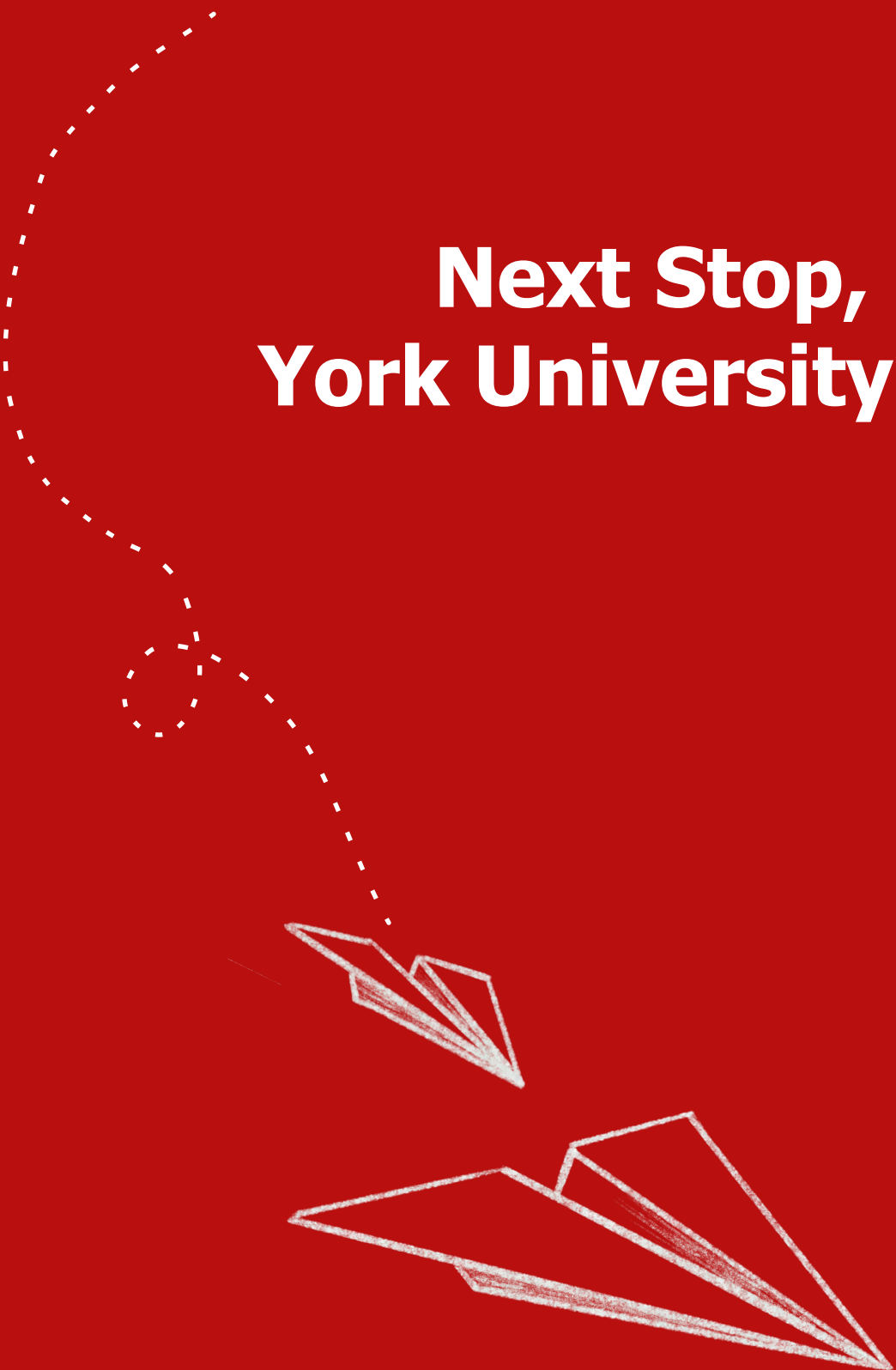


January 23' Edition
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Global Peer Program

