PhD students.

A number of internal FIFSW scholarships and bursaries are open to PhD full-time students through an online application system. The application deadline is typically early October. A full list of these scholarships and awards can be found on the Faculty website (www.socialwork.utoronto.ca/current-students/financial-support/). A typical award value for PhD students ranges from \$1,000 to \$4,000.

In addition, Royal Bank Fellowships valued at \$10,000 (typically 5 awards) are available annually to PhD students as research internships in areas of faculty research. Students apply through the Research Office. Information about application deadlines will be sent out to students through email, in the summer. Note that two-thirds of these fellowship awards are specifically earmarked for financial needs. The rest are based on merit. Recipients of these awards will receive disbursements of \$5,000 in September and \$5,000 in January.

Entrance Scholarships

Incoming PhD students are also considered for several entrance awards, including the Charles Grimaldi Award, and the Rosenstadt Entrance Scholarship. All internal awards, including entrance scholarships and Royal Bank Fellowships, are considered part of the Faculty's funding commitment to students.

Conference Travel Support

FIFSW and SGS conference travel funding is also available. Current FIFSW PhD students are eligible for \$500 from the Faculty once every academic year for making peer-reviewed presentations at social work and social work related conferences. Students may also apply for the SGS Conference Grant (<https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/awards/sgs-conference-grant/>).

Other Resources

The School of Graduate Studies (SGS) offers a number of merit based and need based University-Wide Awards for which PhD students may be eligible. More information can be found on the SGS website (<https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/awards/university-wide-awards/>).

We are all on our own path but we need not be alone. These words were settling for me during my PhD studies at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work ... Along the way, I was able to forge new connections and renew old acquaintances while engaging with professors, doctoral colleagues and graduate students; many conversations proved stimulating. Each of my professors was gentle in offering guidance and encouraging of my scholarship when I experienced doubt. I had an excellent committee who were patient and insightful, led by a personable and trusted mentor ... Keep on your path but look up now and again, you may be surprised who is with you.

David Delay

Class of 2015, Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba

Faculty Initiatives

The Faculty provides various opportunities for students to strengthen their research and teaching experiences and capacity. Below are some examples.

The First Year Faculty Matching and Additional Funding Program

The First Year Faculty Matching and Additional Funding Program will provide research assistantship funding for first-year doctoral students who do not have an internal (e.g. Royal Bank Fellowship) or external major award (e.g. OGS, SSHRC). Faculty members are invited to submit proposed research projects in early Fall. Students will have the opportunity to review faculty research project submissions and indicate/rank which projects best meet their research interests. Faculty members who are matched with a student are expected to pay half of the research assistantship (approximately \$4,500) through a payroll stipend on a monthly basis through their research funding. FIFSW will contribute to the other half of the research assistantship through a UTF. Students who are matched are expected to work approximately 320 hours (based on \$28.00 per hour) from October to August.

Teaching Opportunity Initiative (TOI)

The Teaching Opportunity Initiative (TOI) provides interested PhD students the opportunity to teach one 3-hour class in the MSW program with the support of a faculty member. This opportunity can take place at any point in the PhD program but is intended for students who have not had teaching opportunities at the Faculty. If desired, students will be able to make this request to more than one Faculty.

The goal of this teaching opportunity is to contribute to the student's development as a social work educator through observing and offering educational experiences. The student should have expertise in the subject area of their chosen internship site. TOI provides an experiential component under the direction of a faculty member with professional expertise and teaching experience in the student's area of interest.

Teaching Apprenticeship Initiative (TAI)

The goal of the Teaching Apprenticeship Initiative (TAI) is to contribute to PhD students' development as social work educators through engaging in course preparation as well as observing and offering educational experiences. The apprenticeship provides students with an opportunity to gain valuable hands-on experience and develop competence in teaching a particular subject area in social work.

TAI is intended for doctoral students interested in teaching social work in higher education. It provides an experiential component under the direction of a faculty mentor with professional expertise and teaching experience in the student's area of interest.

The doctoral program holds out both opportunities and challenges. Savor every moment of little success; it fires you up for the next challenge. When daunted, remember all the hurdles you overcame to get this far. You can do it! The key lies in the connections you make. Build your nest twig by twig. Seek out supportive faculty; they are the twigs framing your nest. Make friends with the wonderful staff; they are the feathers of your warmth and comfort. Seek out supportive peers. They are your nurturing links. Believe in yourself and in your ability to connect with others. Remember; no one can do it alone.

