



PhD Application Instructions for September 2022 Admission

TWO DEADLINE DATES:

DECEMBER 1, 2021

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT:

- SGS Preliminary Online application
- Application fee
- Electronic Transcripts



JANUARY 11, 2022

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

Details outlined below



Supporting Documentation:

- Three Reference Forms
- CV
- Personal Statement
- 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 – <https://admissions.sgs.utoronto.ca/apply/>
2. Provide the biographical and education information requested.
3. Be prepared to submit 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. Submit your payment.
5. Be aware of deadline dates.

Notes about the application portal:

The School of Graduate Studies (SGS) is using a new application portal. If you previously applied to SGS, you will need to create a new account. 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 change your referees, please get in touch with admissions.fsw@utoronto.ca

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

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

You can upload application materials, including unofficial transcripts, personal statement, CV, etc., through your applicant status portal after submitting your application.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR THE PRELIMINARY ONLINE SGS APPLICATION:

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 at the time of application online 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 - Online Submission:** The University of Toronto, SGS online application system facilitates the online submission of your academic record(s). Detailed instructions are provided within the system.

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. More details are available on the SGS online system.

Note: if you are offered admission, we will require an official, paper copy of all transcripts to be submitted, and this will be a condition of admission.

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 and the reference template is available from our website. You will be asked to provide contact information for your referees, including a valid institutional/organizational email address, if available. Email addresses from generic email providers (e.g., hotmail, yahoo, gmail) will be rejected by the system.

Once you confirm your application, the system will send an email to each of your referees, who have a valid email address, 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.

If a referee does not maintain a valid email address (and therefore submission of a reference online is not possible), or if your referees cannot submit the reference online they may submit the reference to you in a sealed envelope with their signature on the back of the envelope; or they may mail the reference directly to the FIFSW, Admissions Office, University of Toronto, 246 Bloor Street West, Toronto, ON, M5S 1V4. **In cases where a referee does not have a valid email address, the applicant is responsible for submitting the reference template directly to their referee. References received in envelopes that are not sealed or appear to have been tampered with will not be considered.**

Three references are required. **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.

PLEASE NOTE: The following items should be submitted in electronic form only (PDF is preferred) by saving them to the SGS online admissions application. You will submit these from the Document Status web page that is accessible after you have confirmed payment of your application.

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 contributed 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.

Limit the statement to no more than 5 pages, typed, doubled-spaced.

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

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED UNDER OPTION 1

The following documentation will be submitted in electronic form **only (PDF is preferred) by saving them to the SGS online admissions application.**

1. **Research Proposal/Research Statement:** Provide a document that demonstrates your academic abilities and potential in the form of a research proposal/research statement. The statement needs to be research oriented. It will 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; existing literature including empirical research and the specificity of your 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.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED UNDER OPTION 2

1. **Graduate Record Exam (GRE) General Test Score:**
 - a) Online Unofficial submission: Please upload an unofficial copy of your GRE General Test Score from the Document Status web page that is accessible after you have confirmed payment of your application.
 - 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: <https://www.ets.org/gre/>. 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 your application has been received. Advise our office: admissions.fsw@utoronto.ca of any change in your contact information.
- 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.