



# NEW BEAT

NEW STUDENTS. NEW INFORMATION. NEW COLLEGE



## My International Student Experience!



The very first day that I entered York University, I was really shy and terrified. I had been in my country around the International Student Orientation day in 2013, so I did not get a chance to decide whether to choose York University or the other schools I got accepted into. I have to say that I believe that I made the right decision to attend this school. Being an International student has been hard especially financially but the experience at York has helped me grow immensely. Experiences from professors to group assignments, from examinations to individual projects, from peer mentorship to other volunteering positions have developed me more than I can imagine. At first, I wondered why I left my beautiful country to fly five hours away to attend this very big institution. What helped me even more in my York International experience was the fact that I had family here but for many students, they may not have anyone here. Here are a few tips to help you:

- Ask questions and always look at the York University's Website. Make sure to go to the YU connect website; this will help you get involved in different clubs and will help you live a social life. In my first year, I was in the Health Aid Network program where I was able to meet new students like me and upper level students. Joining clubs helped me become more socially involved at York.
- Check your international student status. Are you able to work on and off campus? Go to the York International Website. One thing I wished I did as I entered York, was to find a job.
- Build your resume by attending academic workshops. You can earn an academic learning skills certificate at the end. One thing about us international students is that we may not have the Canadian experience. We need to volunteer or find jobs because experience is important in today's society.
- Lastly, take advantage of the counselling services that are offered at York. It can be very lonely and stressful for us as international students.

*Keitha-Ann Cenac (St. Lucian)*

## Summer School Tips



Summer is right around the corner, and there are several different ways university students can spend this time off. Travelling is quite common as some choose to go on well-deserved vacations. Many take on summer jobs in order to save up, while others gain work experience through internships and co-op programs. It is also a good time to pick up new hobbies and just relax with family and friends. Another common option is summer school, and though it may not seem like the most exciting way to spend your summer, it definitely has its perks.

Students who take classes in the summer can graduate early, ranging from either a semester to a whole year. It is also a good way to get an extra few electives or catch up on those mandatory general education credits. The warm weather makes it tempting to do activities other than going to class and studying, so here are some summer school tips to help you Eagles out.

- Set goals and create a study schedule or routine. Courses move pretty fast in the summer as the material is condensed into two months, so watch out procrastinators! Creating schedules in your planners or on calendars will help you plan ahead and stay on top of schoolwork.
- Find some new study spots on campus. The libraries will be way emptier (you might actually find a spot on the first floor of Scott for once) or you could sprawl out on the lawn in front of the Vari Hall building. I find a change of scenery always helpful, with two of my favourite spots being TEL and Second Cup.
- Take advantage of the smaller class sizes. It is always recommended to build personal relationships with professors, however this can prove to be difficult during the school year when there is always a line after classes. When you know the professor or TA of a course, it is easier to get clarification of assignments and course expectations.
- Assemble a study group. You will be seeing a lot of the same faces in class and it always helps to have a friend or two. Make sure to exchange numbers or email addresses (food trucks on campus is a valid excuse, right?) in case you miss a day and need to review classmates' notes.
- Reward yourself. I can't stress enough how important self-care is. Take some time off to partake in activities that you enjoy. Whether it's grabbing coffee with a friend or spending the afternoon exploring downtown, make sure to give yourself a break, as it is summer after all!

*Teja Bellary (VP Academics, NCC)*



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## My Experience with the School of Human Resource Management (SHRM)



I have always known that I wanted to help people. After high school there were so many career

paths thrown in my direction and I did not know which one I should take. In fact, HR was not one of the career paths that were mentioned. I never heard of HR until the end of my first year of business school. With that said I was curious about the HR field and decided to change my degree to Human Resource Management offered at York University.

Let me tell you, this was one of the best decisions I have made! The SHRM has provided me with an exceptional education in the HR field which was accomplished through insightful and hardworking professors, and theoretical course work paired with a practical use of course material.

I believe that business acumen, communication and problem solving are important skills needed for HR. Over the next few years, more organizations will be adopting a more strategic role as opposed to the outdated administrative role that once existed. With that said, the SHRM has helped me build a business mindset while emphasizing the importance of the people perspective. My time here at the SHRM has opened my eyes to the possibilities HR has to offer and has further inspired me to becoming a change agent in the HR field. I am confident that I am not the only one who feels this way and I encourage all those individuals who are curious about the world, organizations and people to pursue a career in HR.

Alexa Lopreiato (4<sup>th</sup> year, BHRM)

## My Experience in the BDEM Program



The School of Administrative Studies at York University offers a unique academic experience to its students, known as the Disaster and Emergency Management Program (BDEM). I have been one of the lucky few to be accepted into this program, and as I approach my final year, I'd like to share my experience. The BDEM program is advertised on the School of Administrative Studies website as a degree which provides its students with the "academic and technical skills necessary to aid in the prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery from regional and global disasters and emergencies."

My personal experience has been so much more than this. It is not just about preparing and responding to disasters but also the psychology of victims, responders, and the affected community. It has taught me how to look at the world with an open mind and think about possible dangers that can affect an area.

The professors in the program are very knowledgeable and have worked for many years in the field. The classes that are taught are both theoretical and practical. They provide students with in-depth understanding of how topics are applied in the field. My part of this program is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year option to do an internship with various companies all over Ontario. It allows students to gain credits while gaining experience and creating a professional network.

Overall, this program applies to every area of business and can lead students into many great career paths!

Julianna Primiani (3<sup>rd</sup> year, BDEM)

## Ohhh the Places We Go!



Yes it finally feels like summer! There are so many things to do and explore. For example you could check out Open Doors of Toronto (May 28-29th), or go to the

ROM for free by showing your YU-card on a Tuesday. Or exploring the arts in downtown Toronto by seeing a play, a musical, or a comedy show at Second City (there are student discounts!). But there are specific places that are a MUST see for students this summer. Especially for students who will commute from far to York in the summer. Yep, it's places on campus that are so quiet, that you can hear a pin drop. But where are these rare places you might ask? Here is a list below. Check them out!

- 002 Atkinson (Atkinson's Basement) Hours are 10:00am - 6:00pm Monday to Thursday and 9:00am - 5:00pm on Fridays.
- The Quiet Zone on the 1st and 2nd floors in Scott Library
- Sound and Image Library (1st floor of Scott Library past the escalators)
- Outdoors on the benches in the spacious York Commons (the middle area of the bus loop)
- Campus Walkway benches (behind the Student Center)

Isn't it great to know about these quiet places so we do not get distracted by our surroundings?

Morin Mariampillai (3<sup>rd</sup> year, BHRM)