Martha Kumsa

Class of 2004, Professor / Wilfrid Laurier University, Lyle S. Hallman Faculty of Social Work

Program Activities

The Faculty has an active PhD Activity Task Force that consists of PhD students and PhD Program Director. The task force organizes and sponsors a range of activities that aim to enrich student learning and professional development.

Below is a snapshot of the activities offered in the past.

Workshops and Presentations

- Pedagogical Approaches to Equity in the Classroom
- Career Pathways for PhD Grads
- Faculty Job Search Workshop
- Getting an Academic Job Workshop
- Non-Academic Job Search Panel Discussion
- Postdoctoral Fellowship Panel Discussion
- Career Pathways for PhD Grads: Being a New Hire in Academic Jobs
- Grant Writing Workshop
- Academic Publication Presentation Series: A Panel Discussion
- Demystifying the Publishing Process
- How to Make Peer-Review Writing & Publishing Efficient and Fun
- Publishing Critical Qualitative Research in 3,000 Words or Less
- Work-Life Balance: A Group Discussion
- Career Education Workshop: LinkedIn Lab and Graduate Professional Skills (GPS) Program
- Alumni Webinar Research Presentations
- Easy Tips on How to Write a Press Release

Peer Support Events and Groups

- Peer Support Group
- Peer-Led Breathwork and Meditation Workshop
- Writing Circle
- Coffee Hours
- PhD Student Association (PhDSA) Socials

Colloquiums

- Basic Income and Social Policy in Canada
- The Walls to Bridges Program: Rattling Assumptions about Prisoners, Education and Social Work
- Empathy, Guilt and Fear among Israeli-Jews towards Palestinian Arabs
- Racial Violence and Social Integration in Fraternities and Sororities in the University of The Free State, in South Africa
- Digital Health Technologies to Promote Chronic Disease Self-management in Youth
- Cyberbullying and Young People: Behaviours, Experiences and Resolutions

The doctoral program at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work was invigorating, challenging and exciting. We had the opportunity to be supported and mentored by some of the best minds in the field.

Magnus Mfoaf-McCarthy

Class of 2010, Associate Professor, Wilfrid Laurier University, Lyle S. Hallman Faculty of Social Work

Collaborative Specializations

Addiction Studies

The goal of this program is to develop and integrate graduate training in the multidisciplinary field of addictions. This field encompasses the use and abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other psychoactive substances, as well as gambling and other addictive behaviours.

Website: <http://www.dlsph.utoronto.ca/program/collaborative-program-in-addiction-studies/>

Aging, Palliative and Supportive Care Across the Life Course

The program prepares students for specialization in the field of aging, and/or the field of palliative and supportive care, with an emphasis on viewing aging and palliative and supportive care issues within the perspective of the life course.

Website: <http://www.aging.utoronto.ca/>

Bioethics

The program prepares students who will specialize in bioethics with an emphasis on innovative interdisciplinary research and scholarship in bioethics, and trains scholars whose primary goal is to contribute original research in bioethics. Students are expected to conduct innovative research in relation to the discipline of their home departments and to have a working knowledge of selected bioethical issues from the current viewpoint of each of the other relevant disciplines.

Website: <http://jcb.utoronto.ca/>

Ethnic, Immigration and Pluralism Studies

This program aims to serve as a focal point for the study of ethnic and race relations across a range of disciplines and professional fields at the University of Toronto. The university has a wealth of resources related to such issues as: indigenous peoples, immigration, nationalism, cultural and linguistic groups, ethnic communities, and inter-group attitudes and relations. Each of these has impacts across a range of institutions – in employment and the economy, education, health and social services, local communities, politics and government, and in regional and international relations. The result is a comprehensive pool of specialized knowledge and experience doing justice to the complexities involved in considering the “Canadian mosaic,” parallel issues in other countries, and across the globe. An understanding of these issues in the making of policy, and the possibilities for the application of future research are exciting.

