

# GPP NEWSLETTER

# Jan 2022

Monthly Global  
Peer Program  
Highlights



# Welcome to Global Peer Program!

## IN THIS ISSUE

---

### Welcome to York and GPP!

You made it! You're at York, whether virtually, in-person or a bit of both. All that hard work has paid off and you're finally "here"! At the start of anything new (like starting university in a new country!), it's natural to feel so many things. You might feel excited, scared, nervous, anxious, or just can't wait to get started! No matter what's ahead, you've got support from the Global Peer Program Mentors who are knowledgeable, friendly and eager to share everything they know with you. You'll get to meet some of them in this month's newsletter and their goal is to help you as you get settled at York U and build a strong community based on lasting and meaningful connections. We've got lots of fun and informative events and activities this year, so stay tuned!

We hope that this and the upcoming GPP Newsletters can serve as a resource for all the milestones ahead!

~ GPP Peer Mentors ~

---

### ***Timely Reminders:***

**Last date to add courses without Permission** – Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

**Last date to add courses with Permission** – Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Last date to drop course without receiving grades** – March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (Winter term) – Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (Year term)

**Course Withdrawal Period (receive "W" on Transcript)** – March 19<sup>th</sup> – April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (Winter Term) – Feb 12<sup>th</sup> to April 10<sup>th</sup> (Year Term)

For more information, check out: <https://registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/fw21>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Click [here to register](#) for the events below:

### Drop-In International Student Advising

Jan 13<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup>/ 25<sup>th</sup> / 27<sup>th</sup> | 9:00a.m.

### Virtual O-week: Foodie Friday

Jan 14<sup>th</sup> | 2:30p.m.

### Writing Centre Workshop

Jan 24<sup>th</sup> | 9a.m.

### Travel to Canada/Quarantine Webinar

Jan 14<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> | 9:30a.m.

### Career Centre Workshop: Job search and Networking

Jan 25<sup>th</sup> | 9:30a.m.

### Virtual Coffee Break: (weekly series)

Jan 18<sup>th</sup>/ 19<sup>th</sup>/ 21<sup>st</sup>/ 26<sup>th</sup>/ 28<sup>th</sup>

**Meet your  
GPP Peer  
Mentors!**



**Krishika Gupta** is a 4th-year Information technology student from India. A tech-savvy, social media lover and travel enthusiast who is passionate about meeting and connecting with people from diverse backgrounds, learning about different cultures and building memories and meaningful connections.

**Krishika Gupta**

**Anirudh Krishnadas** was born in Kerala and raised in New Delhi, India. He is a Ph.D. student at the Department of Physics and Astronomy. He is a soccer player, a traveler, and can teleport to places to try different cuisines. Talk to Anirudh about sports, food and science.



**Anirudh Krishnadas**



**Ketsia Mutombo** can't wait to help you integrate to our wonderful community at York University! She is a third-year biomedical student at York university. She can't wait to connect with you and help you out as much as she can!

**Ketsia Mutombo**

## Meet your GPP Peer Mentors!



**Amy Leung Kei** is a 4th year international student and is majoring in Bachelor of Commerce (BCOM) Accounting. She aspires to pursue her CPA designation after graduation. She is born and raised in Mauritius, a small island in the Indian Ocean. Her hobbies are watching movies, crochet, baking, cooking and hanging out with friends. Amy is very excited to work with you all and she hopes you have an amazing experience at York University. Feel free to reach out to her if you have any concerns!

**Amy Leung Kei**

**Biruk Belachew** is a 2nd year student studying honors program in Biology. He enjoys outdoor activities, movies, playing pool and guitar (I ain't that good). He is excited to join this amazing group and work together to assist our fellow international students.



**Biruk Belachew**



**Saba Hajibandeh** is majoring in biology. She is born and raised in Iran. Baking and reading books are her favorite hobbies. She is an animal lover and likes to explore nature. Saba is very excited to work with you all and hopes to have an amazing academic year at York.