Next Stop, York University

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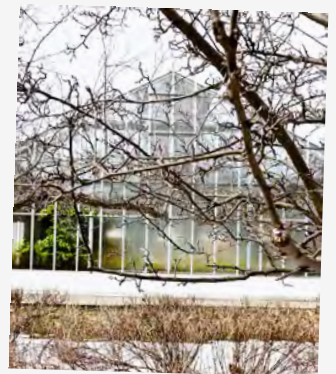
Hey, Lions! Welcome to York University. Coming to York might be a brand new experience for some of you this January. But look at you already accomplishing goals and starting the year on a solid note! 2023 is going to be all about YU!

Are you all excited about the upcoming winter orientation at York? Thinking about your class schedule and how to find the way to different buildings? Or you are probably thinking about your roommate in residence and how you will greet them. Just so you know, you are not the only one overwhelmed with all these emotions. Our GPP mentors can attest to that as they chronicle their first time coming to York University and share words of wisdom regarding how you can make the best out of your time in university.



Upcoming Events

- [UHIP Virtual Drop-in](#)
- [Partner Summer School Info Session](#)
- [Summer Abroad In-Person Information Session Registration](#)



Greenhouse



The World is Your Oyster

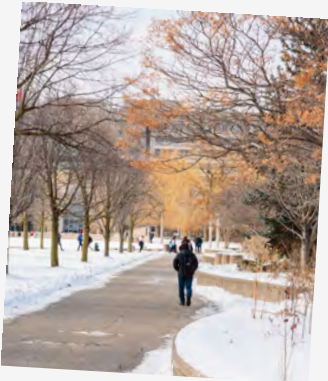
"Come, the food's ready!" is one of the most underrated yet well-deserved dialogue, in my opinion. Majority of the students living away from home can relate to this. We as human beings dream, aspire, want to grow, and evolve; somehow, in all that comes sacrifices, changes, getting out of the comfort zone, adapting to different places, people, etc. I am an inquisitive person. I was way more excited to come study in a different country away from home, the thoughts of it used to make me feel independent, and it still does because all our brains (thinking practically) know that in the long-term, it is what will shape us into our future selves.

Studying abroad planning with family was easier but doing it realistically feels/hits differently. When I landed in Canada, it felt like a dream. For a few hours, nothing felt real- or - it all felt surreal. Shifting to a completely different environment takes time to digest or blend in, even with the air. It had already snowed when I landed in December, the beginning of chilly days (and howling nights). I stepped outside the car and was about to slip, so tip #101: take caution when and if you see black ice. On a very important note, invest in long-term Winter gear to survive the Canadian cold.

Because of the pandemic, I stayed off-campus and had to attend winter semester classes remotely. Gladly, I came to York University in March when in-person classes resumed. My biggest concern was the location of my classes since York is huge, especially when it's snowing. Even though it seems scary, you get used to the ways with help from both friends and strangers. In addition, Keele campus maps made navigating different buildings easier, and I was entering my first in-person, huge university lecture hall. I am from India, so culturally and socially, student-professor interactions compared to Canada varied greatly and the informal relation here surprised me. Simple things like eating, drinking, and using our phones were considered normal in front of professors here. But these contrasts were vivid to my eyes. Soon enough, these became normal, and I am one of those people now.



Glendon



Dahdeleh



Khushi

"Hey everyone! I am Khushi Khanna, I am studying BCOM, currently in my second year. Being a GPP mentor has been a great experience, mentoring and learning myself from others really gave me more perspective."



Bergeron

Now that I have settled at York University, I am trying to engage with the community as much as possible through various events happening in York like searching for different volunteer opportunities and club memberships according to my interest. In university, you can balance both your academic and social life. You may feel like rebuilding your social life and close-knit group of friends could be tough, but you end up adapting. Change was necessary. I tried exploring various opportunities and one of those were becoming a global peer mentor, helping students like myself through their first/second year of university.