Website: <https://harneyprogram.ca/portfolio/collaborative-program/>

Health Services and Policy Research

Program objectives include: 1) to provide training in health services research for graduate students, 2) to enhance the quality and breadth of trans-disciplinary training in health services research, and 3) to include decision makers as active partners in teaching, program and curriculum planning, and the provision of field placements for students. Competency based program focusing on the following five areas: 1) understanding the Canadian health care system, 2) ability to carry out health services research, 3) understanding theories regarding how the health of populations is produced, 4) understanding theories of health and health services knowledge production, and 5) knowledge exchange and development of research partnerships.

Website: <https://ihpme.utoronto.ca/academics/collaborative/>

Public Health Policy

The program provides students with exemplary training in public health policy, which fosters synergies and cross-disciplinary learning. It gives students the capacity to engage in current events and contribute to the development, refinement, and evaluation of policies to address society's pressing and emerging public health priorities. The collaborative program is cross-disciplinary, bringing together a broad range of disciplines, substantive foci, and theoretical and methodological underpinnings, to synergistically build an engaged community of practice of students and faculty focused on public health policy. It contributes to the creation of the next generation of public health policy research leaders and creative agents for change, able to address current health issues and challenges. Through the direction of the stellar team of academics and policy-makers associated with the collaborative program, students are provided with real-world skills to address the complex and demanding task of public health policy-making (including insight into a wide array of legislative and regulatory interventions, administrative practices, financing and funding decisions, and various forms of soft law, such as guidelines and informal processes) which operate at the international, federal, provincial, and municipal levels in ways that are both cross-jurisdictional and cross-sectoral.

Website: <https://ihpme.utoronto.ca/academics/collaborative/>

Sexual Diversity Studies

This program is a rigorously interdisciplinary program recognizing sexual diversity studies as an interdisciplinary field of inquiry. While it has emerged as an autonomous scholarly area, many of those who work within it engage questions of gender, ethnicity, race, Aboriginal status, (dis)ability, and class, to highlight the importance of exploring their interaction with sexual differences.

Website: <http://sds.utoronto.ca/>

Women and Gender Studies

This program provides students with an opportunity for advanced feminist studies in concert with a MA or PhD degree in another discipline. The program offers a rich interdisciplinary environment in which to grapple with how gender and sexuality is tangled with questions of race, citizenship, embodiment, colonialism, nation, global capitalism, violence, aesthetics, and other pressing concerns.

Website: <https://wgsi.utoronto.ca/graduate/grad-student-info/collaborative-programs/>

Women's Health

This program provides interdisciplinary training in women's health research and practice for graduate students at the University of Toronto with the goal of: (i) helping students develop shared understandings of the complex interactions of biology and environment, sex and gender; (ii) providing students with the necessary skill set to undertake and lead interdisciplinary, collaborative health care research projects; (iii) enhancing mutually beneficial relationships among researchers and practitioners of women's health across the university and its affiliated teaching hospitals.

Website: <https://www.dlsph.utoronto.ca/programs/collaborative-specialization-in-womens-health/>

Admission Requirements

To be considered for admission applicants must meet the following requirements:

- 1) A Master of Social Work degree or an equivalent Master's degree with a B+ average from an accredited program in a university of recognized standing
- 2) Competency in basic statistical methods at an introductory level (an introductory statistics course is offered in the first term of the program to ensure that students meet this prerequisite).
- 3) Educational and professional experience that will indicate a capacity to undertake research-oriented post-graduate work.

- 4) Must show evidence of facility in the English language. If your primary language is not English and you graduated from a non-Canadian university where the language of instruction and examination was not English, then you must demonstrate your facility in English by completing one of the tests listed below:
 - ◆ TOEFL Paper-Based Test Score of 580 and TWE Score of 5
 - ◆ Internet-based TOEFL Test Score of 22/30 for both the Writing and Speaking Sections, with an overall TOEFL Score of 93/120
 - ◆ IELTS Minimum required score: 7.0 (Academic) with at least 6.5 for each component.
 - ◆ The Certificate of Proficiency in English (COPE) – Required score: 76 (with at least 22 in each component and 32 in the writing component)
 - ◆ International ESL Program, School of Continuing Studies, University of Toronto
Required score: a final grade of B in Level 60

For more information please see the School of Graduate Studies website at www.sgs.utoronto.ca

Candidates are accepted for admission based on an assessment of their ability to complete the academic requirements of the program. Experience and professional achievements are considered, although greatest weight is placed on demonstrated academic performance.