**Saba Hajibandeh**

## Meet your GPP Peer Mentors!



**Alona Zavhorodnia** is in her 3rd year of psychology program at Glendon. She would describe herself as friendly and kind. Also, she has many hobbies like reading books, watching movies and likes to have fun with friends. Throughout studying at York, she's had tons of experiences that may help you in your first year.

**Alona Zavhorodnia**

**Parina Khosla** is an undergraduate student majoring in Psychology. She is from India and came to Canada in 2018 and would say from her own experience that it was not all easy to manage everything here all alone. Parina has come a long way and hopes to help others now. She loves to paint and draw and would love to connect with you all.



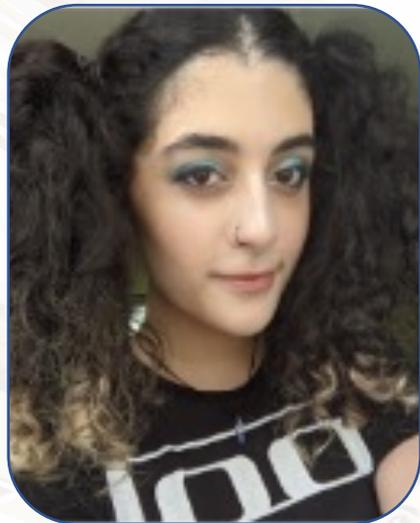
**Parina Khosla**



**Gagandeep Singh** say Bonjour!! He is a third-year space engineering student. His home city is Delhi, India. Gagandeep is currently learning French and am well versed in English, Hindi and Punjabi. He loves to read self help books in my free time, his favourite one so far is The Atomic Habits. Apart from his studies, he is also a part times sales advisor at H&M. He looks forward to welcoming you all to YorkU community.

**Gagandeep Singh**

## Meet your GPP Peer Mentors!



***Negin Hamesh** is in her third-year doing sociology major with a passion for social justice and teaching! Negin watches way too much YouTube and Netflix in her free time, and she is looking forward to connecting with all of you lovely people!*

**Negin Hamesh**

***Abdullah Aqeel** is a third-year business and society student from Pakistan playing a small part to improve the university experience for fellow internationals.*



**Abdullah Aqeel**



***Chimdinma Ukabiala** most people call me Chimdi, she is a 3rd year international student from Nigeria, am majoring in Kinesiology and Health Science. She started volunteering at York international summer of 2021 before becoming a peer mentor. She is also currently a Peer mentor with KAHSSO and a student rep in one of the committees in the faculty of health. She is good at drawing, and recently decided to invest time in my spiritual life and physical health and well being. She is looking forward to connecting with you and making lovely memories with you this year.*

**Chimdinma Ukabiala**

## Meet your GPP Peer Mentors!



**Minghe Cao** Hi everyone, Minghe is a current master's student at York University. He is also currently working full-time as a coop student at Deloitte. He loves to discuss business, investment, and so on. He is also a home barista. He plays soccer. Let me know if there is anything that interests you.

**Minghe Cao**

**Ilknur Ozdemir** is an undergraduate student majoring in Psychology. She is from Turkey, and she was born and raised in Baku, Azerbaijan. She is passionate about her major and plans to apply to graduate school. She enjoys meeting new people, playing the piano, reading books and learning Spanish as her fourth language. She is also highly enthusiastic to try foods of different traditions.



**Ilknur Ozdemir**



**Kudiratulah Asamu** is currently a peer mentor for York International. She is here to help you to transition into university and direct you to the right resources for help. She is a friendly and very simple person. She is also currently majoring in Mathematics. She loves watching movies and being on my toes, what about you? She looks forward to meeting you. If you have any concerns at all, she's here to listen and help. Instagram @Kudrah1001. See you all in the winter term.

**Kudiratulah Asamu**