First year students, make sure to give your best to get involved on campus, build networks and socialize in class. York offers various ways you could get engaged in something you have passion towards or you might find yourself exploring something new; so don't be scared to try, give it a chance. You can do this while finding a balance between your studies, social life, and other interests.

My personal learnings/reflection after almost completing my first year in Canada are: communicate and stay in touch with your people. Secondly, this is the time for you to start living your desired life. So, go ahead and try taking those aesthetic food pictures, give yourself one more chance at working out, take care of your mental health. Although there will be lots of ups and downs, take your time and ask for help. Overall, don't forget to enjoy this time of your life.





Ethan

“As a peer mentor, it has been my pleasure to assist and facilitate other students as they adjust to university life. One of the key things I have learned as a peer mentor is the importance of being approachable. Many students may be feeling anxious or overwhelmed when they first arrive at university, so it's important to be there for them and to make them feel welcome. This could mean offering to show them around campus, introducing them to other students, or simply offering a listening ear. In short, the peer mentor position has been a rewarding and fulfilling experience.”

Live in the Moment

As a first-time student at York University, I was excited but also a bit nervous. After all, moving away from home and starting university is a big step. However, as soon as I arrived on campus, I was awestruck by the vibrant and friendly atmosphere. I was a bit unsure of what to expect as this was my first time living away from home. However, I quickly found that residence was a great place to make new friends and to get to know other students. The residence Dons were also very helpful, providing us with everything we needed to make the transition to university life as smooth as possible.

One of the things I love about York is the sense of community and support that exists here. Whether it's helping a newcomer find their way around campus or sharing tips and advice on how to succeed in their classes, there's always help on campus.

The Global peer program under York International pairs up peers with appropriate mentors as peer mentors who can offer practical tips and advice to help newcomers navigate university life. For example, we can share our experiences of finding classes, managing our schedules, and studying effectively. We can also provide information about the services and resources available on campus, such as the library, tutoring centers, and student organizations.

Another important aspect of being a peer mentor is helping students to adjust to residence life. This can be a big change for many students, who may be living away from home for the first time. As a peer mentor, I have been able to provide advice and support on topics such as roommate relations, budgeting, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Overall, my experience as a student at York University has been incredibly positive. The university has a warm and welcoming atmosphere, and the support provided is invaluable. As a peer mentor, I have been able to assist and facilitate other students, providing them with the support and guidance they need to succeed. I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the York University community, and I look forward to continuing to support my fellow students in the years to come.



Mihir

"We've all been first years in an unfamiliar environment. Many of us figured things out through trial and error with no one to turn to. An opportunity to ensure that - that never happens again to someone is what GPP gave me. It's gratifying, working with like-minded people with a passion to help others. My mentees have been from various cultures and stages of life allowing me to understand diverse perspectives and build lasting bonds. If you can relate to any of that - sign up! We can always use more help!"

Friends like Family

75 Arboretum Lane. Those words made as little sense to me as they do to you right now. That's an address. It's the road right outside Calumet Residence and in front of the Aviva centre where the Uber dropped me off. My first introduction to the large mass of landscape York University is. I was clueless. To make it worse I had 2 suitcases and backpacks stacked on me. I was at my skinniest so walking with that much weight in an unknown direction was the toughest military drill I could imagine.

There walks in my friend Vee - we became friends online and she's annoying till this date. You'd think she'd help - you'd be wrong. Due to her back situation, we were now two clueless people walking nowhere. Thankfully I stumbled into my residence Don. He helped me put my stuff in and grab my keys - so far so good.