Applicants must arrange for their score to be reported electronically to the University of Toronto, by the testing agency. The institution code for U of T is 0982. There is no need to specify a department.

Completing my PhD in Social Work at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work has advantaged me in a multitude ways. It expanded my competencies and confidence in conducting studies of high rigor and broad relevance; it fostered connections and life-long partnerships with colleagues in the Faculty and with academics and researchers around the world; it honed my confidence in taking a leadership role in knowledge building and testing; and it instilled in me the importance of assisting future students in their learning journey. Completing the PhD was time well spent and a learning journey well worth taking.

Deborah Goodman

Class 1999, Director, Child Welfare Institute, Children's Aid Society of Toronto; Assistant Professor (status only), Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto

PhD Application Instructions for September 2023 Admission

Application DEADLINE: JANUARY 11, 2023

Documentation required

- 1) School of Graduate Studies Online Application and Application Fee
- 2) Unofficial transcripts from all academic institutions attended (college and university)
- 3) Three References
- 4) CV
- 5) Personal Statement
- 6) Optional: Writing Sample

Plus required documentation of either option 1 or option 2

Option 1

Research Proposal/Research Statement

Option 2

GRE General test score

Please read and follow all instructions carefully.

About the Application:

Applications to the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work must be submitted to the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) using an online application which is housed on a secure server at the University of Toronto. The online application allows applicants to manage and submit biographical and educational information, as well as specific documentation, outlined below, immediately to the University of Toronto. Applicants can edit an in-progress application and check the status of all documents submitted using a secure password and Userid. An email account is needed to complete the online application, as the University of Toronto will correspond with applicants using email.

Applications are considered complete and are reviewed only after all documentation is received.

The admission committee may request an interview with the applicant before the admission decisions are made.

How to Apply:

- 1) Log in to the online application. The link to apply: <https://admissions.sgs.utoronto.ca/apply/>
- 2) Provide the biographical and education information requested.
- 3) Provide contact information for your referees. Be sure to inform your referees that you are doing this and that the University of Toronto, SGS will be contacting them by email.
- 4) Upload your supporting documentation directly onto the online application portal
- 5) Submit your payment to finalize your application by January 11, 2023.

Notes about the application portal:

The School of Graduate Studies (SGS) is using a new application portal. Log in to the online application at: <https://admissions.sgs.utoronto.ca/apply/> and click the link to create an account to begin your application. You will receive a verification code via email as part of the account creation process. After entering your verification code, you will create a password for your account.

You may save and return to the application at any point in the process.

You will be required to enter information for your referees. Your referees will automatically receive a notification email that they have been requested to complete a reference for your application, along with instructions to submit their reference in the application system.

If you need to send a reminder email to your existing referees, you can do so through the applicant portal.

All application documentation is submitted electronically through the SGS online application portal.

To view the status of your application, please log in to your account to view your applicant status portal.

Documentation required:

- 1) **SGS Online Application:** Please select:

Doctor of Philosophy Program

- 2) **Application Fee:** The total application fee is \$200. This covers the fee for both SGS (\$125) and FIFSW (\$75). Payment is made once you have uploaded all of your application materials, using only a Visa or Mastercard credit card. Applications will not be processed until the application fee is received. The system will not accept payment via Visa debit or Mastercard debit.

- 3) **Transcripts of academic records** You are required to upload one *electronic transcript* from each post-secondary institution attended (colleges, including CEGEP, and universities). Electronic transcripts must be up to date and include the "legend" which is usually printed on the back of the paper transcript. Please ensure that the file is complete and readable before submitting.

Note: if you are offered admission, submission of all academic official transcripts will be a condition of admission. Transcripts are considered official if received directly from the academic institution.

My doctoral journey was set in motion by my passion to contribute to the social work profession in meaningful ways. Over the course of my studies at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, I was reminded time and time again that pursuing higher education at a world renowned university in a city rich in culture and diversity was both an honour and privilege. I was incredibly grateful to have been mentored by exemplary scholars and to have formed lasting relationships. The program equipped me with the knowledge, skills, and critical lens necessary to engage in effective clinical education and practice-driven research in pediatric healthcare, ultimately improving service delivery to children and their families.

Corry Azzopardi

Class of 2015, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto

4) Reference Forms: The University of Toronto, SGS online application system facilitates the online submission of reference letters. Detailed instructions are provided within the system. Three references are required. The reference template is available from our website: <https://socialwork.utoronto.ca/admissions/phd/phd-application/>

Academic references are strongly recommended. *Rationale:* Persons who have a research degree (PhD or equivalent) are in the best position to provide the most useful recommendation about your experience and/or potential for doing research. Sources of references can be your former professors, or else colleagues who know of your research-related work from past or current projects.

You will be asked to provide contact information for your referees, including a valid institutional/organizational email address, if available. The system will send an email to each of your referees, inviting them to submit the completed form directly to the application database using a secure interface. The email will include reference instructions and the reference form.

It is important to communicate with your referees well in advance of submitting your online application for admission to confirm contact information and ensure they are willing and able to provide a reference by the deadline date.

A valid institution or organization email address is necessary for a referee to upload their letter. Email addresses that are shared, anonymous, generic or not linked to an institution, organization or business are not acceptable (e.g. Gmail, Hotmail, and Yahoo!). We strongly suggest you choose a referee who has a valid institution or organization email address. If an individual doesn't have a valid email address, look at designating a different referee. If (despite your best effort) absolutely no alternative referee with a valid institution or organization email address is possible, you can enter a non-institution or non-organization email address in the online admissions application (it's not necessary to contact us). Be aware this may delay review of your application as we must verify the authenticity of reference letters received in this manner. For every referee, enter a telephone number where they can be reached for our verification purposes.

Please note: The following items must be submitted in electronic form only (PDF is preferred) by uploading them directly to the SGS online application portal.

5) Curriculum Vitae (CV): A detailed CV in which you outline your education, employment, professional activities, research experience, presentations at professional and/or scholarly conferences and publications (please specify if professional and/or academic).

6) Personal Statement: In the Statement, please cover the following elements:

- a)** state the research questions or a specific area that interests you and why it needs to be researched;
- b)** describe how your personal background and life experiences contribute to your research interests and to your decision to pursue a doctoral degree at the University of Toronto;
- c)** discuss your interest in and preparation for PhD studies in social work;
- d)** outline your career plans and discuss how doctoral education is relevant to your professional goals, and your area of research interest within the social work profession; and
- e)** discuss why you think the program at the University of Toronto is a good fit for you given your interests and plans.

Statement should be no more than 5 pages, typed, doubled-spaced; 12 point Times New Roman font preferred.

7) Writing Sample: submit a maximum of two writing samples (publications, conference presentations, or agency/government reports), if applicable.

The Social Work doctoral program at the University of Toronto provided me with exceptional and diverse opportunities to develop, and most importantly practice, my research, teaching, and critical thinking skills. As I progressed through the program, I was able to refine my understanding of social work research methods and pedagogical approaches under the guidance of experts in the fields of domestic violence, children's mental health, cyber-bullying, and social work education. Most importantly, the training and mentorship I received at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work prepared me to contribute to our profession as a social work researcher and educator.

Jennifer Root

Class of 2014, Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Work, Wilfrid Laurier University

Documentation required under Option 1

The following documentation must be submitted in electronic form only (PDF is preferred) by uploading it directly to the SGS online application portal.

Research Proposal/Research Statement:

Provide a document that demonstrates your academic abilities and potential in the form of a research proposal/research statement. The research statement must include the following: a statement of an issue that would benefit from being researched (i.e. its significance); the focus of your proposed study and research questions; reference to existing literature including empirical research and literature specific to your proposed study; your theoretical framework; a methods strategy (design, sample, data collection and analysis); nature of anticipated findings and the overall contribution of your proposed study to social work knowledge and policy/practice, and a bibliography. This document is a central component in the evaluation of your application. It should be written in a scholarly fashion with adequate reference to the relevant research and theoretical literature within your area of study.

Limit your statement to 10 pages, typed, double-spaced, not including references; 12 point, Times New Roman font preferred.

Documentation required under Option 2

Graduate Record Exam (GRE) General Test Score:

a) Online Unofficial submission: Please upload an unofficial copy of your GRE General Test Score

b) Electronic/Official submission: Please submit your GRE General Test Score to the University of Toronto. The ETS institution code for the University of Toronto is 0982. We will only accept official scores sent directly from the ETS. Please note that your GRE scores are valid for five years from the date you took the test. For more information on the GRE Tests, please visit the GRE website. We do not require a minimum score for GRE General Test. However, this test serves as an important assessment tool for admission.