Vee and I decided to go to Starbucks and found it the first time! That was a lie. We spent 30 minutes around a dumpster - no joke. And no one knew directions. So, I went back to Calumet Residence and to my surprise there was someone sitting in the common room. We introduced each other and I'll never forget the first sentence my suitemate uttered "Queen Elizabeth is actually a clone in the UK". Great introduction. We spoke for a bit more. He seemed like a nice guy. Really helpful since he was 2nd year in Biomed. He really helped me. I wasn't used to that. I was used to doing things myself and figuring things out. I had all 8AM classes and no idea how to get there so my friend - let's call him "Kay" - offered to wake up an hour earlier to show me around and take me to my classes. He truly made sure I understood what York was. We're not friends anymore. We're brothers. My roommate Tim was also nice. The 3 of us would order pizzas every chance we'd get and watch movies. It was heavenly - and costly. We had stacks of pizza boxes in our kitchen.

Google maps back then was more confusing than usual. It helps approximate locations but not as much in getting to classes. That's when I realized the importance of asking for help. People generally are helpful - and if they're not you'll learn a lesson. But always take the plunge - who knows, maybe you'll make a new friend. Check your timetable for classes - sit with later year students, your Don, literally anyone. Everyone has been in your shoes, so you'll not be alone!



Make sure you attend as many orientations and speak to as many later year students as you can - get out of your comfort zone and you'll feel like home in no time. Always go out with someone at night until you're familiar with the area because it's easy to get lost. Take precautions since most of you would be new to Canada.

What I've realized is that York is a great and diverse community. You'll meet people you like and people you don't. Always focus on the positive and reach out. It's the best thing you'll do. You are this community. My residence experience as you can tell was bitter-sweet. I enjoyed it with my friends and had a blast but always felt nostalgic. Since then, I learned and adapted and realized your experience is what you make of it. Keep the right people around you - go to residence events, speak to your Don, and go to all your classes. Take as many opportunities as you can. And if you have any questions- you know how to reach out to me!



Hackathon:

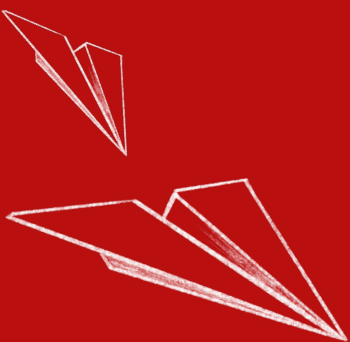
CSHub LHD* is a beginner-friendly mini-hackathon that welcomes *all majors, such as STEM, Arts, Business, etc. Join us to develop and prototype a solution to a real-life problem or an application **within 12 hours!

* This event is by no means a competitive-heavy hackathon but a chance to make new friends and try something new.

If you have any question, feel free to send us a message at cshub.localhack@gmail.com or you can visit their [Notion](#)



Vari Hall



Get set, Go YorkU!

1. York International Pre-Arrival Webinars for International Students

Welcome to York! Whether you're preparing to join us in the Summer, Fall or Winter, our pre-arrival webinars are here to help you prepare for life at York University and in Canada. Our multilingual and diverse team of students lead a series of online webinars throughout the Summer. These sessions focus on key information that incoming international students need to know, about Orientation, immigration, campus services, and more.

2. Winter 2023 International Student Orientation

Did you miss International Student Orientation on January 6th? Not to worry - York International is hosting another orientation on January 26, 2023. Register on the [Events Calendar](#).

3. Banks, Sim Cards, and Cellphones

You have arrived in Canada but now there are some important tasks to get you settled here. Opening a bank account and getting a Sim card are crucial steps after arriving in Canada. York International website is here to help you with necessary information.

4. Global Peer Program

Enjoyed reading this Newsletter and want to know more about our Global Peer Program? We got you! The Global Peer Program is designed to help new international students during their transition to life at York University and in Toronto by connecting them with upper-year students called Peer Mentors. Here you will connect with people all across the university, attend fun events, and make friends from all around the world.

5. Working in Canada as an International Student

Wondering how you can start working in Canada as an international student? As an international student, you may be eligible to work in Canada while studying and after you graduate. You can learn about both on-campus and off-campus requirements here.