For your information:

- ◆ Ensure your application is complete, as incomplete applications cannot be processed. Document status can be checked in the "My Applications" section of the SGS online admissions application.
- ◆ It is your responsibility to ensure that your application has been received. Advise the Admissions Office in writing of any change in your mailing or email address at: admissions.fsw@utoronto.ca
- ◆ If you are recommended for admission, a non-refundable tuition deposit of \$500.00 will be required to hold your place in the program to which you have been admitted.
- ◆ Each year we receive many more qualified applications than spaces available in the program. The possession of the minimum admission requirements does not in itself guarantee admission. The Faculty reserves the right to select which qualified applicants it will recommend for admission to SGS. All decisions are final.
- ◆ **JOINid:** Every applicant to the University of Toronto is assigned a JOINid. For graduate applicants, the JOINid gives early access to the online resources of the student housing office and the application site for the Ontario Graduate Scholarship program. If you begin studies at UofT, it will become your UTORid, which will allow you to access a number of services such as email, library resources, and Blackboard. When you receive this message from the School of Graduate Studies, at the time of application, be sure to save it as it will contain your personal JOINid.

My time in the program was an invaluable experience which opened career opportunities both inside and outside of academia. The course content was comprehensive and classes were engaging as critical reflection, debate and discussion were encouraged. I gained lifelong colleagues and friends as a result. The faculty in general and my thesis committee in particular were incredibly supportive and encouraging. The program was challenging but the effort and commitment required were both enriching and fondly memorable.

Frank Sirotich,
Class of 2009, Director, Research and Evaluation, Canadian Mental Health Association Toronto Branch

Application Checklist

- SGS Online Application
- Application Fee
- Electronic Transcripts
- Three References
- CV
- Personal Statement
- Writing Sample (if applicable)

PLUS

Option 1

- Research Proposal/Research Statement

OR

Option 2

- GRE General Test Score

"Completing my MSW and PhD from the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work (FIFSW) has been a truly transformative part of my social work journey. The competitive and rigorous programs have provided me with the foundation to meaningfully contribute to the field as a practitioner, researcher and educator. The FIFSW offers a strong, well-connected network of Faculty providing invaluable mentorship, supportive staff and a student community where classmates become lifelong friends and trusted colleagues. The PhD experience will be a demanding one but one that will inspire the pursuit of critical knowledge to address complex social problems."

*Manaal Syed,
Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, University of Waterloo*

Our Latest PhD Grads: Examining Critical Issues

Gwendolyn Fearing

Understanding Caregivers' Help-Seeking for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Through the Lens of Mental Health Literacy

Bethany Good

Left to Their Own Devices: Digital Media Use Among Youth in Residential Treatment an Exploratory Study

Andrea Greenblatt

Meaning-Making and Mental Health:
Capturing Youth's Voices

Christina Hyland

The Lived Experience of Street-Involved and Homeless Youth who have Eating Struggles while Living in Situations of Food Insecurity

Shani Kipang

Retrofitting Social Work Education: New Applications for Collaborative Knowledge Creation, Experiential Learning and Engagement of Experts by Experience Therapy for People Aging with HIV-Associated Neurocognitive Disorder (HAND)

Wing Leung

Cultural Socialization Among Chinese Parents in Canada and the United States: Role of Racism, Co-ethnic Social Capital, and Regional-level Characteristics

Shen Lin

Healthy Ageing in a Foreign Land?
Examining Health Care Inequities Faced by Older Racialized Immigrants in the Canadian Community Health Survey (2015-2018)s

Jami-Leigh Sawyer

Bridging the Gap: Exploring the Treatment Experiences of Children and Youth with Medulloblastoma

Awards

8

Students received
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Doctoral Fellowships

4

Students received
Ontario Graduate Student (OGS) Scholarship

7

Students received
SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarships – Doctoral (CGS D)

Our Graduates

70

percent are employed
in higher education

91

percent of our graduates
are employed full time

94

percent are satisfied with
the work that they do

99

percent of graduates state that their
work is dependent on research skills